



Meadlands Primary School



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## Mallard Messenger

Our current school value is Independence :



Date	Event	Applicable to
<b>27/31.10.25</b>	<b>HALF TERM – SCHOOL &amp; NURSERY CLOSED</b>	<b>ALL</b>
3.11.25	Swimming Starts	Year 5
4.11.25	Harvest Workshop	Years 1 & 2
5.11.25	Height & Weight Checks	Reception & Year 6
5.11.25	Deadline for Mayor’s Xmas Card Competition	All
6.11.25	Harvest Workshop	Nursery & Reception
10.11.25	Swimming	Year 5
11.11.25	Nasal Flu Immunisations	Reception to Year 6
12/14.11.25	Bowles	Year 6
13.11.25	Girls Football Tournament	By invitation

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## Headteacher's Update



Dear Parents and Carers

It's been such a busy (and long) half-term with so much packed in. There have been some fantastic Children's Choice Assemblies on how to improve our school and on wildlife, especially Scarlet Macaws. Well done to the children who showed initiative and motivation to organise and deliver these to the rest of the school.

After 16 years of supporting Meadlands Primary School as part of the Richmond School Nursing Team and an incredible 26 years of service within the NHS, our wonderful school nurse Maureen Branagan-Freeman is retiring. We are so grateful for her consistent support over these past 16 years and wish her the very best for a happy and well deserved retirement.

I would also like to extend our thanks to our outgoing Parent Governor, Alida Hawthorne. Alida has served as a governor for 4 years and been a valuable and insightful member of the board. As you know, elections are currently underway for the new Parent Governors and these will be announced after half-term. Thank you for taking the time to vote.

There were some sporting fixtures this week. Our Year 6 boys football team beat St Elizabeths 9-2, the Year 5 boys team put up an amazingly brave fight also against St Elizabeth and lost 0-2. Our girls football team played St Richards and won 5-0. Well done to all the teams who represented Meadlands – we are proud of you all.

Straight after half-term, we will be holding our second **Disconnect To Reconnect** Week at school. The children have re-named this **"Look Up, Take Control"** and will once again be learning about how we can all spend less time on screens and more time doing other things we enjoy. The children will be getting involved in activities with the theme of "Advice to get off the Device". Our first Disconnect Week was overwhelmingly positive and so many children were really inspired to make changes to their screen habits. We must continue to share this message so that our children really do feel they are "taking control". We will be sharing some of their work on the "Device Wise" page of our website.

It feels like a while ago already but I also wanted to thank everyone involved in the Harvest Supper Event. It was a wonderful, warm event with so many families coming together and as a bonus, a lot of money was raised for the school. We have some exciting Harvest workshops coming up for the children after half-term too.

I am sure that everyone is ready for a break and whatever you are doing this half-term, I wish you well. We'll see you on Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Best wishes,

Mrs Wreford





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## Safeguarding & Wellbeing



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Cacherel, our school Family Support Worker is running two drop ins next half term. For the first, on the 10th November, she has teamed up with Ruils SEND Family Matters for an exciting opportunity to pop by, meet the Ruils team, and get support. (Whether your child is already identified as having a SEND need, or you are still in the process of exploring this.)

Ruils is a local charity and their family matters team have a wealth of experience and expertise to help navigate SEND family life. They deliver workshops on various issues/topics, can provide information on activities, services and behaviour strategies, or offer more in depth 1-2-1 meetings with an advisor in a non judgemental supportive space. No need to book, we look forward to seeing you on the 10th November! You can find out more at [www.ruils.co.uk](http://www.ruils.co.uk).

The second drop in will be on the 1st December and will be run solely by our amazing family support worker Cacherel. Cacherel is on hand to support with all aspects of family life, whether that's children's behaviour, navigating finances or housing, accessing support from other services or anything at all around your family you would like more support with. This drop in requires an appointment which you can request by emailing Cacherel on [cjules@darell.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:cjules@darell.richmond.sch.uk), or alternatively ask in the office to book you in.

As always please don't feel you need to wait until the drop ins if you are in need of support with anything at home sooner; feel free to reach out to ask how to be put in touch with the family support team.

Mrs Wreford

Designated Safeguarding Lead

## 'Helping children with...' Webinars for parents 2025/26

Achieving for Children's Mental Health Support Teams are delivering a series of webinars for parents of primary-aged children. The 'Helping Children with ...' series of webinars will cover a range of common difficulties experienced by children and will aim to share evidence-based strategies to help parents and carers support their children with these difficulties. Below is a list of webinars on offer over the coming months.

Helping children with ...	Overview of webinar	Morning 3pm	Evening 6pm
<b>Worries and anxiety</b>	The 'Helping children with worries and anxiety' webinar will help you learn ways to support your child in dealing with their big feelings, worries, and fears. This webinar will give you practical ideas on how to help your child to think more positively and develop their self confidence. You will also be introduced to some helpful cognitive behavioural therapy concepts.	Tuesday 28th October	Tuesday 20th January
<b>Friendship difficulties</b>	In this webinar we will learn how to support our children develop their friendship skills: learning to communicate better, repair difficulties, and negotiate solutions when relationships between peers are tricky.	Thursday 20th November	Tuesday 27th January
<b>Challenging behaviours</b>	Children often communicate their needs through their behaviours. The 'Helping children with challenging behaviours' webinar will help you to learn about the different factors that can impact children's behaviours, build or strengthen positive relationships by reinforcing the importance of giving positive attention. You will also learn strategies to establish home rules and boundaries to create a safe and structured environment for your children.	Thursday 6th November	Tuesday 3rd February
<b>Digital wellbeing</b>	In this webinar we discuss the positive and negative impact of screen time and gaming on a child's mental wellbeing. We will share the recommendations for screen time based on age, how to have this conversation with your child in a positive and effective manner and a simple and effective way to manage the use of screens	Thursday 13th November	Tuesday 13th January

	in your home.		
<b>Self esteem</b>	In this webinar we will explore what self-esteem is, how low self-esteem can develop and be maintained, and will introduce some practical techniques to support you to improve your child's low self-esteem.	Thursday 27th November	Tuesday 10th February
<b>Transition to Secondary</b>	In this webinar we will explore the main worries children may experience when moving from primary to secondary school. We will help parents/carers think about the different ways to help to support and get their children prepared for the transition.	Thursday 7th May	Tuesday 19th May

\*All Webinars are 60 minutes long, with 15 minutes at the end for questions and answers.

\*Please have a pen and paper handy for the webinar.

### How to sign up

Parents and carers can sign up to the webinars by scanning the QR code or using the link below:



[https://afc-self.achieveservice.com/service/MHST\\_Helping\\_Children\\_Webinars\\_Primary](https://afc-self.achieveservice.com/service/MHST_Helping_Children_Webinars_Primary)

You can choose the date you would like to attend, and will need to provide your email address, the school your child attends, and their year group.

### Who to contact

If you have any questions, please contact the school Mental Health Lead, who will direct queries to the allocated MHST practitioner.

Following on from the teaching of Online Safety this half-term, I conducted pupil voice, speaking with pupils to ascertain what they remembered and what to do to stay safe online. Our key message is that if children view upsetting or worrying content, they are to close the laptop and go and speak to a trusted adult, who can support them and if necessary block websites or report content. Through these discussions a number of children have shared that they have come across upsetting, scary and inappropriate content on Youtube and Youtube shorts.

YouTube is becoming the chosen viewing platform for primary aged children and it is likely this trend will continue with younger and younger children becoming familiar with this platform. It is important for us to understand the positives and negatives of YouTube and what restrictions we can put in place to keep our children safe. Please do have a look at this '[What parents need to know about YouTube](#)' guide which details how to apply 'restricted mode' and how to turn off auto-play and 'What parents need to know about YouTube shorts' guide.

Parents please also note that if children are watching YouTube 'shorts', these are likely to be Tik Tok videos and for children to create an account on YouTube they need to be 13 years or older.

Mrs Taunton-Johnson

## The Calm Cabin is now closed for the Winter!





# School Success and Celebrations

## Achievement Certificate Winners:

Well done to the following children for being awarded an achievement certificate.

Year Group	Certificates awarded Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025			
	Pupil of the week	Challenge	Independence	Other certificates
Nursery			Amla & Ellie	
Reception	Harvey	Magnus	Dottie	
Year 1	Ava-Leah	Mia	Audrey	
Year 2	Aneirin	Kodi	Ziggy	
Year 3	Salma	Frances	Alyssia	
Year 4	Aidan B	Rei	Nathan	Harper
Year 5	Sawyer	Ameer & Jacob	Logan	
Year 6	Anya	Ella	Iris	





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Year Group	Certificates awarded Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2025			
	Pupil of the week	Challenge	Motivation	Other certificates
Nursery	Mila	Arlo	Annie	
Reception	Cooper	Francesco	Joshua	Malvi
Year 1	Otis	Arlo	Anton & Bella O	
Year 2	Kahlen	Maxwell	Delilah	
Year 3	Khaleesi	Emiliano	Poppy	
Year 4	India	Aidan B & Rei	Amirali	
Year 5	Paddy	Noah	Cara	
Year 6	Hafsa	Josh	Indy	Freddy





## Attendance & Celebrations:



Week ending 24.10.25 - Well done to Reception for winning the attendance trophy and achieving an attendance of 98.8% this week.

Week ending 17.10.25 - Well done to Year 3 for winning the attendance trophy and achieving an attendance of 99.0% last week.



APOLLO

1126



ARTEMIS

1586



HESTIA

1075



POSEIDON

1455



## Class Updates

### Look at what Nursery have been learning...

Wow what a great, although busy, last couple of weeks of half term! We've looked at pumpkins and opened them up to see what grows inside, we then planted some of the seeds. Hopefully we will have our own pumpkins next year! We made some very tasty pizza swirls and had so much fun getting messy! We love exploring how things feel and smell even if we have to keep washing our hands after.

This week we looked at Diwali celebrations, we designed our own Rangoli patterns and made Diya lamps out of clay.



### Look at what Reception have been learning...

Reception have been working really hard in maths over the last few weeks. We have been looking at numbers 1, 2 and 3 to build a deeper understanding of these numbers. We practiced subitising and explored compositions, as well as looking at one more and one less. They all built their own number tower and were able to explain which number is one less and one more, which is great!

Now, we are moving onto 2D shapes: triangles and circles. Reception have been identifying, naming and explaining properties of these shapes, using key vocabulary such as edges and vertices. Reception have been making their own pictures using triangles and circles, as well as recognising these shapes in our environment.





## Class Updates



### **Look at what Year 1 have been learning...**

In Art we have been learning about Vincent van Gogh. Inspired by his Chair painting, the children used chalk pastels to recreate the image. They then drew pictures on chair templates that represented themselves. Some children drew activities they enjoy, such as football and swimming, while others drew their pets or favourite foods. It was a very creative, fun and messy afternoon!



### **Look at what Year 2 have been learning...**

Year 2 finished Autumn 1 off in style by writing epic stories about their own characters exploring the city of London. They used amazing vocabulary and super sentences to make their writing pop! They also wrapped up their unit on the Great Fire of London by exploring the impact of the fire, and challenged themselves to question what would have happened if there hadn't been a fire. They played some great team games in PE and had fun in LAMDA preparing their piece for their upcoming exam.

Well done Year 2!



# Class Updates



## Look at what Year 3 have been learning...

Between constructing biscuit henge and painting our Kusama inspired pumpkin sculptures, Year 3 have had quite the creative week! Additionally, we discussed theories about why Stonehenge was first built, what it was used for and who used it. We then considered the types of stones used, where these may have come from and how we could use biscuits to replicate this!



## Look at what Year 4 have been learning...

Last week, Year 4 completed our art installation based upon the work of Cornelia Parker (picture below). During the process of designing and planning our installation, we discussed symmetry, texture and vertical and horizontal planes. This week in English, we published instructions for navigating around a Minotaur's labyrinth. In science, we finished posters showing the impact humans are having on the habitats of living things.



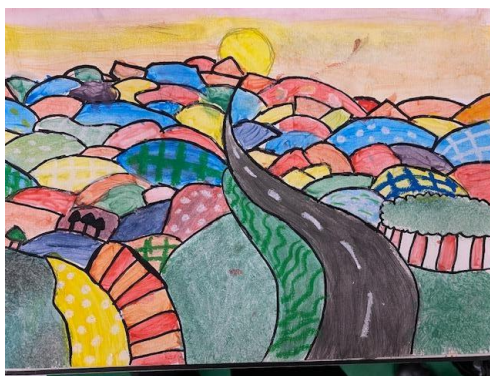
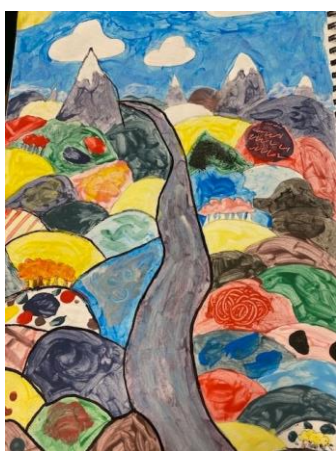


## Class Updates



### Look at what Year 5 have been learning...

Year 5 have been working incredibly hard on their David Hockney inspired landscapes and have brought together all their learning from the unit. They have used a mix of sketching, painting, pens and pastels to create their colourful artwork and used perspective to help them look 3D.



### Look at what Year 6 have been learning...

To complete our learning on World War 2, Year 6 have been writing the first part of an evacuee story. We have read different evacuee stories and used our writing skills to produce the first part of our own story. After weeks of planning, drafting, editing and publishing, Year 6 were finally able to share the stories with Year 4 and 5 to show off what they had produced!

Well done Year 6!



# Meadlands Noticeboard



## Safeguarding concern?

Are you concerned about the safety or welfare of a child? Please contact the SPA (Single Point of Access). Phone 020 8547 5008. [You can make an online referral here.](#)

If you think a child is in immediate danger you should call 999.

## Sustainability Squad

This week, Miss Watts and I had our very first meeting with our brand-new Sustainability Squad! The team is made up of six children from across Key Stage 2, who are passionate about helping Meadlands become even greener.

We were blown away by the number of applications we received — choosing just six members was no easy task! Thank you to everyone who applied and shared their brilliant ideas for how we can make our school more eco-friendly. Well done to our final squad members: Zachi, Spike, Isabella, Mela, Effie and Teddy. We have also recruited Monty, Denis and Ameer to run our litter picking sub-committee.

During our first meeting, the squad got to know one another and brainstormed ways to make a real difference around the school. From composters at the allotments to a 'mend and repair' workshop, we heard some truly inspiring suggestions. We can't wait to start implementing these ideas and will share updates in the Mallard Messenger. We also shared what we already do, a growing roof on the new nursery building, solar panels on the roof feeding back to the grid, recycling waste, amongst others. Mrs TJ



## DISMOUNT FROM BIKES, SCOOTERS & SKATEBOARDS

Please can you remind children that they must **dismount from bikes, skateboards and scooters at any of the small gates at the entrances to the school grounds.** They are NOT to scoot or cycle through the carpark or beyond these entrances. This includes early children attending for clubs and boosters.

**Maths Problem Solving Night!**  
*An interactive night sharing how problem solving is taught at Meadlands.*

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**6pm-7pm in the hall**

**Crèche places available**

Further information will be shared via Parentmail after half-term, including a sign up sheet for the night and crèche



# Community Noticeboard



## Be careful what you wear when you're out to scare

Some fancy dress costumes are highly flammable so they can ignite almost instantly and burn fast.



Try to buy from a reputable store or website. Cheap costumes may not meet UK safety standards.



Look for a costume with a UKCA or CE mark



Look for a label that says: "This garment has undergone additional safety testing for flammability"



Remind children to stay well away from naked flames and other heat sources



@ChildAccidentPreventionTrust  
@capt\_charity capt.org.uk



## FAMILY FUN AT THE EXCHANGE



**THE BUBBLE SHOW**  
11th October  
14.00



**COMEDY CLUB 4 KIDS**  
12th October  
14.30



HALF TERM - FAMILY FILM CLUB:  
**JUMANJI 1 & 2 DOUBLE BILL**  
28th October  
12.00 & 14.15



**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST THE PANTOMIME**  
18th - 21st December  
various timings



Popcorn & soft drink combo: £5.50



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# HOCKEY SKILLS CLUB

SCHOOL YEARS 5-10

Wednesdays 6-7:30pm @ Tiffin Girls' School

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SKILLS SESSIONS & SMALL-SIDED GAMES

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BOOKING CODE: NOV2025

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