



Message from the Principal

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. This term has seen the introduction of our Values Based Education and the token award system. We have five different coloured tokens which are awarded in line with the five values – Safe (purple), Happy (orange), Proud (pink), Welcoming (white) and Enthusiastic (aqua). Every pupil and staff member has been allocated a house – Rochester (red), Walmer (yellow), Dover (blue) and Hever (green). Every week the tokens are collected and counted by the pupils and the house with the highest token count will have their house colour flag flown on the flagpole. Our first winning house was Rochester, well done.

On Thursday 11th October Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education visited Meadowfield School. Mr Gough enjoyed a tour of the school meeting pupils and staff and he subsequently sent a letter praising the school. He commented 'that he was taken aback by the different school initiatives and was interested to see our approach to teaching pupils with such a diverse level of need', he also commented 'I read with interest the literature on IMPACTS and I could see first-hand that the school's approach to teaching really is centred around the needs of each pupil'.

Over the years there have been many educational changes to schools and the curriculum but as evidenced below some activities remain a constant interest!!



This article appeared in the 9th April 2003 edition of Faversham Times and features our own Milly Clarke-Wilson, Swallows class teacher as a Year 6 pupil

As you know, we have our own Meadowfield ducks and every class will be caring for them under a rota system. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers for their support in providing food for the ducks, which will be the best fed ducks in Swale! We are currently working on the RSPCA Compassionate Class Award. Compassionate Class is an innovative new programme from the RSPCA that encourages children to develop compassion and empathy towards animal welfare. Compassionate Class takes an interactive, discussion-based approach to develop emotional literacy and consider the welfare needs of animals. Through a series of enquiry-led activities, children will consider what it means to be compassionate, understand the needs of different types of animals, and work collaboratively to develop empathy skills for their school lives and beyond.

Enjoy the half term break and I look forward to see you on Monday 29th October for the start of Term 2.

Jill Palmer, Principal

Message from Chair of Governors

Term 1 has come and gone. Summer a distant memory. The Governor meeting schedule is in place with Learning Walks covering the whole school.

You should have received election papers for a Parent Governor vacancy. The role is very fulfilling, an opportunity to help shape the school for your children and the future. It is an exciting time to be part of the school. You don't need to be a parent to be a governor; if you have skills in finance, HR or education, a willingness to attend some training and learn new skills but most importantly be passionate about our school, please get in touch with our Clerk, via the school office, for more information.

We are also looking for parents to join our parent forum which was set up last year. It is very important to have your input. The parent forum will, from this year, have input into relevant policies; this can be done by either coming into school or by feedback. If you are interested in being involved, please contact me.

Roberta Kane, Chair of Governors



With effect from Term 2 we will be using ParentMail to communicate with parents/carers via text message or email. You will also be able to pay for school trips via ParentMail and in due course, book appointments for Parent's Evening.

The system will be 'sent live' on Friday 19th October and you should receive an email from the school asking you to register. If you do not receive an email it is probably because we do not have your email address. If this is the case, please write your email in your child's home/school diary and we will add your details to the system.

Attached are instructions on how to register for ParentMail and further information will be displayed at Parents' Consultation Evening. Unfortunately, the print quality of the instructions is poor, but once you have registered and logged into ParentMail they have **Guided Tours** of the system. Click **Guided Tour, New to ParentMail, Parent Help Site** for the on-line version of the instructions.

We hope this will prove an effective communication tool but if you do experience any problems, please contact the school.



Music Mark School

Meadowfield are proud to announce that they have been nominated, and are now, a Music Mark School Member, part of a National organisation and Subject Association for Music. This has been awarded in recognition of the school's commitment to providing high quality music education for all children and young people.

Thank you to Susan Farrington for her dedication to music and the pupils at Meadowfield School which has resulted in our qualification.

Aviva Community Fund

Great News! Our Meadowfield Media Suite Makeover Project has been approved to go through to the public vote with the Aviva Community Fund. **Voting opens on the 23rd October and runs to 20th November 2018.** The more votes we get the more chance we have of winning £10 000!!



Liz Hymus our fundraiser will provide more details shortly.

KsENT Music Event

At the end of September, a group of secondary pupils went to Canterbury Cricket Ground to sing at the end of a meeting. Some other special schools went and we sang *This is Me* together. Each school performed an item and Meadowfield started the performances with an African percussion piece. All the pupils who went really enjoyed performing and are off to Maidstone in November to do it again.

Principals Catering

Please note that all meals must be paid in advance and any meal paid for but not taken is carried over as credit.

School dinners can be paid for on-line by credit, debit card or PayPal by logging onto www.principals-catering.com

Payment can be made by cheque payable to *Principals* or you can pay by cash. Please put all cash in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, class and the amount in the envelope.

If you believe you may be entitled to free school meals please complete the on-line application form found at: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

If you require any help applying, please contact the school office.

Total Sensory at LEGOLAND, Windsor

We have been advised by LEGOLAND that they have installed the first dedicated sensory facility of its kind in a theme park, providing a calming environment for guests with additional needs who require a moment away from the excitement of the Resort's rides, live shows and attractions.

Discover an open space full of interactive sensory experiences, with vibrating bean bags, interactive floor projector, bubble tubes, infinity tunnels, tactile panels and soft lighting. The UV room allows guests to discover brighter colours, fibre optics and UV mats, whilst the main space includes musical sound pads, activity panels to manipulate and an interactive carpet.

A spokesperson for the National Autistic Society commented: *'Many autistic children love trips to theme parks where they can have fun and socialise, but unfamiliar places, especially popular attractions, can increase their anxiety levels and overload their senses. A calming place like a sensory room can help them to relax and really enjoy their visit.'*