



Message from the Principal

Another action packed term draws to a close and I am very proud of all our pupils for their participation and success in a variety of activities as demonstrated in this newsletter.

We had the pleasure of Challenger Troop Awards, which reflect the effort and achievements of pupils who are participating in this activity and demonstrates the benefit and enjoyment the pupils gain. The primary and secondary Christmas events were very well supported by parents/carers and I hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as the pupils and staff.

This year we are focusing on attendance and I am pleased that parents/carers are engaging with us to ensure that whole school attendance is increased. Whilst we understand that all students contract common illnesses from time to time, and some of our pupils have complex medical conditions, we are trying to target the 1 day absences such as temperature, cough or cold. To ensure that the school is also fully engaged with our attendance drive, staff have recently been provided with updated guidance on illness and the procedures to be followed. We are also working closely with KCC School Liaison Officer, Janice Judd, who has been very supportive but has highlighted areas where we are unable to authorise absence which include parent illness, unable to get to school and issues relating to siblings.

However, I would like to remind parents/carers that we are here to support you in all areas of school life and if you do have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and hope that 2019 will bring you health and happiness.

Jill Palmer
Principal

Message from Chair of Governors

Term 2 draws to a close, we have appointed our new Parent Governor, Audrey Sequeira, and held our first set of meetings where we monitor the School Plan and hold the school to account. There has been a Learning Walk round the 6th Form which showed that the students are aware of how to be safe online and are being taught about budgeting, shopping, preparing and cooking meals.

I was very proud to attend the Challenger awards recently, which was also attended by the Mayor.

All the students have achieved so much and been such a long way outside their comfort zones. Well done again!

We held our first Parent Forum on 30th November, the next one is at **2pm on Thursday 31st January 2019**. There was great discussion and I am working through the actions. I can also announce that FOMS will hold a meeting for parents on **Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 2pm**. ALL parents are welcome to attend one or both meetings and if you cannot attend, please email, chairofgovernors@meadowfield.kent.sch.uk any suggestions for discussion at parent forum or any fund raising ideas for FOMS.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2019.

Roberta Kane
Chair of Governors



Challenger Troop – Yve Cherry

The first 9 weeks of Challenger Troop have been completed with all participants achieving a range of new skills. Week 10 is residential, it's time to put these skills into practice! With trepidation and excitement, we looked forward to the 1st residential. The day at last arrives!!!!

We left the warm comforts of school and made our way to the location, arriving at dusk we advanced to base camp on foot, picking up mess tins, supplies, roll mat and sleeping bag. Storing the bedding in our tent we pack day sacks with enough supplies to last until we return later.

Time for briefing for the mission. Our objective: make our way through the tunnel-the tunnel !!!!! and scout for enemy occupation in the quarry beyond. We will stop, make a small camp to refuel, eating yummy beef stew before returning.

We get camouflaged up - where did he go? and, break out the weapons. In silence we trek through the cold dark evening focusing on the tunnel entrance appearing from between the trees before us, Gulp!! The signal is passed (tapped on shoulders down the herring bone formation) we are about to step into the unknown-aahhh!!!! Slipping in we enter the darkness closing the massive doors behind us. Slowly we begin to make our way further into the gloom as these massive shapes begin to form around us, keeping our torch lights on the floor so as not to reveal our whereabouts to any enemy who may be at the other side of the doors that are coming into view, Whhooooo!!!!

We are out the other side...it's a bit Jurassic Park here... we make our way silently through the trees trying not skid on the mud under our feet. What's that??? A whisper, sshh, what's that a puddle?? Was that a crocodile swimming in there???? There's no fluffy bunnies here! Onwards..... on the lookoutlistening for any sounds that might give us away or help us detect the enemy..... where are they? Where are we? There is a small clearing ahead.....time to light a fire and get the stew on. Breaking out the mess tins we work in pairs, 1 cooks... the other brews the hot chocolate, just what is needed to warm us while some remain "eyes" on our surroundings, not that we can see a hand in front of our face out here.

It's time to head back....check the area to make sure we have removed all trace of us being here, day sacks on, back into formation and we are on the march again. Slowly we retrace our steps through the trees, yes that is a crocodile and soon we are facing doors, the tunnel is ahead. We wait for all to catch up, last man here comes from the back down the line, that's the signal everybody is present! We unlock the giant doors and step into the murky atmosphere, shapes appear again

making our way back we explore, there are some interesting relics in here. We emerge from the tunnel back into know territory, phew we made it!!! Soon be back at the base camp, weapons stored safely followed by debrief with a hearty brew. Mission complete! Time to hit the sleeping bag and catch some serious zzzzzzzzzzz's.

It's morning already, where did the night go? The birds are singing as we sort out base camp before we sit down to a hearty breakfast of cereal/sausage/beans/bread and fruit followed by a well stewed cup of tea to wash it all down, aahhh that's better the eyelids are finally open! Time to break camp and.....YYYAAAAYYY we have time for a laser battle before we return to school.



Poppy receiving her award for Best Effort

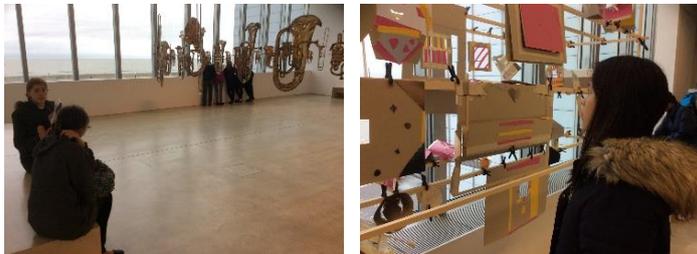
YAASS: Empowered – Susan Farrington

Young Arts Advocates Special Schools (YAASS) is a pioneering programme founded on the belief that high quality arts education should be accessible to all. Across thirteen special schools in East Kent, young people with additional learning needs, teachers and support staff have collaborated with artists to explore the theme of identity. They have worked across a range of art forms to express themselves, including contemporary dance, ceramics, sculpture, music technology, photography and digital media. By participating in the Artsmark programme, the schools have also met regularly to reflect on their arts curriculum and share best practice.

The Turner Contemporary is proud to support such inclusive practice in giving a platform to the innovative and thought provoking works on display.

On Thursday 6th December pupils from KS4 and the 6th Form went to the Turner Contemporary in Margate to view the art work that Meadowfield pupils had made as part of YAASS: Empowered. They were really pleased to see the work displayed on the walls and hanging from the ceiling. While they were there they also looked at the other exhibitions and completed some work for the Arts Award that they are all working towards.

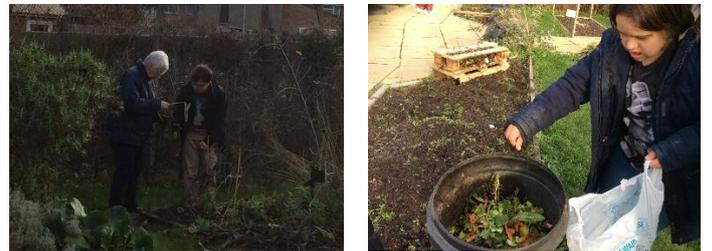
There is still time for anyone to visit the gallery to see our work and that of the other special schools, the exhibition is on until Sunday the 6th January.



6th Form Allotment Trips – Debbie Marsh

Each Monday afternoon, a different group from the 6th Form have been going to Regis Crescent Allotments in Sittingbourne, as part of wellbeing, to do some gardening.

Some of the activities that they have been doing include making a wormery, weeding and tidying. They have also made a bug hotel and Christmas wreaths.



Wildwood – Lynne Wheeler

Butterflies and Otters enjoyed a trip to Wildwood to look at the different animals and their habitat.



Cinderella – Susan Farrington

Some classes from Secondary went to see the relaxed performance of Cinderella at the Marlowe Theatre. They really enjoyed watching this, loving: the very ugly sisters, the act that performed from the ceiling, the songs and the comedy routines. We are looking forward to next year already!

Some of the comments from the pupils:

L: *The pantomime was great, my favourite bit was joining in with the line, 'It's the law...'*

B: *I liked the bit when one of the ugly sisters said 'I'm in stitches'*

A: *I like the songs and sang along.*

It certainly sounds like a good time was had by all!

Primary Nativity

Christmas is always a very special time in the Primary Department and on Monday 10th December Early Years and KS1 held a *Singing Hands* concert and Owls and Squirrels held a *Therapeutic Singing* concert on Tuesday 11th December, both of which were very well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

On Wednesday 12th December it was the turn of KS2, who despite a few technical issues, sang *Christmas songs* to a very large audience.

Well done everyone.

Hedgehogs class dressed up for their performance



Christmas by Candlelight – Susan Farrington

On Monday 17th December we held our Secondary Carol Concert.

This was amazing! Everyone in the department took part singing, signing, playing, acting or working behind the scenes. The amazing Revelation Strings accompanied us, Hopper class were able to join with them to play *Winter* by Vivaldi, demonstrating snow, wind, shivering and stamping through the music. Performances were tremendously varied and everyone had a great time, even an appearance by Scrooge (Joshua) didn't manage to spoil it! Drake class took us on the *Meadowfield Express*, Dickens acted and sang a traditional medley, Pascal played *Jingle Bells* on the bell chimes and sang in Italian, Dali sang and signed about the colours of winter, Cook took us through the 12 days of Christmas, Picasso gave a lively performance of *Little Donkey*, Belle signed and sang about Santa getting stuck in the chimney, Bronte danced and sang about Rudolph, complete with antlers!

Before the concert a number of classes were busy making candles, mince pies and gingerbread men, donations from the sale of these were given to the Air Ambulance and the Mucopolysaccharide Society. We were guided through the performances by an outstanding power point devised by Chloe.



Santa's Helper – Liz Hymus & Ginny Cosstick

On behalf of the whole school, we would all like to thank Santa's workshop helper, Wayne from the Red Eagle Foundation, who very generously assisted Santa in providing all our pupils with an early gift. Red Eagle Foundation, www.redeaglefoundation.org works in conjunction with The Giving Tree at Bluewater and of course, Santa and his North Pole workshop!

A huge thank you for your amazing support.



Christmas Jumper Day

Swallows Pupils on Christmas Jumper Day



In total we raised the impressive amount of £202.79. Thank you all for your generosity.

Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance

During the October half term, we sadly lost one of our pupils, Branden and in his memory we held collections at each of the Christmas events.

We are delighted to confirm that we raised £258.44 and thank you for your support and generosity.

London Gatwick

Gatwick airport has opened a sensory room for its passengers, offering a relaxing, private and fully interactive environment. The new space in the North Terminal has been designed for passengers with autism, dementia, cognitive impairment or other special needs. Passengers using the sensory room have the option to transform it from a calming and relaxing environment to a stimulating interactive space full of light and sound with just the flick of a switch.

The free to use room is available only to departing passengers and their families or carers who can book a 45-minute session at the North Terminal's special assistance desk after they've gone through security.

ParentMail

As you are aware, we have started to use ParentMail and although many parents/carers have signed up to the system, we still have parents/carers who have not activated their account or provided email addresses.

If you have not provided the school with an email address, please can you write your email in the Home School Contact book, thank you.

If you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school office, who will be happy to talk you through the process.



Whole School Upcoming Events

See schedule for all upcoming events on the website

Term 3 Thursday 3rd January 2019

Tuesday 15th January at 2pm FOMS (Meadowfield School fundraising)

Thursday 31st January at 2pm Parent Forum

