

**Message from the Principal**

Welcome to Term 5's newsletter. I must start this newsletter expressing how proud I am of our 5 students, Dennis, Edward, Aaron, Joe & Connor undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. During the Assessor's feedback he stated; "he was having problems expressing how fantastic the barge trips was, the team was a slick machine". He complimented all the students and staff and was "blown away" with what he had seen. As a consequence, Meadowfield School has been asked to make a presentation to 6 special needs schools by the Duke of Edinburgh team.

Again this year, we have qualified for the Panathlon final – coming 1<sup>st</sup> – well done to all those who represented the school. See Jerome's report and photographs.

We have had a member of staff complete the Principal Instructor for ProAct training enabling Meadowfield to offer other schools the opportunity to have staffed trained by our Deputy, Dan Zaccheo. Well done Dan.

Two of our teachers, Lynne Wheeler & Teresa Taylor have completed their Gong Therapy training and we have taken receipt of our specially made gong. Lynne and Teresa have completed sessions with the staff and I am now delighted to be able to offer parents a free trial Gong session. Well done Lynne and Teresa and thank you for all your efforts.

All students have started their transition days with their new class and teaching/support staff, which this year we have increased to seven days to allow the pupils and staff greater relationship building time before September. The development day on 4<sup>th</sup> June has also been dedicated to transition to allow staff members time exchange vital pupil information and ensure that appropriate medical training has been completed to support the pupils in their class.

This term has seen a mix of open afternoons, concerts and trips and at every opportunity our pupils have either performed with passion and skill or represented the school admirably, well done to everyone.

In Term 6 we have 14 pupils undertaking their *Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award* residential element and the Secondary Department has two new residential trips this year. On the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> June 18 pupils will stay at Kench Hill in Tenterden and on the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> July 12 pupils will travel to Chatham Dockyard and stay aboard HMS Cavalier. Good luck to everyone taking part.

Enjoy the break; hopefully the sun will continue to shine.

Jill Palmer  
Principal

**Message from Chair of Governors**

We have completed the Schools Financial Value Standards for this year and looked ahead at the three year budget. We would like to thank parents for responding to the questionnaire about on line payments – we are looking into implementing this while also catering for those who prefer to pay by other means.

The monitoring of the School Development Plan for this year is coming to a close with lots of great work being done in our school and in the wider community; and there are exciting new plans for the next year. The Parent Forum met on 4<sup>th</sup> May where we continue to discuss the car parking issues, future training possibilities, Friends of Meadowfield events and voluntary fund.

We held training for transport operators which was well attended and have a few actions to complete. Thank you to governors, parents and parent forum for their support and Dan Zaccheo for delivering the training. Thank you to transport operators for their time and positive input.

Have a great half term

Roberta Kane  
Chair of Governors



### 6th Form Round-Up – Denise Edwards

This term sixth form have been sitting their Functional skills exams - they have all done very well. We have had five students complete their first Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition - this will be a first for Meadowfield School.



There was also a residential trip to Foxes, a Hotel run by students for the public. Details of this hotel can be found at [www.http://hotelfoxes.co.uk/](http://hotelfoxes.co.uk/)

### BLUE - Owls, Drake and Voyage Music Class Events – Susan Farrington

Three of the IMPACT classes have been developing an interactive performance which they named Blue. It is inspired by the sounds and images of blues music. Family and carers were invited to join the final performances at the start of this term. The action took place in the waiting area at a station somewhere in the Deep South. Whilst waiting for a train everyone sings and plays; passengers reveal the contents of their luggage: water to feel, stars to look at, fans for a breeze and a camera to capture images of the visitors. Staff from each of the classes took on the roles of the various characters.



## Panathlon – Jerome Xavier

On 10<sup>th</sup> May Meadowfield sent a team to the Medway, Swale & Ashford District SEN Schools competition, where our pupils performed amazingly to take first place, which means we are now off to the Kent SEN schools final on 27<sup>th</sup> June in Canterbury. Some of the highlights include:

**Gold** in the Boccia – Well done Jasmine, Morgan, Luke & Christine

**Gold** in New Age Curling – Well done Robert, Zac, Joe and Andrew

**Gold** in Polybat – Well done Gina, Josh and Edward

**Gold** in Foam Javelin – Well done Aaron and Edward

I would also like to mention an outstanding performance by Josh who broke the Kent Panathlon record with a jump of 2.68 metres to win **Gold**, well done Josh.



## Badgers Class – Heather Kendal

Badgers class have been very busy this term learning about different habitats and the animals that live there. We went to visit Howletts Wildlife Park and also Wildwood to find out more about animals. We all had a great time.

### Pictures from our Wildwood trip



### Pictures from our Howletts Wildlife Park trip



### Butterflies – Lynne Wheeler

On Thursday 3rd May Butterflies held a sponsored walk to raise money for the Primary Department. We spent half an hour in the secondary playground and recorded how many laps each child did. We have raised £300 towards the Primary Department which is an outstanding amount. Details of how this money will be spent will follow, but thank you for your support.



### Meadowfield Summer Concert – Susan Farrington

On Monday 21st May we held our annual school concert for pupils who receive lessons from visiting peripatetic music teachers. Over sixty pupils from across the school performed in the hall and it was amazing to see how much progress pupils had made since the last concert, so many confident and entertaining performances!



### Kestrels Class – Sam Crook

Kestrels had a fantastic trip to Howletts Zoo on Tuesday 22nd May. We saw lots of animals, including; tigers, elephants and gorillas. Kestrels enjoyed reading about Life spans, habitats, diets and origin of these animals. It was such a busy day, that Miss Crook and Sam fell asleep on the way home!



### Gong Therapy – Lyne Wheeler & Teresa Taylor

**Parent Invitation** - We will be offering parents a free trial Gong session in the school hall at 2.15pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June for a half hour session. Please bring your own mat or blanket to lie on and a cushion if you need one. *We hope to see you there!*



### Miscellaneous

Attached is a flyer from Kent County Council Disabled Children & Young People showing their short break programmes for April 2018 to March 2020.

Attached is plan showing road disruption related to *The Spirit of Sittingbourne*.

Attached is an information flyer from Headstart.