



# Meadowhead Community Infant School and Nursery

Christmas really is a magical time of year... and I hope all the events put on by school have helped you feel that way.

## Christmas Joy

I feel very privileged to be Headteacher of an Infant School where all staff go beyond the extra mile to make your child's Christmas **experiences exceptional**. This Christmas has been no difference as children have

- experienced a pantomime
- performed in a nativity
- decorated Christmas trees
- had a 'naughty elf' appear
- sang at Blackburn Cathedral and ASDA
- been read a story by Father Christmas

- stayed snug and warm around our Forest School Fire listening to Christmas stories
- had a magical trip to Turton Tower to experience a Victorian Christmas
- had a Christmas Party
- attended a Christmas Fair
- and many, many more experiences!

I think you will agree that the last few weeks have been packed with 'moments of joy' and I want to thank all staff for planning and carrying out so many wonderful and memorable occasions.

I hope the pictures below capture some on the many moments of joy







## Key Stage 1 Classes

As the school year has progressed, we have been extremely pleased with the numbers of children in Key Stage 1 slowly increasing. In September, we started with 91 children across year 1 and 2, but this number has now increased to 99 children. Whilst this is really good news, the added children have caused class sizes to grow.

Therefore, in order to ensure all children receive the best education possible, we have made the decision to create an additional fourth class to our Key Stage 1.

From January 2024

- Year 2 classes will be
  - Sycamore taught by Miss McHale
  - Oak taught by Mrs Aspinall
- Year 1 Classes will be
  - Hazel taught by Mr Errey
  - Rowan taught by Miss Rudge (Mrs Strahan on a Wednesday)

A reminder that Rowan class children will enter school and be collected from the 'soft play area' behind the blue gates. If you are unsure please do not hesitate to come and ask me in January!

## Staffing Update

Mrs Aspinall returns back to school after the Christmas holidays to teach Oak Class. Mrs Aspinall has been coming into school over the last few weeks to enable a through handover of information to ensure a smooth transition. A massive **THANK YOU to Miss Lau** who has been covering Mrs Aspinall's maternity since September.

Miss Lau will be staying in school helping cover Teacher's Planning, Preparation and Assessment time as well as supporting a number of children 1-1.

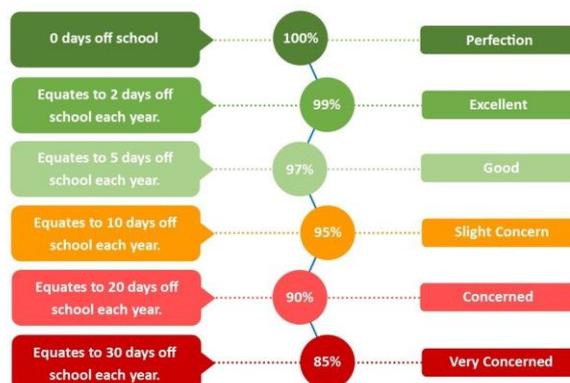


## Attendance and Punctuality

As a school we aim for all children to achieve 96%.

Every lesson really does count for your child as children can quickly fall behind even if one day is missed. Catching up even a little lost time from school can be really difficult. Good attendance is linked to achievement, better relationships with other children and better overall behaviour in school. It is often the case that children with poor attendance are often academically behind their peers. Phonics and reading practice start straight away so please ensure your child arrives at school on time and before 8:55 so no learning is missed.

Poor attendance seriously hampers the life chances of your children.



Sadly, all classes are currently behind our target of 96%. I know that many children have suffered from a sickness virus and severe coughs and colds. I hope everyone is recovering and to see you all back in school in 2024. If we can do anything to support getting your child to school please do not hesitate to contact us.

I will be arranging meetings with families who are persistently absent in the new year to offer support to enable your child to get off to the best start in life.

Class	Attendance
Beech	88.5%
Maple	89.4%
Hazel	93.5%
Oak	94.2%
Sycamore	93.7%

## Christmas Fair

Thank you to all our parents and carers who came and supported our Christmas Fair last week. It was a fantastic event and we have **raised over £1300** for School Fund.

The money raised goes towards such things like...

- subsidising trips
- ice creams when we went to the theatre
- food for the Christmas Parties
- crackers for Christmas Dinner
- and many more activities that create 'moments of joy'



## Shaun Haggart Foundation

A massive thank you to the Shaun Haggart foundation for donating gifts to all our children once again. We hope the children enjoy playing with them over the festive period.



## School Re-opens

**School re-opens to all pupils on Monday 8th January at 8:45.** Breakfast club will be open from 7:45 onwards and costs just £1. All children, including those in nursery, are welcome to attend. There is no need to book – just turn up!

On behalf of everyone at Meadowhead Infants I would like to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

James Waddington

