

meanwood CE Newsletter



Open Hearts



Open Minds



Open Arms



Next Week in a Nutshell

Christian Focus: Open Arms: Am I a good team player?

Monday: Eco-Council Meeting- 10:30am. Girls football matches at Highfield Primary School- 1:30 -3:00pm. Children involved have been informed.

Year 4 Sign Language Workshop- 1:30-2:30pm.

Tuesday: Year 6 at Notre Dame 6th Form College to watch Matilda Performance- 1:00- 3:00pm.

Wednesday: Normal day in school

Thursday: Year 5 football match vs Beecroft at home- 3:30-4:15pm. Children involved have been informed.

Friday: RSPB Big Bird Watch- All day in the park. See below for more details.

Year 4 cake sale after school.

Sustainable Travel to School

Top 3 Classes...

1st: Year 3 - 83% active travel.

2nd: Year 5 - 82% active travel.

3rd: Year 4 - 73% active travel.

We are the the 3rd most active school in Leeds. We are the 48th in the country.

Newsletter: 8
16.11.26

CARE Champions

CARE Champions

Reception: Winter and Imaan.

Year 1: Caleb.

Year 2: On a trip.

Year 3: Nova.

Year 4: Sophie.

Year 5: George.

Year 6: Zach.

Attendance

Reception: 97.1% 😊

Year 1: 93.3% 😢

Year 2: 97.7% 😊

Year 3: 96.7% 😊

Year 4: 97.9% 😊

Year 5: 97.7% 😊

Year 6: 96% 😊

Whole School: 96.7% 😊

Well done year 4 you are this week's attendance champions.

General Notices

Diversity Week: 'Good To Be Me'

We are excited to announce that Diversity Week will take place during the week beginning 9th February. This year's theme is "Good To Be Me", and we will be celebrating the uniqueness and individuality of each person in our school community.

Throughout the week, we will explore how our differences make us special and how these qualities can bring us together as understanding and loving people. We have planned a range of fun and meaningful activities designed to help us appreciate one another, strengthen connections, and create a deeper understanding of those around us.

Our school values of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Arms could not be more relevant as we embrace this opportunity to learn, share, and celebrate what makes each of us unique.

We look forward to an inspiring and joyful week!

Our Role Model for This Half-Term: Meena Rajput

We are delighted to share that our role model for this half-term is Meena Rajput, a shining example of how passion and dedication to a cause can make real change. Meena works with Greenpeace UK and leads on anti-racism and inclusion, ensuring that environmental activism is fair and representative.

Her incredible work includes:

- Taking action in the Antarctic Ocean against harmful industrial fishing practices.
- Campaigning against plastic pollution, including creative protests targeting major corporations like Coca-Cola.
- Writing a children's book, *The Hat That Saved the World*, to inspire young activists and promote diversity in environmental leadership.

Meena's commitment to both climate justice and social inclusion shows how one person's courage and creativity can make a global impact.

Our Christian Value: Open Arms

This half-term, our Christian value is Open Arms. Open Arms is all about inclusion and appreciating others, welcoming everyone with kindness and respect. This value fits perfectly with our Diversity Week theme: "Good to Be Me", where we celebrate what makes each of us unique and special.

Together, let's learn from Meena's example and embrace our value of Open Arms—because when we welcome and support one another, we can achieve amazing things.

Volunteers Needed for Trinity Tots!

Do you love spending time with little ones and helping families connect? Our friendly Trinity Tots group at Holy Trinity Church Hall is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help run sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

It's a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in our community, share a smile, and support parents and carers with young children in a welcoming space.

If you can spare a few hours or just want to find out more, we'd love to hear from you!

Let's make Trinity Tots a joyful place for all our little ones to grow and play!

If interested contact Rachel 07736322638

PTA

Upcoming events for your diary

School disco Friday 30 Jan - tickets on sale on Arbor NOW!

Annual disco (fancy dress optional), a very popular night for the children! There will be two discos - Reception and KS1 combined (starting at 4.30pm) and KS2 (starting at 5.45pm).

Tickets are £5 (and £2.50 for a pre-school sibling).

Cake Sales:

Year 4 - Friday 23 January - next week

Year 3 - Friday 13 February

READ MORE ON..
www.meanwoodschool.co.uk

"Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

General Notices

RSPB Big Bird Watch: Friday 23rd January

We are excited to announce that our school will once again be taking part in the RSPB Big Bird Watch on Friday 23rd January. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to get outdoors, explore the park, and appreciate the incredible nature that surrounds us.

Over the course of the day, each class will head out for a walk in the park and record the birds they spot. If you have binoculars at home, your child is welcome to bring them along to enhance their birdwatching experience.

Last year's highlight was spotting two herons perched on a tree by the beck—a truly memorable sight! Fingers crossed we'll be just as lucky this year (and hopefully see fewer pigeons!).

To ensure the children are comfortable, please send them in with sturdy, waterproof boots or wellingtons, as it may be muddy in the park.

We look forward to another exciting day of birdwatching and connecting with nature!



Attendance

I know it may feel like I am banging the drum again about attendance, but it truly is one of the biggest factors in children being successful at school.

While 90% attendance sounds good, it actually means a child misses around 19 days of learning each year – almost four weeks of school. Those missed lessons are difficult to recover and can have a real impact over time.

Recent Department for Education research (2025) shows just how important good attendance is. Children with attendance of 95% or above in Year 6 are around 30% more likely to achieve the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths in the KS2 SATs than children with attendance between 90-95%. Even missing just 10 days across the year significantly reduces a child's chances of achieving their best.

We absolutely understand that illness happens, but wherever possible, aiming for 95% attendance or better gives every child the strongest chance of success.

- 100% = 0 days missed – Best chance of success
- 95% = 9 days missed – Already 2 weeks lost
- 90% = 19 days missed – Nearly 4 weeks of learning

Supporting Maths at Home – TT Rockstars & Numbots

We would love to encourage all children to spend some time each week on our online maths programmes:

- Numbots (KS1)
- TT Rockstars (KS2)

Both programmes are fun, engaging resources that have a real impact on improving children's knowledge and recall of key number facts, which are essential foundations for success in maths. Even a couple of short sessions each week can make a noticeable difference to confidence, speed and fluency in number work. The children really enjoy the games, and regular practice helps them build these skills without it feeling like hard work.

If you need a reminder of login details or would like support getting started, please speak to your child's class teacher, who will be very happy to point you in the right direction.

Cheese and Wine Night to support the school playground appeal!

The Three Cottages Cafe at Meanwood Park and Metz Cheesemonger, the multi-award winning cheesemonger from Farsley, are delighted to be hosting a cheese and wine guided experience in support of the Top Playground Appeal. There are only 40 places available and you can book online: threecottagescafe.co.uk.

Friday, 27th Feb, 7pm – £28/person

Please see attached flyer for more information.

READ MORE ON...

www.meanwoodschool.co.uk

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General Notices

School Councillors Meet the Chief Executive of Leeds City Council

Our Year 5 and 6 School Councillors recently had the privilege of meeting the Chief Executive of Leeds City Council, Ed Whiting OBE, during his visit to Meanwood as part of the Moortown electoral ward. The visit formed part of his work to visit wards across the city to meet local residents and organisations and to gain a better understanding of each community.

During his visit, Ed Whiting visited the Oates Memorial in Meanwood Park, where he took time to speak with the School Councillors from Meanwood Primary School. He was joined by Councillor Mohammed Shahzad and Councillor Sharon Hamilton, alongside other key members of the Meanwood community, including Bryn Evans, our very own former Headteacher who served the school from 1983-1998!

Ed Whiting was keen to learn how our School Councillors are elected and the work they are currently involved in. The children spoke confidently about their roles and proudly explained how they have been supporting the Top Playground Appeal. They shared how this has been a true community effort, working closely with local supporters including Rachel Ramsden, Rob Vallance from The Three Cottages and Zucco's (to mention a few!)

It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to represent Meanwood Primary School and to showcase the strong sense of community spirit in Meanwood. We are extremely proud of our School Councillors for representing the school so positively and confidently.

Mrs Parker



Keeping Children Safe Online

We would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of monitoring what children access on their devices. Recently, we have noticed that some incidents in school are influenced by content children encounter online—particularly on platforms such as TikTok.

We understand that keeping track of your child's online activity can be challenging, as technology and trends change rapidly. To support you, here are a few helpful resources that can update your knowledge and provide guidance on keeping children safe online:

- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> - Advice from the National Crime Agency on online safety for different age groups.
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/> - Practical tips and parental controls for a wide range of devices and apps.
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> - Guidance on social media, gaming, and online risks.
- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/> - Resources for parents and carers to help children use the internet safely.

The legal minimum age for a standard TikTok account is 13.

House Totals

Oak: 960 Holly: 1092 Elm: 895 Sycamore: 844

READ MORE ON..
www.meanwoodschool.co.uk

"Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

Open Arms

Loving God,

we thank you for the gift of community and for reminding us this week what it means to be part of a team. Thank you for the many different people who make up our school family, and for the strength that comes when we work together, support one another, and share kindness.

Help us at Meanwood to always be a place of open arms –where everyone is welcomed, where everyone is valued, and where everyone knows that they belong.

Teach us to look out for one another, to celebrate our differences, and to play our part with care and generosity, knowing that together we are stronger. May our words be kind, our actions be thoughtful, and our hearts always be open to others.

Amen.

Class page links

Reception

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

A note from Mr Chapman

When we look out onto the world, we see so much division and hate. At Meanwood, we try to do everything through our values of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Arms.

The children are absolutely brilliant—they constantly strive to see the good in others and understand that while we may have ups and downs in our relationships, we must always aim to be kind and loving to one another.

We may be a small community, but we work hard to ensure these values are at the heart of everything we do. We pray and hope for a calm and peaceful year ahead, rooted in mutual respect and understanding.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Chapman

READ MORE ON..
www.meanwoodschool.co.uk

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