The Mead Community Primary School

Friday 16th October 2026

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2026 – 2027
Issue No 1

Term 1 Round Up

The Mead Community Primary School News



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Dear Mead families,

25th Birthday Celebrations… The Mead is 25 years old and we celebrated this special event with the official opening of our new playground. Amity and Teddy from year 6 led the ceremony and entertained us with facts from the past, before we sat down to an amazing lunch with balloons and special birthday cake. Our special thanks go to both the office and the kitchen team for making this so memorable.













We have had a tremendous first term of the new school year, topped off with a very special morning as we celebrated our 25th anniversary as a school.

So many wonderful things have already happened, proving once again that The Mead provides an exceptional primary school experience for our children. I do hope you enjoy reading about everyone's learning and achievements in this newsletter.

We look forward to more of the same in Term 2 as autumn turns to winter, and as we light up the school with performances and celebrations for the festive season that will soon be upon us.

I hope you all have the opportunity to enjoy some great family time over the half-term break.

With thanks and best wishes,

Mark Stenton
Headteacher



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GENERAL MESSAGES

Reminder of our sickness absence rules

Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).





If your child has a raised temperature, they shouldn't attend school. They can return once they start to feel better and have been temperature free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication (e.g. Calpol).

Please could we remind you to report your child's absence before 8.45am by phoning the dedicated absence line (01225 759293 option 1) stating your child's name, class and reason for absence. We ask for the reason to enable to monitor which type of bugs are going around and whether they are confined to a particular class or year group. This in turn, helps us to protect others.

Please do not email as these are not looked at until once the registers are in order and all children are accounted for.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Why school attendance is important

Academic achievement:
Even a few missed days can significantly impact a child's education. Students with high attendance are more likely to meet academic standards.

Well-being:
Regular attendance helps children build social skills, make friends, and develop good habits for their future.

Legal requirement:
Children of compulsory school age are required to receive a full-time education. Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends regularly.

Future opportunities:
Poor attendance is linked to a higher risk of poor performance in exams, dropping out of school, and finding it harder to get a job later in life.

Our current attendance rates

Statutory Attendance:
Today: 93.9%
(Our Year To Date: 97.0%)

Authorised Absence:
Today: 4.6%
Our YTD 2.5%
(National Average: 3.0% YTD)

Unauthorised Absence:
Today: 1.5%
Our YTD 0.50 %
(National Average: 1.5% YTD)

Persistent Absentees:
Our YTD 6.1%
(National Average: 13.6% YTD)

Lates: 0.37% YTD

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Parking at The Mead

SHOW YOU CARE, PARK ELSEWHERE

Please could we ask that, when parking, you are considerate of other road users, considerate of pedestrians and considerate of our children.

Please could you also be aware of disabled parking. On the Wingfield site there is one dedicated space. It is the closest to the school building – on the left as you look at the spaces from the road. On the Hilperton site, there are two dedicated spaces – the very first two spaces as you turn left into the one way system and them immediately right into the car park. You will find them on your right hand side, the markings are fading but you will notice that they are considerably bigger than the other spaces.



On the Hilperton site we also have 4 school parking characters. These are located as you turn into the one way system, by the school vehicular entrance and by the crossing. They are located at these points for a reason. Three parking characters are at the start of double yellow lines (to remind you that you shouldn't park on double yellow lines) and the final one is by the main crossing from the school carpark to the main pedestrian entrance (to draw your attention to the very busy crossing). At the end of the day, once the parking characters are put away, we are noticing that parents disregard the double yellow lines, the corners and the crossing, particularly on After School Care pick up.



You will be aware that previously, when parents send us photos of dangerous parking, we forward these to you. We will continue to do so in the future when inconsiderate parking is seen.

Please, please be mindful of where you park.

School Lunches

Just a quick reminder that once you have selected your meals choices, they will sit in your basket (as if you were doing normal internet shopping). Once you have checked the contents of your basket (shown as 'go to basket' in blue), please ensure that you 'check out' by clicking the green checkout button.

Christmas Lunch – Friday 18th December

Have you booked your Christmas Lunch yet?
If your child would like a lunch please ensure it is booked through your Abor account by
Friday 4th December at the very latest.

Lunches are £3.00 per meal (Cygnets, Ladybirds and KS2).





School Lunches and Absences

A meal will not be charged for if your child is off poorly. If a child has a meal booked and is not present in the register, the money will not be deducted from your Arbor account.

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Term 1 Learning in The Orchard Nursery - Ladybirds

Our Term In Pictures











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Term 1 Learning in Bees and Butterflies

This term has been all about building relationships and settling into our new routines at school. The children have embraced the start of the year with curiosity and enthusiasm. It has been wonderful to witness their joy, engagement and growing confidence each day as they eagerly explore their environment.

We are especially proud of the kindness and care they show towards one another, and how naturally they collaborate and play together. We have also already noticed how creative they are, enthusiastically exploring colour mixing, constructing impressive creations outdoors with the large blocks, and using their imaginations to build and create in the sand pit.

The web has also been a firm favourite this term, with the children demonstrating great courage, resilience and determination as they challenge themselves physically.

We are so incredibly proud of all the Bees and Butterflies for the fantastic start they have made to their school journey this term. They have embraced every new experience with enthusiasm, curiosity and confidence, and have already shown us just how kind, creative and capable they are.

We look forward to watching them continue to grow and flourish throughout the year.

Here is a snapshot of our fabulous first term at school.

Well done, Bees and Butterflies! 🐝🦋😊








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Term 1 Learning in Robins and Moles

We have had a wonderful start to Year 1 and are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into their new classes. They have embraced the challenges of Key Stage 1 with enthusiasm and have already shown us what fantastic learners they can be. We have enjoyed getting to know one another through our writing, where the children have shared information about themselves, their families and the things they enjoy. It has been lovely to see their confidence grow as they have become familiar with new routines and expectations. The children have loved exploring the different areas of the classroom and learning through play. We have seen some fantastic creativity during our DT and art activities, with children designing and building a range of wonderful models and constructions. They have also enjoyed experimenting with colour through painting and discussing the different effects they can create.






One of the highlights of the term was our visit to Longleat. The children had an amazing day exploring the park and seeing a wide variety of animals up close. They were full of excitement throughout the trip and loved sharing their favourite parts of the day when we returned to school. Although it was a long and tiring day, it was a memorable experience that the children will be talking about for a long time.






In Science, we have been learning about animals, including the features of mammals and the different diets animals have. The children enjoyed sorting animals into groups and discussing what they eat. They particularly enjoyed designing plates for herbivores and carnivores, carefully thinking about the foods each animal would need to survive.




Our Art learning has focused on developing drawing skills through exploring different types of lines and marks. The children have applied these skills to create animal drawings and investigate a range of animal prints and patterns. We have been impressed with the care and creativity they have shown in their artwork.




Well done, Year 1, on such a fantastic start to the year. We look forward to all the exciting learning and experiences that the rest of the year will bring.

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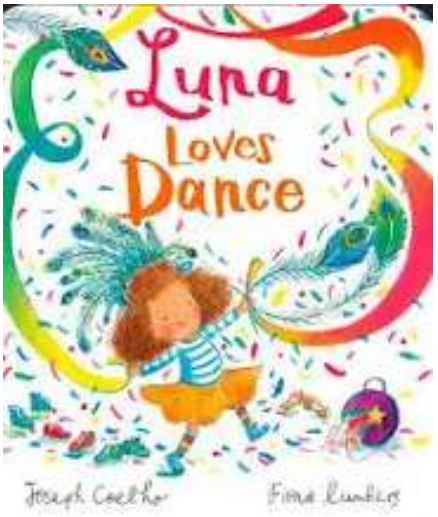
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Term 1 Learning in Woodpeckers and Wrens

The children in Wrens and Woodpeckers have started their Year 2 journey fantastically! They are proving themselves as the oldest children in Key stage 1 and thriving! It has been fantastic watching everyone learn and grow with confidence every day.



In our English lessons we have been focusing on two books; Luna Loves Dance and How to be friends with a ghost. Both of the books have been thoroughly enjoyed and the children have produced some incredible writing from both of these using wonderful vocabulary. We especially loved discussing wobbly bottoms and the vast diet ghosts have included encrusted bogies!



Another thing the children have been absolutely outstanding at is practicing their joined-up handwriting, everyone is adapting to it wonderfully and they should be so proud!

In maths we have completed our first unit of Place Value and have moved on to Addition and Subtraction. All the children in Year 2 show such enthusiasm in maths and are incredible at thinking mathematically. We have been using a wide range of resources in maths including our base 10, white boards, counters and rekenreks.

In our science we have been having discussions around living things and their habitats, the children have been so interested in this and we have had lots of discussions over a wide range of animals, watching the children work as scientists is wonderful to see and the conversations they have with their peers during science lessons are so interesting!

History has been a big winner this term the children are absolutely captivated by our learning of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. We have learnt so much about him so please do question your child, they should be experts! We have looks at some of the wonderful engineering feats Isambard Kingdom Brunel has done locally such as the Clifton Suspension Bridge, Box Tunnel and The SS Great Britain. The children did a fantastic reenactment of the building of Box Tunnel and are all very excited for their upcoming trip to the SS Great Britain.



In computing and PSHE there has been a focus on how to be safe online as well as in school and what rules we should follow. And from the feedback we have had from Miss Penny an Mr Smith (Art & P.E) the children are doing amazing.

It is an absolute pleasure to be the teachers in Year 2 and we are so lucky to have a wonderful cohort of children who absolutely love to learn, we cannot wait to see what the rest of the year brings and we are already looking forward to term 2! We have lots planned!

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Term 1 Learning in Kestrels and Puffins

The children have settled into Year 3 brilliantly and have embraced the challenges and opportunities that come with moving into Key Stage 2. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow already, and they have approached their learning with enthusiasm, positivity and a real willingness to try their best. We are incredibly proud of how quickly they have adapted and the mature attitude they have shown throughout the term.





We began the year with our exciting trip to Stonehenge, which was a real highlight and a fantastic way to launch our History learning. The visit brought our topic to life and sparked lots of curiosity about life in the Stone Age and, more recently, the Bronze Age. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning how people lived in the past, asking thoughtful questions and showing a genuine interest in the changes that took place over time.

In Maths, we completed our Place Value unit, with the children developing their understanding of number and growing in confidence when explaining their mathematical thinking. They have shown determination, resilience and increasing independence when tackling new challenges. In English, we have been exploring Mini Rabbit Not Lost, using the story to investigate how authors engage their readers through structure, language and grammar choices. The children have enjoyed discussing the text and are now beginning to apply these ideas in their own imaginative writing.

In Science, we have been investigating forces, particularly resistance, through practical experiments and discussions. The children have loved making predictions, carrying out investigations and learning through hands-on activities. Elsewhere across the curriculum, they have been learning greetings and simple conversational phrases in French, creating Stone Age-inspired dance sequences, and exploring themes of identity, relationships and respect in PSHE.

As we come to the end of our first term together, it has been a joy to watch their personalities shine and see the progress they have made both academically and personally. We are looking forward to building on this fantastic start next term, with many more exciting learning experiences ahead. We hope everyone has a well-deserved, restful break and returns ready for another exciting term in Year 3.

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Term 1 Learning in Otters and Squirrels

Year 4 have had a wonderful and positive start to the year!

We have been busy in Term 1 diving into our History learning on the Anglo Saxons and the Vikings. We have learned about what life was like for both groups of people, as well as why the Vikings invaded Britain and where they decided to settle.

In Writing, we have written persuasive speeches on a topic of our choice and enjoyed sitting in the circle of trees listening to each other perform them, using our public speaking skills. We also loved having a go at writing our own free verse poem about a creature and its habitat!

One of the highlights of the term has been reading *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and we can't wait to continue reading this into next term!

Our trip to the Art Gallery earlier in the term was a huge success and we enjoyed learning about the artist Angel Otero and his paintings inspired by his grandmother. We had a go at drawing our own pictures while we were there of something that is important to us!







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Term 1 Learning in Foxes and Ospreys

Steaming Ahead! Foxes and Ospreys Explore the Industrial Revolution
What a fantastic start to the year Foxes and Ospreys have had! Term 1 has been packed with exciting learning experiences, memorable adventures and some truly brilliant work.



One of the highlights of the term was our visit to Trowbridge Museum, which brought our learning about the Industrial Revolution to life. We discovered how the local woollen cloth industry transformed the town and explored some fascinating artefacts from the past. It was wonderful to see the children asking thoughtful questions and making links between what they learned at the museum and our classroom studies.



In English, we unleashed our imaginations by creating our own mythical creatures. The children delighted in designing extraordinary beasts and then crafting detailed descriptions using ambitious vocabulary, powerful imagery and carefully chosen language techniques. From fearsome fire-breathing monsters to mysterious creatures of the deep, their creativity knew no bounds!



Our reading journey has taken us through a variety of wonderful texts. We have thoroughly enjoyed listening to Street Child, which has sparked thoughtful discussions and helped us develop our understanding of character and historical context. We have also ventured into the world of children's classics, exploring extracts from beloved stories including The Jungle Book, The Hobbit, The Secret Garden and many more. These texts have introduced us to memorable characters, rich vocabulary and different styles of storytelling.

We have also spent time learning about how to stay safe, responsible and respectful online through the Common Sense Media Year 5 curriculum. The children have engaged thoughtfully with discussions about digital citizenship, online relationships and protecting their personal information, developing important skills that will help them navigate the digital world safely.

We are incredibly proud of all that the children have achieved this term. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and determination have made Foxes and Ospreys wonderful places to learn. We look forward to another exciting term ahead!





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Term 1 Learning in Falcons and Wolves

As we come to the end of a busy and successful term, we would like to share some of the fantastic learning experiences Year 6 have enjoyed.

In English, we explored poetry by writing our own poems inspired by *The Tree and the River*. The children used ambitious vocabulary and powerful imagery to create thoughtful and creative pieces. Later in the term, we developed our narrative writing skills through *The Night of the Gargoyles*, producing exciting stories filled with description, suspense and action.

In Mathematics, we have focused on securing our understanding of place value and the four operations. The children have shown great determination as they have developed their fluency and problem-solving skills when working with increasingly challenging calculations.

To launch our history learning, we enjoyed a fantastic trip to Trowbridge Museum, where we began our exploration of the Kingdom of Benin. The visit helped the children develop their historical understanding and sparked many thoughtful discussions that we have continued in class.

This term also saw our school celebrate its 25th anniversary. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the special celebrations and reflecting on the history of our school community.

We were also lucky to visit the Hauser & Wirth Art Gallery, where the children engaged with a variety of artworks and explored different artistic styles and ideas. The visit provided wonderful inspiration and encouraged thoughtful conversations about creativity and expression.

We are incredibly proud of the hard work, enthusiasm and positive attitudes the children have shown throughout the term. We look forward to doing it all again in term 2 after a restful and enjoyable break.











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Term 1 Learning in Cygnets and Swans – The Mead at Wingfield

Swans and Cygnets have had a wonderful first term of this school year! There have been many enjoyable moments this term, but nothing more exciting than Swans' trip to The Bristol Zoo Project! Year 1 and Reception were very excitable as they searched for wolves, brown bears and giraffes at the zoo and learned all about the six animal classifications that link to Year 1's Science topic on Animals, including Humans.









We have also had fun exploring the autumnal season on the school field, with Nursery also going on their own adventure to find natural items to make leaf men with.















Swans and Cygnets have been learning about colour mixing and pretending to be fire fighters, while Reception have learnt their first sounds and are doing really well writing them, too, and Year 1 have been learning all about Christenings. What a fantastic term of learning we have had and we can't wait to learn more next term, too!

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Term 1 Learning in Red Kites – The Mead at Wingfield



Please bear with us. Red Kites news will be……



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Term 1 Learning in Hedgehogs – The Mead at Wingfield

Wow! What a fantastic start to the year! It's hard to believe we have already had a whole term come and go but we have so much to show for it! It has been busy but it has also been a lot of fun and the children have done very well with their learning.



Football

A huge well done to our very special football team. We are the smallest school taking part in the Trowbridge football league but they have impressed everyone across the town. Wingfield is not to be underestimated!



Dance

We have had two groups of children take part in dance workshops. It was smiles all around for them and it is so pleasing to see lots of the Hedgehogs really keen to take part in and enjoy dance. Next, we will make plans for the dance festival in February.



Trowbridge Museum

Hedgehogs had a fascinating trip to Trowbridge Museum to enrich their learning on the industrial revolution. We had a tour, looked at the artefacts and had a story about the martyr of Trowbridge.

STEAM Museum

To end the term, we had another trip to The STEAM museum. The children learnt about the construction of the Great Western Railway and the impact of locomotives during the industrial revolution.



Writing

The children have been working really hard in writing at the start of the year. We have written non-chronological reports on a made-up creature and written poems based-on The Tree and The River. We have entered our poems into a poetry competition!

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News from Miss Penny – The Arts

As we celebrate 25 years of The Mead School at Hilperton, every child was invited to create a new bright and bold version of our Badger which is the school's logo. The winning design will be used in a local street art project.



The winning design was chosen by Mr Stenton after being narrowed down to just 3.

Congratulations to Isabella Gullen for her bold and colourful design.

Here is selection of some of the amazing designs that were entered.
Thank you to everyone who submitted a design.















