



MEIR HEATH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2026

Principal's Message



I hope this final newsletter of the year finds you well. It's been a fantastic year at Meir Heath, filled with memorable moments, exciting opportunities, and amazing achievements across the school. As we reflect on all that's happened, here are just a few highlights from a truly special year...

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another wonderful school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. It has been another incredibly busy and successful year at Meir Heath Academy, and I couldn't be prouder of everything our children, staff and wider school community have achieved together.

This year has been one of continual growth, innovation and collaboration. We have remained committed to ensuring that every child receives the very best educational experiences, whilst creating an environment where children feel happy, safe, valued and inspired to achieve their full potential.

One of our proudest achievements has been receiving the OPAL Platinum Award, following two years of dedication to transforming playtimes at Meir Heath Academy. This national recognition reflects our belief that play is fundamental to children's wellbeing, creativity and development. It has been wonderful to see our children thriving outdoors, developing friendships, confidence, resilience and independence through high-quality play experiences.

Alongside this, our work to embed a restorative and relational culture across the school has continued to go from strength to strength. Through our Professional Growth Project, staff have worked collaboratively to develop approaches that strengthen relationships, support emotional wellbeing and enable children to understand and regulate their emotions. This work has been recognised beyond our school and was recently featured in the St Bart's Trust Reaching Potential magazine as an example of effective school improvement and professional collaboration.

Our introduction of the Zones of Regulation has also had a significant impact on supporting children's emotional literacy and self-regulation. It has been wonderful to hear children confidently discussing their feelings and using shared strategies to help themselves and others. This work has become an important part of daily life at Meir Heath Academy and continues to strengthen our nurturing school culture.

Happy

Hardworking

Caring

Innovation within our curriculum has also been a real highlight this year. We have successfully introduced COOL (Choose Our Own Learning) time and Rainbow Challenges across Key Stage 1, giving children greater ownership of their learning through carefully planned continuous provision linked directly to the National Curriculum. The enthusiasm, independence and engagement shown by our children has been fantastic to see.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue this journey. Following attendance at the Early Excellence Roadshow, we have already invested in bespoke furniture to further transform our Key Stage 1 learning environments and have welcomed Early Excellence experts to work alongside our staff in designing inspiring learning spaces that will support the next phase of our continuous provision journey into Year 1 and Year 2.

This year also saw Meir Heath Academy proudly host the St Bart's Trust EYFS Network Meeting. Welcoming Early Years leaders from across the Trust was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the significant developments made within our Early Years provision over the past eighteen months. The feedback from colleagues was overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on the inspiring learning environment, the quality of provision and the remarkable transformation that has taken place. Our Trust's Central EYFS Lead described the setting as "incredible", recognising the hard work, dedication and vision of our staff team. It was particularly rewarding to see colleagues taking ideas back to their own schools, demonstrating that Meir Heath Academy is now helping to shape best practice across the Trust.

We have also been delighted to receive exceptionally positive feedback from the Trust's Central Team during our school development reviews. The progress made against our school improvement priorities has been recognised as being both ambitious and impactful, reflecting the commitment of our entire staff team to continually improving the education and experiences we provide for every child.

Of course, none of these achievements would be possible without our amazing children, who continue to impress us every day with their enthusiasm, kindness, resilience and determination. Whether performing on stage, representing the school in sporting events, taking on leadership roles, enjoying educational visits or simply demonstrating our school values each day, they are what makes Meir Heath Academy such a special place to learn.

I would also like to thank our incredible staff, governors, Friends of Meir Heath, volunteers and, most importantly, you - our parents and carers - for your unwavering support throughout the year. Your encouragement and partnership enable us to continue striving for excellence, and we are truly grateful.

As we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 pupils, we wish them every success and happiness as they move on to the next exciting stage of their education. They leave with many wonderful memories and will always remain part of the Meir Heath family.

Happy

As always at this time of year, we also take the opportunity to say farewell to some valued members of our Meir Heath family. We would like to thank Mrs Spencer, who has supported Class JB for the past two years, for her dedication and commitment to our children. We wish her every success as she begins an exciting new chapter teaching at Esland School. We also say goodbye to Miss Rogers, who is moving on to a new teaching role at Oakhill Primary School. We know she will be a wonderful addition to her new school, and we thank her for everything she has contributed during her time with us.

This term, we have also been incredibly grateful for the support of Cath and Ruby, who joined our lunchtime team following Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Hutchison's departures to pursue new opportunities outside of education. Their help has been greatly appreciated, and we thank them for the care and enthusiasm they have shown towards our children.

On a happier note, it was lovely to recently welcome Miss Maddock back to school for a visit with her beautiful baby boy, Vinnie. It was wonderful to see them both looking so happy and well, and everyone enjoyed having the opportunity to meet the newest addition to her family.

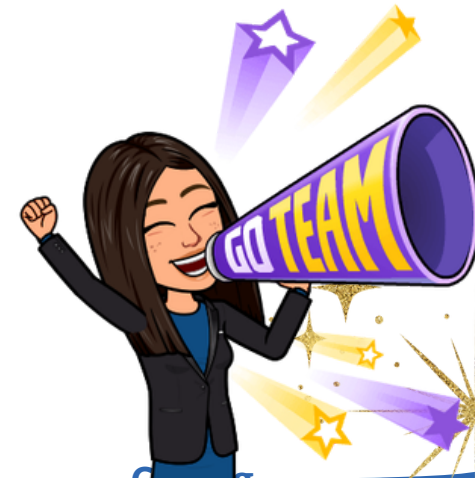
Looking ahead to September, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Carpenter to our teaching team, along with Mrs Crutchley and Mrs Comley, who will be joining us as Teaching Assistants. We are excited for them to become part of the Meir Heath family, and we know they will make a valuable contribution to our school community.

I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved summer break, spending quality time with family and friends and making special memories together. We are already looking forward to welcoming everyone back in September as we continue our journey of growth, innovation and excellence together.

On behalf of everyone at Meir Heath Academy, thank you for another fantastic year.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and relaxing summer.

Mrs M Southern
Principal



Happy

Hardworking

WINDS, WAVE AND WOBBLES- A MEIR HEATH MUSICAL! 🎭🌟

A huge congratulations to our Y6 pupils for their fantastic performances in their show week.

With two outstanding shows to parents, families, and friends, the children showcased incredible talent, teamwork, and confidence on stage - from singing and dancing to acting with flair!

Thank you to the staff behind the scenes and to our families for your ongoing support.

FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK, YEAR 6! 🎓🌟

As our wonderful Year 6 children prepare to leave Meir Heath and begin their next adventure, we want to say a heartfelt well done and good luck to each and every one of them.

We are so proud of you all, Year 6 - go forward and continue being happy hardworking and caring individuals. You'll always be part of the Meir Heath family.

PARENTAL FEEDBACK AND PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

I would also like to thank everyone who took the time to complete our recent parent survey. Your feedback was overwhelmingly positive and highlighted just how much our school community values the wide range of events and enrichment opportunities we provide throughout the year.

It was particularly lovely to hear how much the children have enjoyed the introduction of our school discos, with many parents commenting on the fantastic atmosphere and the age-appropriate games and activities led by our DJ, which have made the evenings such memorable experiences. A special thank you goes to our Parent Governor, Viki Lear, for helping to source and organise these events, as well as to the staff who generously gave up their own time to support them.

Your feedback is incredibly important to us and plays a key role in shaping the future direction of our school. As a result of the survey, we have included the development of a community events programme within our School Development Plan for next year. We will be establishing a dedicated Events Committee to work alongside staff, governors and our wider school community to introduce some of the wonderful ideas suggested by parents, including a Christmas Market and a Summer Fayre.

We are also excited that this work will form the focus of our Professional Growth Project next year, enabling us to work collaboratively to strengthen community engagement and create even more memorable experiences for our children and families.

EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS: JUNIOR DUKE LEADING THE WAY!



Junior Duke Award Success at Meir Heath

Here at Meir Heath, we are proud to offer our children the opportunity to take part in the Junior Duke Award throughout the school year. This exciting programme encourages independence, resilience, and a wide range of valuable life skills.

We are delighted to share that many of our pupils successfully completed their challenges and were proudly awarded their certificates and badges. To celebrate their achievements, we organised a cardboard creation station on the school field, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

A huge well done to all the children who took part - you've shown fantastic dedication and enthusiasm. We look forward to running the programme again next year.

Well done once again to our incredible Junior Dukes!





COLOUR RUN 2026 – A BURST OF FUN AND LAUGHTER!

What a fantastic Colour Run we had this year! Held over two afternoons, the school field was filled with colour, laughter and smiles as every child enjoyed taking part in one of the highlights of the school year.

A huge thank you to all our parents for your generous donations, which helped cover the cost of the colour powder and made the event possible. We are also incredibly grateful to Mr Cooper for leading the event with such enthusiasm and to Miss Blackhurst for all her hard work organising everything behind the scenes.

A special thank you goes to our two wonderful parent volunteers, who have supported the Colour Run year after year. Their help with organising and distributing the colour powder played a huge part in making the event another great success. Following this year's success, we are already looking ahead to next year. We hope to bring the Colour Run onto the school site and develop it into a family event, giving parents, carers and children the opportunity to join in the fun together. We can't wait!



A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION OF GROWTH

This week, we proudly celebrated our EYFS Graduation, marking the incredible journey our youngest learners have made during their first year at Meir Heath.

It was truly heartwarming to see how much the children have grown – in confidence, independence, and skills. From their very first days to now, they have blossomed in every way, and we couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them.

The graduation ceremony was a joyful occasion, filled with smiles and proud moments as we celebrated their achievements and looked ahead to the exciting new adventures that await them in Year 1.

Well done, Reception – you've had a fantastic start to your learning journey, and we can't wait to see all you achieve in the years to come!



WHOLE SCHOOL TRANSITION – A FANTASTIC START

Our whole-school Transition Day was a great success, helping children feel confident and excited as they prepare for the new academic year. They spent time with their new class teachers, explored their new classrooms and took part in activities to help them settle into school life for September.

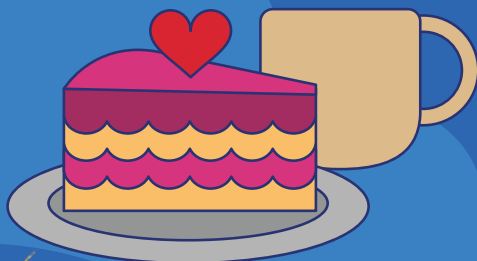
As part of the day, every year group completed learning linked to the local history and pottery heritage of Stoke-on-Trent, including a piece of artwork inspired by our city's famous potteries. Team-building sessions with Mr Cooper also encouraged children to build confidence, strengthen friendships and work together.

We were delighted to welcome our new Reception children and their families to the Meir Heath Academy community. Mrs Fisher carried out home visits before the children enjoyed their transition visit, meeting staff and exploring their new classroom. We are incredibly proud of how well all of our children embraced Transition Day and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning.



SUPPORTING DOUGIE MAC

Next academic year, we are proud to be supporting Dougie Mac through our school charity events. To kick-start our fundraising, we will be hosting a Coffee Morning on Monday 28th September, led by Mrs Cameron and our School Council. We hope as many families as possible will join us to support this wonderful local charity. More information will be shared in September.



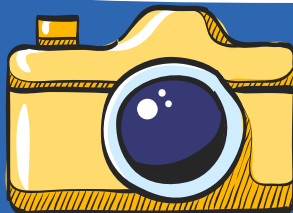
SAVE THE DATE SCHOOL PHOTOS!

We're pleased to let you know that Academy Photography will be visiting Meir Heath on Thursday 15th October 2026 to take school photographs of our children.

Photos will be taken throughout the day for all school age children including brother and sister photos.

Family Photo Opportunity:
Families with preschool children are warmly invited to come in for family photos before school from 8:30am. Please enter the school via the main office entrance.

This is a great chance to capture those special school memories—be sure to mark the date in your calendar!



COMING SOON - TT ROCK STAR DAY!

We're excited to kick off the new school year with our annual Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) Day on Friday 25th September!

Children are invited to come to school dressed as rock stars as we celebrate the importance of learning and recalling times tables in a fun and memorable way.

Throughout the day, classes will take part in exciting times tables battles and challenges, competing against each other to become our TTRS champions.

Times Tables Rock Stars is a fantastic programme that helps children develop speed, confidence and fluency with their multiplication facts, and we can't wait to celebrate with a day full of music, maths and lots of fun.

Let's rock those times tables! 🎸 ⭐



We've achieved

OPAL PLAY PLATINUM!



We are incredibly proud to have achieved OPAL Play Platinum Status after two years of hard work, dedication and development.

A huge thank you to our OPAL Play team –
Mrs Derbyshire, Mrs Bryan and Miss Blackhurst –
for leading this journey, to all of our staff for embracing outdoor play, and to our parents for their generous donations. Without your continued support, this transformation simply would not have been possible.

Thank you' for helping us create such an exciting and enriching play environment for our children!

– Proud Principal ♡





SPORTING SUCCESS 2025-2026

WHAT A YEAR FOR SPORT AT MEIR HEATH ACADEMY!

Our children have enjoyed an incredible year of sporting opportunities, participation and success, competing in a wide range of festivals, tournaments and competitions across the district. We are immensely proud of every child who has represented our school with enthusiasm, determination, resilience and outstanding sportsmanship.



A huge thank you goes to **Mr Wilkinson**, whose passion, commitment and enthusiasm for school sport inspire our children every day. From organising competitions and fixtures to delivering two fantastic Sports Days, his dedication ensures every child has the opportunity to enjoy and succeed in sport.



We would also like to thank **Mr Cooper** for the engaging PE lessons he delivers throughout the year and for organising exciting lunchtime sporting activities that encourage children to stay active, develop new skills and enjoy being part of a team.



PROUD TO BE
PLATINUM
SCHOOL GAMES AWARD
WINNERS FOR THE
SECOND YEAR RUNNING!



OUR SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Platinum School Games Award achieved for the second consecutive year
- ★ Northwood Athletics Champions – 1st Place
- ★ Year 5 & 6 Boys Football – 1st Place
- ★ Year 5 & 6 Girls Football – Joint 1st Place
- ★ Year 5 & 6 Rounders Tournament – 1st Place
- ★ Handball Tournament – 1st Place
- ★ Year 5 & 6 Swimming Gala – 1st Place
- ★ School Games Sportshall Athletics – 2nd Place in the District



FANTASTIC PARTICIPATION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Our pupils also proudly represented Meir Heath Academy at:



Year 2 Multi-Skills Festival
led by Mr Wilkinson and
our Sports Leaders



Year 2 & 3
Dodgeball Festival



Year 3 & 4
Swimming Gala



Year 3, 4, 5 & 6
Tag Rugby Festivals



St Bart's
Mini Athletics



SEND Festival



Year 3 & 4
Boys Football



Cross Country
Events



Year 4 Olympic
Legacy Day at BBHS



Whether bringing home trophies or simply enjoying the opportunity to compete, every child has represented our school brilliantly. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to another exciting year of sporting success!

WELL DONE, TEAM MEIR HEATH! ❤️

Bee Active – What a Fantastic Year!



CHRISTMAS SILENT DISCO



SUMMER COLOUR RUN



GIANT INFLATABLES



YEAR 2 SCOOTER SKILLS



BIKEABILITY FOR YEAR 1



YEAR 5 & 6 BOOTCAMP



LASER TAG



RUN, RIDE & ROW CHALLENGE



**STRONGER
TOGETHER
ACTIVE
FOREVER!** ♥

“ A huge thank you to Mr Cooper and the Bee Active team for another incredible year of exciting sporting opportunities. From festive fun at the Christmas Silent Disco to the colourful excitement of the Summer Colour Run,

our children have enjoyed a fantastic range of activities that have encouraged **teamwork**, **resilience**, **confidence** and **healthy lifestyles**.

We are incredibly grateful for everything **Bee Active** has done to make sport and physical activity such a memorable part of school life.

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