



16 February 2017

MENGHAM INFANT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now halfway through another school year and the school continues to buzz with happy, busy children.

Just as our children continue to develop their skills and knowledge, our staff are also keen to develop themselves to ensure we continue to provide the best opportunities we can.

Recently in our staff development time, both alongside the Junior school staff and in our own sessions, we have been thinking about resilience and the importance of children developing a positive attitude towards learning. You may have heard your children talk about being in "the pit". This is an analogy that we are using with the children to help them understand that "getting stuck" is a normal part of our learning process and that some of the most important skills we need to develop are those that help us to get out of the pit. We have been amazed at how well the children have understood this concept. Bethany in Year Two summed it up for me the other day when she said **"If you do not fall into the pit you are not learning because it just means you are doing what you already know!"** If you would like any further information on this concept you can google "Learning Pit" where you will find a whole range of information and images.

Our new reading initiative was launched in assembly last week by Mrs Moth, our English Leader in school. The feedback from parents and children so far has been really positive, with parents reporting that it has definitely helped some of our more reluctant readers want to read more at home. The special postbox is set up and ready to receive the first batch of completed bookmarks after half term and Mrs Moth has been busy creating a Celebration Gallery on the hall board ready to record the names of our reading stars.

Spring Term Parent Teacher consultation evenings will be held on the 14th and 16th March. Sign up sheets for this will be available at the start and end of day from Monday 27th February.

We received some more exciting news this week when we found out our Mengham team will be gaining an extra member in August when Mrs Topazio-Collis welcomes her first baby! I am sure you will all join me in offering Mrs Topazio-Collis and her husband congratulations and good wishes.

I wish you all a happy and healthy half term break and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 27th February.

Best Wishes

Lindsay Rebbitt
Headteacher

Half term - Monday 20th to Friday 24th February.

Lost Property

We still have a huge amount of **un-named** uniform in our Lost Property boxes! You may have noticed the arrival of a large storage box in the shelter under the south entrance of the school. After half term this will contain



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the lost property boxes and will be left open regularly so that you can look to find any items your child may have lost. The best way to avoid losses is to make sure all uniform is clearly marked with your child's name so that it can be returned to them promptly.

School Nurse Drop in appointments

Havant School Nurse Team are offering a School Nurse Health Drop In on Wednesday 22nd February 2017 between 12pm and 2pm at Park Community School, Middle Park Way, Havant, PO9 4BU. Drop-ins can be accessed through the main school reception. This is an opportunity to sign post any children or families with any health related needs. There will be 2 School Nurses and 1 Community Nursery Nurse available.

The next appointments available at Mengham Infant School will be Wednesday, 1st March. Call at the office if you wish to make an appointment.

Parking

We do appreciate that it is sometimes difficult to park near the school at drop off and pick up times, but please do not use the private car parks of the local businesses near us. We are getting a fair number of complaints from the businesses, not just about the parking but also of threatening behaviour.

If you live in walking or cycling distance, please try to come to school without the car, perhaps get together with other parents to lift share. We do not have any easy fix over the car parking problems, but we are fortunate in that the car park in St. Mary's Road, whilst not big enough for everyone at once, is still free.

Governor's Comment

I was 'invited' (actually, 'press-ganged' is closer!) to take a school assembly recently and explain to the children what it is that Governors do. How do you explain that to 4 to 7 year olds when most adults struggle?! In the end I came up with a simple list based around the word, 'Every'. It is not exactly comprehensive but, hopefully, it gave the children a rough idea of what governors do. I thought you might like to see it. Governors help the Head Teacher, and all the staff, to ensure that the following things are happening:

* That every child is safe.

We try to ensure that the whole school environment is a safe place where children feel secure and able to enjoy learning.

* That every child is learning and growing.

So that each child, no matter what their context, level of education or skill, is able to learn and develop in understanding and knowledge.

* That every teacher is teaching well.

Our aim is to ensure that every lesson is interesting, engaging and of the highest quality so that each child can progress.

* That every teacher is learning and growing.

Our school is a learning environment, but not just for the children! The professional development of all the staff is a high priority. (The children were amused to hear that even Mrs Rebbitt is still learning!).

* That every year the whole school is learning and growing.

Governors seek to ensure that the school is continually improving and getting better.

* That every part of the school is safe and sound, and every pound we have is spent wisely.

Governors regularly check the state of the school property and the way our finances are being used.



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So, the Governors support the Head Teacher and staff to ensure that all those 'Every's' are happening. And if, through our monitoring, we think that any of them are not happening, then we ask questions and challenge the school to be better.

The final part of the assembly was to ask the children who they thought were the most important people in the school. Was it the Governors, or the Head, or teaching staff? No, the answer was, of course, themselves - the children. Everything the Governors and staff do is for your children, to ensure that they are all safe and learning and growing as best they can.

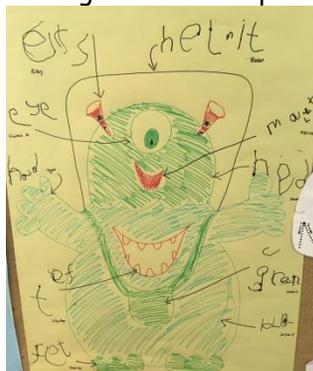
Of course, none of this works without the support of you, the parents. So thank you for all that you do. And if you think that you would enjoy being part of this work as a Governor, why not ask the school for more information?

Peter Cole

Vice Chair of Governors

Year R

Over the past few weeks we moved away from the story 'Whatever Next' but stayed with the Space theme. We focused our learning around the story 'Welcome to Alien School' by Caryl Hart and Ed Eaves. The children have had great fun creating their own aliens and using adjectives to describe them to their friends. In literacy we have been practising writing labels and captions to match our aliens.



In maths the children have been learning how to add and subtract 2 numbers; we have focused a lot on recording their work. As you can see from the photo this does not look like a typical number sentence ($2+2=4$) but instead is more pictorial.

We have noticed that a lot of children are interested in specific jobs such as the police and the fire service. We have decided that our topic for after half term is going to be 'Jobs'. We will be organising lots of different visits from various occupations to come in a talk with the children. The first week back will focus on a 'Bakery' to tie in with Pancake Day.

Year 1



In Year 1 we took a trip to the skies of Chichester on a flight simulator. We got our boarding passes at the check-in desk and then soared off into the skies! During the flight we were treated to some in-flight snacks as



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well as watching an in-flight film. Soon it was time to land before we drove back to school. This was a great experience and we learnt a lot about what it is like to be on an aeroplane.

We also had some of the Year 1 parents in to enjoy lunch together and share some of our learning. The children had a great time and enjoyed having their parents in to eat with and show off what they had been doing in class. In maths the children have been learning how to measure using different resources. We have used rulers to measure length as well as measuring jugs to help use measure capacity. In English we have been writing newspaper reports about the strange Alien findings in our classroom and have been giving them to the police to help with their investigations.



Year 2



Year 2 had had great fun when the Hampshire Fire Service came to teach us about fire and road safety. The children were able to see, feel and try on some of the fire fighting clothes and equipment. They played road fire and road safety games, where the children had to answer questions to be able to move along the game. In maths the children have been learning how to use base ten and number lines to add and subtract. They have then been using these skills when paying for items in a shop and to help work out missing numbers. In English the children have been learning the story *The Way Back Home* and have planned and written their own similar story. The children have also been planning healthy balanced meals for astronauts to eat just before they blast off into space.

Beginners Golf Sessions - at Hayling Island Golf Club

Hayling Island Golf Club is offering some beginner golf sessions for children on the 18th February 1-2pm, 20th February 9.30-10.30 and 22nd February 9.30-10.30. Each session will cost £2 per person. If you are interested in your child taking part, please contact the Golf Club direct on 023 9246 4491 to book, or you can email them at mtreleaven@haylinggolf.co.uk

Hayling Island Golf Club also tell us: 'We have managed to secure a tee time on Saturday afternoon from 14.30-15.00pm. We are going to run a fun 5 hole competition for the juniors to get them out onto the course to see what golf is all about. If you want to come along to this it is free of charge, just contact us in the pro shop to let us know if you child or grandchild is coming along. Mark, the head professional, will also be there to play with the juniors. This is open to all member and non-member children.'

If you wish to receive this newsletter by e-mail please ensure we have your up to date e-mail address. It is also available on the school website.

Visit our updated website at: www.mengham-inf.hants.sch.uk