

8 November 2017



MENGHAM INFANT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well here we are in one of my favourite of the school terms, our run up to Christmas! As you can see from the year group contributions below, school has been a very busy place over the past few weeks and the start of our Christmas celebrations in just a few weeks always brings a magic and excitement to our school community. We look forward to being able to share some of these events with you.

Mrs Roebuck

Next week staff will be holding a celebration lunch to mark the retirement of Mrs Jane Roebuck, who has played a massive part in supporting many generations of learners in our school throughout her 25 years with us. Mrs Roebuck's sunny personality and capacity to go above and beyond for the children in her care has made a real difference to children and staff alike and we look forward to seeing the many amazing textile creations we know she will now be able to produce in her spare time. We are sure parents will join us in thanking Mrs Roebuck for all her contributions to our school and wishing her a long and happy retirement.

Creativity

This half term we will be promoting our value of Creativity and looking at the different ways we can encourage children to use their imaginations, problem solve creatively and present their ideas in different ways. The teachers have worked as a team to plan a series of lessons that will be delivered to all children across school explicitly linked to developing these skills as well as using links with a lot of our daily classroom activities to promote it further.

Computing

This school year we have invested a considerable sum of money into improving the facilities we have in school for delivering the Computing curriculum. We have invested in both a bank of laptops and I-pads and new sets of control technology resources. Staff spent our last INSET day having training on a range of programs and apps that we can use to support learning through the use of computers as well as looking at the most effective ways of ensuring we are delivering the skills that children require in today's society. Our newly decorated Green Room also allows the children the opportunity to use green screen technology to enhance their drama and literacy skills.

At parents evening many parents were asking if school has plans to roll out the Tapestry resource we currently use in Year R to other year groups. This is something we have been looking into over the last few months and we have decided to go ahead and trial it in both Years 1 and 2. Initially it will not be used to the same extent as in Early Years where it is used as our main assessment and observation tool but we are hoping to record a range of examples of children's learning on it and leading to being able to offer parents the same opportunity to access these examples from home.

Thank you to all parents who took the time to comment on our parents question wall at parents evening. We are always looking for ways to continue to improve our school community for everyone involved so your comments play a big part in helping us to move forward.

Best Wishes

Lindsay Rebbitt
Headteacher

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Half Term Attendance

Congratulations to the 101 children across the school who managed 100% attendance for the first half of the autumn term. We held our half term draw on the 3rd November and the winner of a £20 voucher to take their grown up for tea at the Barley Mow was Una from Year R. Well done to Una and her family.

Governor's Report

We are mid-way through the first term, how time flies. It has been a busy time for the Governing Body, we have been organising our committees and responsibilities and we have been reviewing the vision statement for the school. This is what has been approved at the Full Governors Board meeting:

Mengham Infant School will be an outstanding learning environment, within which all children feel safe, inspired and valued; a place of excellence that gives our children the foundation they need to become creative, confident life-long learners.

I am sure you will agree that this is a positive platform to launch our journey to outstanding. Next steps are to monitor the priorities, which will underpin the strategy to achieving our aspirations for the school.

Over the past few months we have also been busy wrestling with the Department for Education's (DfE) new National Funding Formula (NFF) and have written to ministers and DfE on behalf of the school, as so many Governing Bodies and Head Teachers have. I am pleased to say that as a result, additional funding of £1.2bn has been found at the centre, which increases how much is available for distribution across all schools.

There are still a few decisions for Hampshire Education Authority to make regarding how they allocate the Hampshire funding pot to schools across Hampshire, which they are putting out to consultation. This means that we will not know the final numbers until January, but the basic premise is that 'no school will lose out'. A much better place for us, than where we were under the first version.

That said, we won't be resting on our laurels, as it is the distribution of gains across Hampshire that is unknown at this time, so we will: be having our say on the options and preparing our plan of action to ensure that we are one of those schools that gains more funding than last year; continue to spend wisely, ensuring that we get good value for money for every pound that we spend; and we will carry on seeking contributions from generous donors to make sure that we are able to grow and provide more resources for children and teachers, so that our pupils can become the best that they can be.

And on that note, It won't be long before Christmas is upon us, decorations and trees are already popping up in the shops and I am sure that the children will pull out all of the stops for their Christmas events, if the Macmillan coffee afternoon entertainment was anything to go by. Given that it was so early in the term, the children did very well and really appeared to enjoy performing, so I for one, cannot wait for all of the seasonal activities in School to start.

Lynn G

Acting Chair of Governors

Year R



Year R's topic this term is all about growing and eating healthy food. We are linking this with Jack and the beanstalk in literacy. The children all took beans home to grow in the half term and look how tall Freddie's has grown.

We had an amazing trip to Pizza express where all children made their own pizzas and brought them home to eat for lunch.

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We have an outdoor garden centre which even has a café for the children to write their own menus.



The children all helped to make the vegetable soup today. Here we are eating it. It was delicious and so healthy. After feeling and smelling all the vegetables every child helped to chop the carrots, onions, swede, potatoes, celery and Savoy cabbage. We added stock cubes and a tin of tomatoes. The teachers then cooked it. The smell of the soup cooking was lovely. When it was cooked we let it cool down and then all had a cup of soup. Some of the children wanted more and had another cup. Parents were invited to taste the soup after school and we had lots of parents who joined in. Maybe you could make some healthy soup at home.

A big thank you to Mrs Askew who bought all the vegetables for the whole school to make the soup.

Years 1 and 2 will be making theirs during this week.

Year 1



What fun we had at the end of the Gingerbread Man topic. We had acted and retold the story in lots of different ways and even written the story with a change of characters. How amazing one afternoon to have a surprise visit from the Gingerbread Man himself! He answered all our questions about why he had been visiting our school and writing us letters every day. We also solved lots of Gingerbread Man maths problems, and in science we tested materials to find out which would be the best material to fix his umbrella. Finally, in art we made Gingerbread Men collages which we displayed with the beautiful homework collages the children had brought in.

Our Year 1 children were so excited to visit the public library to see the theatre group drama. The show was amazing and the children were totally enthused by what was going on. There was certainly lots of laughter to be heard.

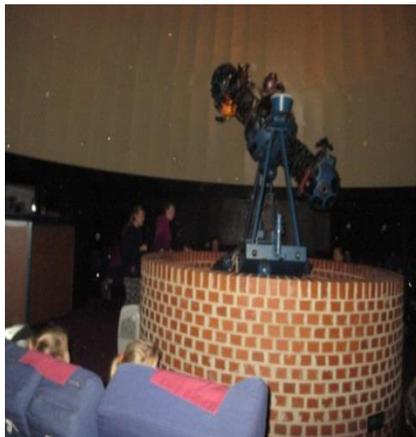
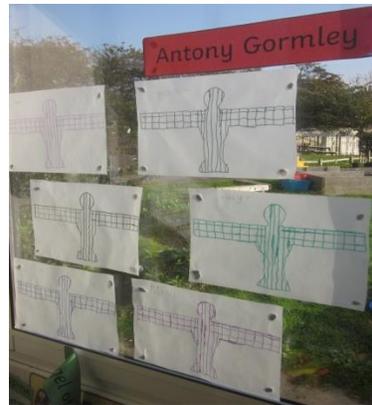


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The term ended with the whole-school bug challenge and it was good to see so many brave parents coming into class to take part.

Art Week, our first week back in Autumn 2, was extremely busy and the children were really caught up with all the inspiring art activities. The theme for art week 2017 was sculptures and Year 1 studied the work of Antony Gormley and in particular the Angel of the North. We used our new ipads and the green screen to transport the classes to Gateshead to record information about the Angel of the North. During the week the children created clay models, paintings, drawings, tracings, brick structures, etc.



As an introduction for our new topic this half term, Year 1 spent the day at the Planetarium. What a lot of information the children learned and were able to recount when we got back to school! It was a delight to take the children on the trip as their behaviour was exemplary and the Planetarium staff commented on this.

Year 2

In Year 2 we had a fantastic end to our Great Fire of London topic! We created some super 3D houses in DT and recreated the Great Fire by burning them on the playground. We then did some writing based on this and told the story of the fire from Samuel Pepys' point of view, just like he did at the time. We solved lots of

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different maths problems for addition and subtraction to help the queen count her soldiers during our London topic and loved learning about different materials and their properties in science.



At the end of the term we enjoyed finishing our 'Challenge Tuesday's' with our bug eating challenge! There were so many brave children and lots of brave grown-ups too!

During Art Week we studied Paul Cummins the artist who created the 'Sea of Red' poppy display in London. He then took this to different locations in the UK and we decided to bring it to Mengham. As our project was to create a 3D sculpture we decided to make our own poppies out of clay. These took a lot of concentration and care to get them looking as amazing as they did. We also made lots of other poppies to create an effective art exhibition. We all wrote our own poppy acrostic poem and thought carefully about why we have poppies and what they are for.



We have kick started our new topic 'Superheroes Wanted' with a super dress up day. We loved all of the fantastic outfits and creative ideas on all of the different superheroes. This has started our writing off nicely as we are thinking of adjectives we could use to describe superheroes and thought of some to describe ourselves. We are now moving on to learning the story of Traction Man and are going to be learning how to write instructions on how to rescue a toy. We are focussing on using bossy words in our writing and using commas when listing lots of adjectives. In maths we are helping Traction Man fight off enemies by multiplying and dividing them.



Art Week



Art Week this year involved the children taking part in all types of arts. Whilst our topic for Art Week was sculpture, the children were also involved in painting, drawing, modelling, tracing, colouring, etc. In addition, the children took part in other 'arts', for example music, dance and drama. They then demonstrated their performances to another class. On Thursday afternoon all the children were able to experience a woodwind demonstration when Andy Morris showed the children a flute and piccolo, a clarinet and three different sizes of saxophone. He talked to the children and demonstrated pitch and rhythm, and showed how different sizes of instrument produce different sounds.

There was a wonderful exhibition for the parents after school on Thursday, and the children were able to look at and evaluate the work of other classes on the Friday.

Health & Safety reminders

Whilst our vehicle gates are programmed to 'bounce back' if they meet resistance (object in them), we would ask that people only use the pedestrian gates to access the site and not the large vehicle gates. Whilst we have not had any incidences of them closing on people, children are very small and, Nationally, there have been incidences of children being caught in the closing gates.

The play equipment on the south playground is not insured to be used before or after school, unless it is being monitored by a member of the school staff.

Dogs (unless guide dogs or other registered 'assistance' dogs) are not be brought onto the school site. This is a Hampshire-wide policy.

Smoking, including the use of E-cigarettes or vaping machines, is not allowed on any Hampshire school sites, at any time.

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