



2 November, 2016

MENGHAM INFANT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

As always our first half term has flown by and we're already starting to add tinsel and glitter into our planning for this half term!

OFSTED report

We hope you have had chance to read our OFSTED report. I am incredibly proud of our team and the hard work they have put in to secure our Good judgement. The inspector spent a very busy day with us looking at children's books, teaching, official data, school website and Local Authority reports from the last few years and interviewing staff, Governors and myself. At the end of his visit told us that he would "be happy to send his children to our school". We still have a way to go and lots more ideas and plans to get underway but ultimately our goal will always be to provide the best opportunities we can for your children. Thank you again to all the parents who contributed their views to the Parents View site.

Phonics Family Learning

It was lovely to see so many parents attending our recent phonics family learning sessions. I hope you felt that the content gave you a better idea of the types of activities your children take part in.

EMTAS Coffee Morning

It was lovely to see so many of our parents at the EMTAS coffee morning. EMTAS are a service who provide support for our children where English is not their home language. Mr Matthews has taken on the role as a Governor for the EMTAS support and works closely with any children in school that require additional language support. Due to his close involvement with the service we have decided that he will take on the role as school liaison for any families in school where English is not the only home language. Therefore, if any parent would like to discuss any issues regarding this please can they make an appointment to speak to Mr Matthews in the first instance.

School Nurse

Our school nurse will be back in school on the 30th November from 9.00am until 10.30am. 15 minute appointments are available via the school office. The school nurse can support parents with children's diet, bed wetting, information regarding allergies etc. Please make the most of this service as we are very lucky to have it.

Parents Evenings

Sign up sheets are now available for our parent teacher meetings on the 8th and 10th of November. Year R and Year Two sheets are available at their entrance each morning and Year One will also be at their classroom doors each morning.

Best Wishes

Lindsay Rebbitt



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Governor's Comment

It seems a long time now since the OFSTED team came and our time with them was challenging and vigorous.

The subsequent report clearly endorsed the great work being done here.

Since the last newsletter, a governor has monitored at attendance. The majority of pupils have good records of attendance, but records show there are a small group of pupils that are frequently let down by parents who don't get them to school regularly or on time. School is, and will continue to, work hard to improve this.

Open Evenings will take place on 8 and 10 November and governors will be there to find out what you think the school does well and what can be improved. We are interested too, in finding out how well the Year R children were introduced to school life and how well they have settled. If we are to support Mrs Rebbitt in improving your child's school experience, we need your opinions'

REMINDERS

Gates

Please remember to use the **pedestrian gates** only - even if the vehicular gate is open! During the day, the gate next to Childsplay and the gate between the library and fire station will be locked between 9.30 am and 2.50pm, so the only access to school will be through the pedestrian gate next to the vehicular gates.

Play equipment

Please remind all children that the play equipment is not for use before or after school. The equipment is only covered by insurance during the school day when being supervised by the school staff.

Labelling clothes

Please make sure your child has all their items of clothing labelled - correctly.

Lateness and absence

If your child is going to be late to school due to an appointment, please let the school office know. If they will be in during the morning and will need a lunch, lunch orders need to be given to the kitchen by 10am. If your child is going to be absent from school, please remember to telephone, or text, the school office to let us know the reason for the absence. We are able to deal with children with coughs and colds, but would ask that you keep any child at home who has had sickness or diarrhoea, for a period of 48 hours from the **last bout of sickness or diarrhoea**.

As was seen from our OFSTED report, the Government are still keen for us to improve our attendance figures and therefore your assistance in this would be greatly appreciated. Please remember, that learning starts at **8.55am and the children are to be in their classrooms** (not coming through the door!) ready to start their learning at that time.

Thank you for your co-operation with the above.

Parking in the Library

We have received the following communication from the Hayling Library and would ask for your co-operation:: "Could you please remind your parents that the Library Car Park is for people using the Library and is not a Public Car Park for dropping and picking children up from school.

I am receiving complaints from our customers. They are unable to get into the Car Park in the afternoons because it is full with cars of parents/carers collecting children. Staff are unable to park in the mornings as parents/carers also park in the Staff only and Police bays. I have monitored this and found it to be the case. Today the Car Park was full when I arrived and has stayed that way so far. I have been informed that you have an event on today.



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If your parents/carers collect their children and then come into the Library and take out some books that would be great but unfortunately this is not the case. Library use is in decline and I do not want our customers to stop coming because of issues with the parking."

Year R

On 8 October teachers, parents and children from Year R worked together on a sunny morning to transform the outside environment. The mud kitchen was set up, borders weeded, trees moved and hedges cut. Bark chippings were laid, tyres moved and the bug house and den building areas created. Thank you to everyone involved. The children are loving using the areas for their learning.



Year 1

We have had a very busy first half term in Year 1 and the children have all settled exceptionally well. We are now three classes of Dolphins, Crabs and Starfish and are enjoying having lots of space to learn in our classrooms. Our Pirates topic came to an end when the pirates found the treasure they had been searching for and, with our help, managed to catch the sea monster that was destroying their ship.

The last week before half term was art week where we learnt about the artist Pablo Picasso. We looked at his style called 'Cubism' which is lots of different shapes put together that make a picture. We loved creating our own and enjoyed showing some of our parents around the art exhibition we created.



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We also learnt a lot about RE during that week and focussed on the concept of God. We thought about what God means to us and what we think God looks like. We enjoyed learning about the Christian God and some of the different Hindu Gods. We learnt the Hindu story of how their God Ganesh got his elephant head.

We are now very excited to be starting our 'Julia Donaldson' topic where we will be learning the stories 'Room on the Broom', 'What the Ladybird Heard' and 'Stick Man' as well as reading lots of other books by the same author. In maths we will be learning how to multiply and divide by sharing objects out, and will be learning simple fractions by finding half and a quarter of shapes and numbers. We are learning lots of carols and songs in the lead up to Christmas so, although we appreciate it's still very early, any practise you can do at home will be great!

Can we ask that all children have their PE kits in school please for our PE days on Tuesdays and Fridays. Thank you! We are looking forward to the half term ahead and seeing you all at parent's evenings next week!

Year 2

It has been a busy half term and the children settled in well and have worked hard. This half term we have covered story writing and instructions. The children are now proficient at beginning instructions with time conjunctions and using imperative verbs - ask them to explain! In maths we have begun to work on partitioning numbers and using this skill to help with addition problems. The children have started to construct their own number lines which can involve jumping in tens and ones.

It was great to see so many parents in school for the Year 2 Phonics Session. We talked about the great amount of grammar that needs to be covered during Year Two and parents were shown examples of the type of work we have been covering.

We are looking forward to Arts Week when Year 2 will be looking at the work of Kaffe Fassett and basing our work around pattern. If you have access to the Internet do have a look at some of his work.

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