

# MENGHAM INFANT SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

As always things have been very busy around school with some new and exciting changes to our school routines coming up.

### **Eco Warriors and Tidy Teams**

Mrs Hoare held a special assembly for the children to introduce them to our new Eco Warriors and Tidy Teams. The children are being encouraged to think carefully about saving energy, ie turning lights off, recycling paper, closing doors etc. Teachers will be looking for any children who really stand out for their energy saving ways. Each class also now has a weekly tidy team whose job it is to encourage their classmates to keep our school tidy and nominate a tidy champion for our Celebration Assembly each Friday. This is clearly linked to our school value of **respect** as we want to encourage our children to respect their environments as well as people.

### **Lunchtime Play**

The school council have been busy working with their classes to choose a range of exciting new play equipment to go out into the playground at lunchtimes. This equipment has been purchased and Mr Young will be explaining the new lunchtime play zones to all the children in assembly. The children will then be introduced to the equipment by their class teachers, who will show them how to use it and handle it safely, and it will then be phased into lunchtime play times by the lunchtime staff. We have spent over £1000 on this equipment as we hope it will enhance children's lunch hours and encourage more physical and creative play.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding children is a key priority in every school and we work very hard with a range of other agencies to ensure our children are safe. We have just invested in a new online recording system for all child protection concerns, which means that all records can be transferred directly to the junior school once children move on, and that all staff can have access to records for the children in their care to ensure they are vigilant about addressing any concerns which may arise. Each class now also has their own Safety Ted, a small superhero teddy bear, who the children have been introduced to as someone who can help them if they have any worries. The children know that if they ask for a snuggle with Safety Ted, their teacher will make a point of catching them on their own to give them the opportunity to talk about what is worrying them at some point in that session. This has been introduced as a way of trying to help children who struggle to put into words that they are worried to communicate without getting upset, angry or frustrated.

### **Behaviour**

We are currently in the process of reviewing our school behaviour policy. As part of this process we are working alongside the children to get their views on what sanctions and rewards should be for different levels of behaviour. Our aim is to create a policy that ensures that rewards and sanctions are instant, meaningful and consistent across the whole school, with all children understanding the consequences of their actions whether they are positive or negative, and all staff adhering to the same approach. Staff will be spending our INSET day on the 9th February pulling together all the work that has been going on to develop this into a clear policy which will then be shared with parents.

**REMINDER - School will be closed to children on Friday 9th February.**

Best Wishes

Lindsay Rebbitt

Headteacher

### **Autumn Term attendance**

Wow. We had 86 children who had 100% attendance for the half term to Christmas and a wonderful 63 children who had 100% for the whole term. This is, as always, down to you for making sure your children attend regularly and punctually. Thank you.

The winner of the half term draw was Una Edwards from Penguins Class.

### **Car Parking**

Please be considerate when parking to drop off or collect your child from school. One of our neighbours has complained to us that our parents are regularly parking across her driveway and twice last week she was unable to get her car out of her drive because of this.

### **Governor's Report**

As I mentioned in our last school newsletter, we are still looking for new governors. We sadly lost one of our governors recently, Peter Griffiths, and we thank him for all the work he has done for the school during his time as a governor. At present we have a vacancy for one Parent Governor, so the school will be contacting you all soon to ask you to consider applying for this position. Governors play an important part in the way the school is managed and help to ensure that the school continues to improve the quality of education it offers to your children. Being a governor does involve a commitment to offering time to the school, attending training sessions, and a willingness to become involved in the work of the governing board. But becoming a Parent Governor is a great way of being part of this crucial work. So do please give this some thought. Maybe you are exactly the person we need!

It was a privilege to sit in on the Hampshire County Council annual review of the school recently. We are still awaiting the full report but I can say informally that the review was extremely positive. So congratulations to Mrs Rebbitt and all her staff for continuing to take the school forward. Well done.

Peter Cole

Chair of Governors

### **Year R**

The Year R children have come back after the holidays full of energy and excitement for their learning. We have been reading Millie's Marvellous Hat and imagining what hat we would like - we have imagined boats, unicorns, cakes and much more! We thoroughly enjoyed our Mad Hatters Tea Party and all our hats looked wonderful. We have begun to learn our phase 3 phonic sounds so this is keeping us busy in literacy. We are trying hard to say these sounds and read them in words. Our main skill this term is blending words to read simple words and sentences - this is very tricky, but we are trying very hard. In maths we are counting above 30 now and ordering numbers to 20. We have been learning to use the language of addition and subtraction, and this has been especially useful when we are buying and selling hats in our role-play hat shop. Next term we will be learning to estimate! We have been developing our skills in physical development through PE, which we have now begun to get changed for! This is a challenging task but we are all becoming more independent in getting dressed and undressed. Year R are working very hard! Thank you for all your help with home reading ☺

### **Year 1**

The Year 1 children have come back after the holidays raring to go. We have been learning the film 'Up' and this has inspired our writing and maths learning. In maths we have been learning about numbers up to 50, ordering numbers and learning about how many tens and ones are in one and two digit numbers. The children have also really enjoyed learning basic skills on the laptops. In our science session we have started to learn how to group animals.

We are very much looking forward to going on our 'flight' at the Chichester Flight Deck at Chichester College (Wed 24<sup>th</sup> January). The children will experience going on an 'aeroplane' and what it might be like throughout a flight.

### **Year 2**

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year! The children in Year 2 have come back with energy and enthusiasm, and are enjoying our new topic all about animals. We have loved turning our classrooms into rainforests and have learnt about the different animals that live there. We have compared the Amazon Rainforest to the New Forest in Hampshire and looked at how different animals are adapted to live in these very different forests.

In English we have been learning how to write a character description and learnt the story of The Three Little Pigs. We thought of lots of great adjectives to describe the big bad wolf in this story, and used those words to

25 January 2018

write about the mischievous Highway Rat. We have been learning how to use lots of different suffixes at the end of words we use to make them more exciting.

In maths we have been recapping addition and subtraction, and have been learning how to find the inverse to check our answers like this...  $15+5=20$  so  $20-5=15$ . This has been lots of fun trying to unscramble the answers to different word problems.

Please keep up the reading and spellings at home! The children are doing so well! We look forward to seeing you at our Year 2 Family Learning session on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

**Havant School Nursing Team:-**

Havant School Nurse Team are offering a School Nurse Health Drop In on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb between 12pm and 2pm at Park Community School, Middle Park Way, Havant, PO9 4BU. This Drop in is available to all school aged children in the area and 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 School Nurses available in the dining area.

We hope to provide this service during all school holidays in the future. Future dates are to be confirmed. Park Community have asked us to provide details of their MUNCH event. The details of the MUNCH event are in school reception and the glass notice cabinet near the cycle store.

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](http://www.mengham-inf.hants.sch.uk)