



January 2017

MENGHAM INFANT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a fun filled Christmas break we have zoomed into 2017 with a whole bundle of space themed learning across school. Year R have been busy building rockets, Year One had to help the local police to trace a missing alien and Year Two have been investigating space travel.

It was lovely to welcome so many parents in for our family learning sessions this week. The children love sharing their learning with you all and it's great for you to see some of the things they get up to in class each day.

Change of Dates

Due to a staff training session we have had to change the original date of the Year R Assembly from Tuesday 7th March to **Thursday 9th March at 2.45pm.**

Snow and Ice Plan

As winter seems to have well and truly hit we have been reviewing our school snow and ice plan. If conditions were to get too bad then access to school for all children would be via the Year 2/Year R entrance as the path from the library side gate would be the main planned gritted route into school.

Additional Funding

As many of you have probably heard on the news, schools continue to face reducing budgets and cuts. We have been investigating different routes to raising funds for school through a range of businesses such as the Tesco Bags for Life Scheme, which has secured us £8000 towards resurfacing our Early Years Play Area. Many of these grants and schemes rely on being supported by an employee of the company. We are therefore putting out a plea to parents who might be able to help us. If you are employed by a company who run any community schemes that we could access please could you let us know so that we continue to provide the best possible opportunities for the children in our school.

Parking

Unfortunately, we have been approached by several local businesses with complaints about parents parking in their customer car parks at pick up and drop off times. In particular Vets4pets are very concerned that customers with pet emergencies have been unable to get in or out at times. Please can we ask that parents do not use these car parks unless they are using the businesses. School values these shops and businesses and they support us. Vets4pets are currently working with us to offer sessions on looking after pets and other opportunities for our children.

Mental Health Information

One in four people are affected by mental health issues in their lives. Minded is an organisation that was initially set up to support schools with training and information around mental health but has recently branched out further to provide similar information for families. Although many of the topics discussed on the site are perhaps aimed at families with older children there are sections on such things as dealing with loss, including pets, building confidence and resilience and parenting in a digital world. I have included the link below for any parents or carers who would like to take a look.

<http://minded.e-lfh.org.uk/families/index.html>

Lunchtimes

As part of our ongoing work towards our Healthy Schools Award we have been looking at how we organise our lunchtimes in order to ensure they are the most calm and positive experience for the children. We have changed the way we enter the hall, allowing the children to sit down at tables straight away and chat to their friends, whilst waiting to be called up a table at a time for their dinner rather than have to wait in a busy



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queue. We are also alternating the children between playgrounds so all the children get opportunities to use our outdoor equipment and to play creatively with apparatus like the giant parachute. Our Year Two children continue to do a brilliant job in their lunchtime monitor roles and play a key role in making our lunchtimes more enjoyable for our younger children.

Best Wishes

Lindsay Rebbitt
Headteacher

INSET DAY - Friday 27th January. The school will be closed on Friday 27th January for staff training.

Governor's Comment

Last term we were pleased to welcome two new governors: Heather Slade and Mark Limb. Heather is a Chartered Marketer and works in providing business training for people in a wide variety of organisations. Heather and her family are local to Hayling. Mark moved here six years ago and lives at the north end of the island with his wife, who is also a school governor. Mark has been involved in education for the whole of his working life and was the Divisional Youth Officer for South East Hampshire. So they both bring valuable expertise and experience to our team and we look forward to their contributions.

Part of the work of the governing body is to ensure that the school continues to improve. Even though our recent Ofsted inspection described us as good, this work goes on. We are good, but, for the sake of your children, we want to be even better! So, at the beginning of each academic year the Head Teacher, the Leadership Team and the Governors prepare a School Improvement Plan (SIP). This plan is based on any reports we have received (from County Advisors, or Ofsted, for example), and also on our own assessment of how we could improve. Our present SIP has as its main objective the improvement of our teaching, learning and assessment practices so that all our pupils can make, or exceed, expected rates of progress.

We review the SIP each term to assess our progress and to set what actions are still needed to complete the plan. At the termly review of the SIP in December it was clear that most of the targets set for the Autumn Term had either already been met or were necessarily ongoing. Evidence for this was extensive and included assessment reports, work scrutiny, learning walks, lesson observations and monitoring visits by governors.

It was my impression from attending this SIP review that Mrs Rebbitt and the staff are working very hard to achieve the objectives set at the beginning of the year; for which they are to be congratulated. There are no areas of improvement described in the SIP that are not being addressed. Many of the targets will obviously take more time to fully complete but at this early point in the academic year it appears that we are on course to do this.

Peter Cole

Vice Chair of Governors

Year R

Year R have been busy so far this half term learning about our chosen topic - Space. The children have been focusing on the story 'Whatever Next' and have been using their imagination a lot. They have been creating their own aliens using cardboard boxes, creating rockets using the equipment in the garden and painting pictures of all the planets in our solar system.



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We have also had a visit from Openbox Theatre who ran a workshop focusing on Fairytales. We had to work together to solve lots of riddles, working out which story adventure we were in. All the children took part and had great fun.



On Tuesday 15th January Year R parents came in for our Family Learning Session. Our focus was on maths with a specific focus on encouraging children to record their maths learning. We like to encourage children to draw pictures to represent their counting, make marks and begin to form their numbers correctly. The children loved sharing their learning with their parents and we hope you enjoyed the session as well.

Year 1



This half term has been very exciting in Year 1! It all began when there was a mysterious landing in the ground of the school. We called the police and wrote them a report so they could investigate it further. We thought it might have been aliens but have been told to keep watch in case anything else unusual happens.

In DT, we have been creating our own flying machines linked to our topic of flight. Using things we could find in the classroom, we had to think about what we would need to try and make our machines fly. We then evaluated them to decide what we thought we could improve next time.





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On Wednesday 24th January, Year 1 parents came in for our family learning session. Our focus was on becoming confident with our number facts with numbers up to 20. We talked about how we record the facts we know as well as using practical resources to help us. The children loved sharing their learning and we hope you found the session to be useful!

Year 2

Wow what a fantastic start to 2017! Year 2 has been busy travelling into space and finding out about the First Man on the Moon. The Open box Theatre visit was very exciting and we learnt about the first Moon landing and acted out what happened.



We have been learning the story of Man on the Moon and have written a diary for Bob who looks after the moon and doesn't believe in aliens. We are also going to write our own Moon fact files too. Thank you very much to those of you who joined us at our Maths Family Learning session. We hope the multiplication presentation (on the school website) and the activities in the classrooms were fun and informative.



Beginners Golf Sessions - at Hayling Island Golf Club

Hayling Island Golf Club is offering some beginner golf sessions for children on the 4th 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 come and sign up at the school office, or contact the Golf Club direct.

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