



13 September 2016

## MENGHAM INFANT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our new school year. I hope you all managed to enjoy the fantastic weather over the summer holidays.

The Year 1 and 2 children have settled into their new classes brilliantly and we are now pleased to welcome our new Reception children this week.

### **Staff Changes**

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to some of the staff changes that are now in place.

Mrs Hemsley has taken on the role of Inclusion Manager across school. This means she will be responsible for leading the provision for our children with additional needs and for liaising with parents to ensure we are doing our best to meet these needs.

Our new Finance Manager is now in place. Mrs Davenport has replaced Mrs Bone in the office and is looking forward to her new role.

We are currently recruiting for a new Deputy Headteacher and are hoping to have our new addition in place by January.

Mrs Hill, our Emotional Support Assistant, will be doing less general classroom support this year and working more with families and children that need support across the school. She will be available first thing in the mornings if parents feel they need to discuss any issues concerning their child with her.

I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome you have given our new teachers; Miss Bradley, Mrs Pinnell, Mr Lunneman and Miss Foy. I am very excited about the enthusiasm and energy they have brought to school and think we have a great year ahead.

### **School Nurse**

Following on from very positive comments from parents at our new entrants evening, the school nursing service have offered to come into school each half term so parents can talk to them about any concerns they have for their child regarding issues such as toileting, diet and sleep routines. 15 minute appointment slots will be available from the school office. The first of these sessions will be;

9am - 10.30am Weds 28th September



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## Reminders

It has been lovely to see the children so smartly dressed coming into school. However, this is a gentle reminder that our uniform states children should wear black school shoes to school. PE kits will need to be kept in school at all times. PE lessons have already started. All items of clothing that is sent to school should be clearly labelled. If you are writing names into items, please check after washing to ensure the names are still visible.

The Government have made some changes to the way schools are to look at attendance, with regard to unauthorised absence, before issuing Penalty Notices for non-attendance. This will now be considered on a rolling basis over the school year; i.e. if your child had 90% attendance at the end of the summer term, but 100% for the first two weeks and then a holiday is requested, the overall absence working back would still be 90%.

All requests for **leave of absence** (holiday/wedding/funeral/external exams) should be made on the appropriate form available from the school office. Please make sure you complete the form and return it to the school office prior to taking leave from school.

The office now has a limited number of water bottles available to buy for 50p.

School learning finishes at 3.10pm and children should be collected at this time. We appreciate there may be times when you are unavoidably delayed and we would ask that you call the office to let staff know you are going to be late.

## Sweets and Treats

Whilst it is lovely to share celebrations, such as birthdays, with classmates, we need to remind parents that there are children in the school who have allergies to certain products (in particular nut allergy) and some have special diets which mean they cannot have the same as everyone else. School policy is that we do not give out sweets and cakes or other treats and we would therefore ask you to honour this. Thank you.

## School Dates for the Year

I have tried to be very organised this year and have drawn up a list of school dates for the whole year so that parents have information about key school dates well in advance. I have attached a copy of this list to this newsletter and it will go on the school website and Facebook page. The only drawback with trying to set dates so far in advance is that often in school things might arise that interfere with what has been planned. Obviously, we will aim to inform parents as soon as we know of any changes but, considering I have had to change three things already and we've only been back 3 days, please bear with us if we do need to make any further changes!

Best Wishes

Lindsay Rebbitt



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Headteacher

### **Governors' Comments**

Welcome back. I hope you have had a wonderful time with your children and feel sure that they have come back rested and ready to learn. My name is Sue Lewis and I was elected Chair of Governors at the last Full Governing Body meeting in July and we have new chairs of our committees too. Lynn Gubler will chair Resources and Lisa Willis will chair Curriculum and Improvement. The governors look forward to working with Mrs Rebbitt, the staff and you to ensure that your children receive the best education possible.

### **Year 1**

We have had a fantastic start to Year 1 and the children have settled in exceptionally well. On Thursday we came in to find a letter from some pesky pirates who had crashed their ship in our school hall. Year 1 were very excited to find out where they had left their treasure and enjoyed learning how to be pirates themselves. The children are very enthusiastic about our new pirate topic and we look forward to doing lots of work based around the story 'The Night Pirates.' We are all very excited about the year ahead!

### **Year 2**

What a great start we have had to Year 2. The Sharks and Seahorses have settled well and are aspiring to the greater expectations of Year 2. We all received a newsflash from the superhero Traction Man. He has told us he has lots of challenges and mission for us to undertake. All the children accepted the challenge and are looking forward seeing what these challenges are! Staff and children are very excited about our new topic - be sure to ask them about superheroes and what they have been learning.

### **Diabetes Walk on Hayling - 25<sup>th</sup> September**

On Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September there will be a charity walk along Hayling Seafront in support of JDRF (Junior Diabetes Research Foundation). This walk takes place on Sunday 25th September and is raising money to find a cure for Type 1 diabetes. Apart from the walk there are other events taking place. These include face-painting, live music, fancy-dress competition, fun doggie show, raffle. Hopefully, some of you will be able to go along to support this event.

**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)