

MENGHAM INFANT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

After the excitement of our snow day we're hoping our Spring Term will carry on in a more Spring like manner and we might get a glimpse of some Spring Sunshine to help our daffodils back to life! As always, there is a lot going on this half term and we are looking forward to sharing some of these events with you.

FOM

We need to say a huge thank you to our FOM Committee for their generous contribution of £800 towards our new electronic library system. We now have everything in place for the children to scan their books in and out, just like a proper library, and are just awaiting some further support from our tech team to get it all up and running.

The next big project for FOMS is our outdoor learning environment where we are aiming to renovate our pond area, re-lay our forest path and revamp our outdoor classroom area so that it can be used for full class teaching. We are aiming to raise £3000 for these works. We are going to put a fundraising barometer onto the school website showing how much has been raised so far and replicate this on one of the boards in the school office.

There are still quiz tickets remaining for Saturday's quiz night at Hayling Community Centre. The £10 entrance fee includes a Hog Roast with meat provided by Alan Rae butchers.

Can you Help ?

We have invested over a £1000 on outdoor play equipment for lunchtimes using a grant we received to promote physical activity and have just ordered a new outdoor shed to store the equipment. Our site manager, Mr Anslow, is going to prepare the groundworks and build the shed for us over the Easter holidays. However, before we spend much needed money on hiring a cement mixer we wondered if any of our parents had access to a large cement mixer we could borrow for a few days over the Easter holidays. Please let the office know if you could help.

Lunchtimes

We are continually looking at ways to work with our school meals provider to improve lunchtimes for children. This half term we are looking particularly at promoting good table manners. We have changed the salad bowls so that it is no longer mixed and children can choose the bits of salad they know they like, cucumber seems very popular! We have also introduced salad and bread to all tables and are encouraging the children to ask for and pass these to each other using the correct table manners.

PE

Reminder - Children with pierced ears need their earrings covered for PE. If your child has pierced ears please provide a roll of micropore tape, available from any chemist, to be kept in their trays so that we can use this to cover ears in PE lessons.

Parents Evenings

We are looking forward to seeing you all at parent/teacher meetings next week. These meetings also provide our Governors with an ideal opportunity to talk to parents to gather their opinions about new initiatives within school. This time around they will be asking parents to complete a short, anonymous questionnaire about our new school behaviour policy. A box will be available to put completed questionnaires in.

Governors

Our Governors provide our school with an essential part of our leadership team. They provide a key role in checking and challenging school initiatives and ensuring we are providing the best outcomes we can for your children. We currently have a parent Governor vacancy that we would really love to fill. The main qualifications we need for this role is the ability to give time and a commitment to wanting the best for our school. In terms of a time commitment you would be expected to read the reports prepared for meetings and attend 2 meetings a half term, each lasting 2 hours as a maximum and be prepared to come into school each half term to monitor something from our school improvement plan (you will be guided and mentored through this by experienced Governors and school staff). Governors are also invited to have a presence at all key events in school. A

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Governors term is normally 4 years. If you think you could offer the time to take on this really valuable role then please contact the school office to make an appointment for a current Governor to talk to you and show you around school.

Best Wishes
Lindsay Rebbitt
Headteacher

Governor's Report

Have you noticed how colourful our school has recently become? There seem to be rainbows everywhere! And I keep overhearing children saying things like,

'What colour are you on?' 'I'm on Orange!' 'I'm still on Green!' 'I'm up to Red!' And occasionally even, 'I've reached the pot of gold!'

As you will be aware, this isn't because the children are studying Irish Mythology, it is all to do with our new behaviour policy. As a school we have always prided ourselves on the excellent quality of the behaviour of our children. I come into the school at least twice a week and can confirm that the school is a happy and lively learning environment in which the children listen, work well and cooperate with the teacher and each other. Our previous policy, of rewarding good behaviour with Golden Time at the end of the week, worked well for most children, but for some it did not. It also had the disadvantage of a long separation between reward or sanction and the original good or bad behaviour. I found this out myself, whilst talking to children during Golden Time last year - many who had lost time could not remember why it had been taken away.

So, as you will know, we are trying something new: a much more immediate system that grades behaviour based on the traffic light colours of Green, Amber, and Red. I have seen this in action in the classroom and it is obvious how much the children delight in being immediately praised for good work or good behaviour and how proud they are to move themselves 'up the rainbow' towards that pot of gold. Children also seem to value the opportunity to 'take time out' in the thinking space when their behaviour moves out of the green zone. I also gather from the teachers that the actions which now take place for 'red' behaviour are proving an effective disincentive and that the dialogue with parents is more immediate and meaningful so that everyone involved knows exactly what's going on.

I am aware of just how much hard work has been put in by both children and teachers to devise this new system and I congratulate those involved for this creative approach. It is obviously early days and we will be regularly reviewing how it all works. But I hope that you feel that this new system is an improvement. You will have the opportunity to offer the school any feedback you have about it when you come to our parent and teacher evenings later this month.

Names in School Uniform

Please, **please, please** look at your child's uniform and ensure their names are on everything!! We have a mountain of lost property in school (mainly jumpers and cardigans) and none of it can be returned as there are no names on any of the items. Anything they are likely to take off - cardigans, jumpers, pe kit, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. - should be named. Thank you.

Year R

Year R have been very busy this half term learning the story of The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch. We had so much fun making sandwiches and eating them altogether dressed in our costumes. We talked about what we might do if naughty seagulls kept trying to steal our lunch! We have also used a technique called 'Talk 4 Write' to help us internalise the story and develop our story language. We will show you this in our assembly.

In Literacy we have been learning lots of new skills such as how to break the flow of speech into words, write all the sounds in a word we can hear and importantly in the correct order, as well as practising our handwriting. In maths we are learning about measures. We have been learning to use the language of weight and capacity, using rice and our role play coffee shop to help us practice the skills of capacity such as 'full', 'half full' and 'empty'. We are now starting to look closely at numbers 11-20, thinking about how 11 is 10 and 1. We will then

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think about how we can represent teen numbers with resources such as numicon.



We had such fun in the snow when it snowed on Wednesday - our teachers let us go straight out to throw snowballs! We have put a picture on here for you to see.

Our teachers are looking forward to seeing you all at parents evening so please be sure to sign up and don't forget to come and we are really looking forward to our year assembly ☺

Year 1

Year one have been very busy this half term practicing our Spring performance of The Enormous Turnip. As well as being busy learning our lines and staging positions we have also been learning lots of fantastic songs. We will soon be starting on creating the props to ensure we give the performance of a lifetime that's not to be missed!

In English we have been learning lots of new skills such as how to write a question, using personal pronouns such as 'me, I, you' and learning about what a suffix is and how to use them properly. This is to make our writing fantastic!

In maths we are learning about addition and subtraction. We have looked very closely at number bonds to 20 and how they can help us with addition and subtraction problems. We have been using different methods to show how we solve problems, such as using a number line, base 10 and other resources such as numicon. Soon we will be looking at solving word problems and putting our skills to the test!

Our teachers are looking forward to seeing you all at parents evening so please be sure to sign up and don't forget to come and watch us in our performance in a few weeks time!

Year 2

This half term Year 2 had the Openbox Theatre group visit and they got to spend the morning finding out what it would have been like to be the First Man on the Moon, just like Neil Armstrong. They started off finding out what a space cadet would have to do to be selected as an Astronaut on Apollo 11. They learnt about what an astronaut would wear, what they would have to eat and what they did when they got to the moon. After this exciting morning they got to create their own class space role play area and put their skills into practise. We will be doing even more fun space activities including writing our own space stories!



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We have also been looking at Oliver Jeffers books and the style of his illustrations. We have begun to draw our own characters in his style and we will also be painting our own pictures soon, which we can't wait to show you in our assembly on Wednesday 14th March.



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