



24 November 2016

## MENGHAM INFANT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

School is currently buzzing with busy children. Year Two were excited to share their learning with parents last week and, as I type, I can hear Year One practising their singing for today's parents assembly. I have spotted Baby Jesus being very carefully carried into the hall by our Year R children and know they are working hard to wow mums and dads with their Wriggly Nativity!

I need to say a big well done to a group of Year Two children who came back from our recent Sports Festival adorned with medals. Mrs Iggledon, our sports coach, said their behaviour and attitude was brilliant.

Still on a sporty theme I am absolutely thrilled to announce that our school has recently been awarded the Gold Sports Kite Mark. Mrs Simms, our PE leader, and Mrs Iggledon continue to drive excellent provision for our children in physical activity and we are really appreciative of the opportunities they create for the children in school. This kite mark is the top award that can be awarded to schools and reflects the value that we put on keeping our children active and healthy.

Unfortunately, I need to move onto something not quite as celebratory. Following on from our recent Ofsted, where we were asked to target attendance as one of our key actions, staff now meet every two weeks to review attendance and lateness. Although we recognise there are genuine reasons why children may not be able to attend school or may, on occasion, be late we are seeing a significant increase in the number of children that are persistently late in arriving at school. Since September 1,910 minutes or nearly 32 hours of school have been missed due to lateness. This is the equivalent of over a week of schooling!

### **Attendance Update**

Bubbles and Gurgles 95.37%

Nemos and Dories 94.85%

Crabs 95.98%

Dolphins 96.07%

Starfish 95.96%

Sharks 96.99%

Seahorses 97.32%

The school doors are open from 8.45am to 8.55am. Any child arriving after this time needs to enter through the school office and will be marked as late. School monitors these records, adding up the number of minutes missed due to lateness and contacting parents where necessary. Teachers have activities set up in the classroom for the children from 8.45am and the school day begins for the children at 8.55am. Children coming in late miss the start of their learning time and often key instructions about plans for the rest of the session. Although staff will always catch them up this then clearly impacts on the learning of others. If parents and carers are struggling to get their child to school on time each day our Support Assistant Karen Hill is happy to work with them in order to find a way to support them and is available from 9am-10am daily for this very reason. I am really hoping that we can work together to improve this.



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On a much happier note I recently received the following very exciting e mail from the Portsmouth News.

"Many congratulations! Mengham Infant School School have been nominated and shortlisted in The News We Can Do It Awards 2016 in the category of Best School of the Year"

These awards are especially organised to recognise, reward and celebrate the unsung heroes of our community. Details can be found on our web page <http://www.jpsouthevents.co.uk/events/event/we-can-do-it-awards/>

We have been nominated following on from the hard work our current Year Two children did last year to raise money for children less fortunate than themselves. So on Sunday 27th November staff will be accompanying 25 of our Year Two children to the awards to see if we are lucky enough to win a prize!

Following on from our NSPCC assembly the children have been preparing for their "Big Workouts" ready to help raise funds to support this charity. Mandy and Buddy the mascot will be back in school on Thursday 1st December to collect in sponsorship forms and money.

We have lots of exciting Christmas activities coming up over the next few weeks. We have ordered the glitter and are already practising our Christmas songs ready to wow you at our carol service. Just as a quick reminder here are a few key dates;

**2nd December** 3.15pm-5pm Whole School Christmas Fayre

**5th December** 2pm Year R Year R Nativity at St Marys Church Dress rehearsal for parents with younger siblings

**6th December** 2pm performance Year R Year R Nativity at St Marys Church Performance @2pm - No younger siblings please

**7th December** 2pm -3pm Year 1 Family Learning Session for parents of Year 1 children - Christmas Crafts

**8th December** 2pm-3pm Year 2 Family Learning Session for parents of Year 2 children - Christmas Crafts

**13th December** Timings TBC Whole School Parents Christmas Lunch - Parents are invited to come and share a school Christmas Lunch with their child.

**15th December** Whole School Carol Service at St Marys Church Dress rehearsal for parents with younger siblings - 10am Performance @2pm - No younger siblings please

**16th December** Whole School Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. Children are encouraged to wear their festive clothing and bring a small donation for Save the Children

Finally, a couple of requests for help;

Hayling Horticultural Society have set all the Hayling Schools the challenge of creating an "Edible Garden". We have a lovely gardening area but unfortunately not a lot of green fingered staff! If you , aunts ,uncles or



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grandparents have a particular love of gardening and would be interested in sharing these skills with our children for an hour or so a week please could you let our office know .

We are also still looking for volunteer readers to come into school to help hear our children read. If you know anybody who would be happy to give up an hour each week to support children's reading then, again, please let our office know.

Best Wishes

Lindsay Rebbitt

### **Governor's Comment**

The Governors surveys carried out on Open Evenings, via post it notes, were very informative. Parents of Years 1 and 2 were very complimentary about their child's school experience and the Year R parents found the entry to school life was informative and easy. Any issues raised by the survey will be addressed at our next Governing Body meeting. Thank you for taking time to give us your opinions.

### **Lions Christmas Festival**

Late night shopping in Mengham on Friday 2 December from 5p.m. With fairground rides, Santa's Grotto, local buskers, food, drink and much more!

### **Year R**

Year R have been exploring food and healthy eating as part of our 'Topsy and Tim Explore Food' topic. The children enjoyed tasting all the different foods during our Teddy Bears Picnic. They tried different flavoured crisps, peppers, lemons, nectarines, kiwis and Jaffa cakes.



Each child completed a likes and dislikes sheet, drawing smiley faces if they liked the food or sad faces if they did not like the food. We were very proud of all the children who were not sure about some of the food but tried it anyway. We have also been sorting food by whether they are healthy and unhealthy and using food magazines to create our 'ideal healthy food plate'.



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We were planning a trip to Pizza Express to find out about how they made the pizzas. When we tried to book the available dates in October we found out that we could only book one visit each month. We have had to change our plans and have booked 2 separate class visits for late February and early March, just a week apart. More details will be sent out closer to the dates.

Due to an opportunity for our Early Years LSAs to attend some key training we are having to change the date for the January Year R Family Learning Session. It will now be on Tuesday 24th January 2017, 9am - 10am instead of Thursday 26th. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but unfortunately, as we said when we originally set the years dates, things arise throughout the school year that we didn't know about in September. We hope you can all still make it.

## Year 1

Year 1 have been very busy so far this half term. We are really enjoying our topic about Julia Donaldson and have loved reading so many of her fantastic stories. We learnt the story of 'Room on the Broom' and looked at how to write an acrostic poem. This is a poem that has the title of the poem down the side then the sentences have to start with each letter from that word. We chose to write a poem about some of the creatures from the story. Some of us chose the frog, dog, cat and others chose the monster or dragon. We loved writing our poems and got to read them out to our classes at the end.

We then moved onto learning the story 'What the Ladybird Heard'. We loved putting actions to the story and thinking about what all of the different animals do. We created story maps so that we could see the sequence of the story, we acted it out, we hot seated different characters and then we decided to change parts of the story.



When we changed the story we thought about the characters and the setting. We thought of lots of wonderful settings for our own stories like a jungle, a rainforest, a zoo, the ocean, an aquarium, the amazon, a river and many more. Then we realised that we wouldn't really find a hen, duck, pig, sheep or cow in a jungle so we decided to think of different animals that we could have in our stories. We thought of tigers, gorillas, snakes,



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poisonous frogs and lots of others. Then we story mapped our own stories so that we could decide how to sequence them, a bit like the ones from 'What the Ladybird Heard'.

For our final task we wrote the opening to our very own stories and read them out to the class. We thought they were absolutely fantastic and are all really proud of what we have achieved.

Next week we are moving onto looking at the story 'Stickman' which will also help us to get in the mood for a special occasion coming up - Christmas! We are so excited to learn this story and will be writing a letter as though we are Stickman himself back to his family. We are going to do lots of work about what a letter is and how to write one. We will also be learning the story of Christmas and will be talking about why we have Christmas, as well as making lots of fabulous crafts!

In maths we have been learning about place value - so how many tens and units are in different numbers. We have moved on this week to learning about money so anything you can do at home with different coins would really help the children. We have also been adding some of the coins together to make different amounts.



The children have learnt so much over the last few weeks and we are really proud of their progress. All children are getting stuck in and are enjoying their learning. Long may it continue!

## Year 2



Year 2's topic for Autumn 2 is Guy Fawkes and their topic hook on the first day was to have a big bonfire in school on top of which was a Guy they had made. This was followed by soup and rolls.

In English the children have worked on information texts. They have learned some information about a boy called Tom and can recite this information with actions. They then began to write information texts about Tom, learning how to set out their work, including titles, captions,

illustrations, text, etc. The following week they found out information about their teachers and presented this information. Finally, the series of work concluded with the children presenting the information about Guy Fawkes they learned in history.



We are now working on letter writing in the build-up to Christmas.

In maths the children have worked on multiplication, setting out their answers as repeated addition, using the times sign, and showing their working as an array. They then progressed to division, sharing amounts into halves, quarters, thirds, etc. This week we have been working on time and are all becoming proficient at telling o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past times.



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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)