



14 December 2016



MENGHAM INFANT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

So here we are at the end of our Autumn Term already! This really is my favourite time of year as the children prepare for Christmas and a real sense of excitement pervades our school.

Our Year R Nativity was the start of our Christmas celebrations and our youngest children were absolutely fantastic in sharing the Christmas story with the rest of our school, their family and friends.

Parents in Year One and Two have been in to share Christmas crafts with their children and, this week, Year Two have taken part in the Island School's Christingle Service at Hayling College on Tuesday, as well as our whole school Carol service on Thursday.

Thank you to all that joined us for Christmas dinner. We served nearly 300 meals, so by far our biggest Christmas lunch yet! I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking the kitchen team and our brilliant staff for helping to make it so successful.

Finally, on Friday, we're hoping a very special visitor might pop in to help us start our Christmas holidays in style!

Thank you to all of you who voted for us at the Tesco West Town Store. We have been granted £8000 to improve the surface of our Year R outdoor area. As the work we have had quoted is slightly more than this we are now shopping around for the best deal! We are hoping to get the work completed over February half term.

Mrs Moth has returned to Year Two this week after the birth of her baby, Clara, in February. She is spending this week in Year Two working alongside the current teachers before taking over in Seahorses from January.



Excitingly, we also have our new Deputy Head Teacher starting in January. Mr Young will be joining us from Portsdown Primary School in Portsmouth and is very excited about his new role. He has been in school this week, meeting the children and finding his way around. Mr Young will be teaching in Crabs Class on a Thursday to cover Mrs Pinnell's non contact time and in Bubbles and Gurgles on a Wednesday morning to cover Mrs Topazio-Collis. The rest of his time will be spent supporting our Leadership Team and working across the school to help secure our vision for the best possible outcomes for the children in our school.

In January we will also be launching our new and improved Golden Time. As you are aware, as in many schools, Golden Time is our main reward and sanction in school for promoting positive behaviour. Children sign up to activities on a Monday and, so long as they keep the school's Golden Rules, they then get to spend half an



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hour on a Friday afternoon taking part in their chosen activity. If children break the Golden Rules they can lose 5 minute increments of their Golden Time. After talking to the children about Golden Time we decided we needed to make it a little more "Golden". We decided to make Golden Time a whole school event, rather than class based, where children from all classes can mix together in their chosen activities. We will therefore be having seven themed rooms for Golden Time, a cinema room, a disco room, books, building and board games, arts and crafts, outside/hall play, party games and music and drama. Children will decide which classroom they would like to spend their Golden Time in and sign up for it on a Monday. As we will only be able to take a limited number in each room we will rotate the children choosing first in each class each week so that children are always guaranteed their first choice once every few weeks. Any children missing Golden Time will now spend their missed Golden Time in the Senior Leadership Office with a member of the school leadership team before being sent to their chosen activity once their missed time has passed. The children will have this explained to them in assembly this week. We're hoping that the incentive of the new system will reduce the number of children missing their Golden Time and will be talking to the children further, to find out how they feel it's working, as the term goes on.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a very merry Christmas and to thank you for your continued support. I hope your holidays are filled with laughter and happiness and look forward to seeing you and your very special children ready to start our Spring Term on the 3rd January 2017.

Best Wishes

Lindsay Rebbitt
Headteacher

Attendance Update - Year To Date

Target 97%

Seahorses - 97.4%

Sharks - 96.8%

Bubbles & Gurgles - 96.8%

Dolphins - 96.6%

Starfish - 96.6%

Crabs - 96.3%

Nemos and Dories - 95.9%

Overall - 96.6%

Governor's Comment

How does your Christmas start? Is it when you put up the tree, or switch on your lights, or when the first Christmas card drops through your letter box? Well for me, for many years now, Christmas starts when I watch our children re-present the story of the birth of Jesus in the school Nativity Play. This year was no exception as I joined many eager parents in the church and waited for the performance to begin. I gather from other governors that everything had gone perfectly in the dress rehearsal, when the whole school filed over to see the play. Well the actual performance was a triumph too. The whole of the Year R team are to be congratulated for the way they worked so hard to enable the children to tell the story. The costumes were amazing, the singing was beautiful (not a dry eye in the house!) and everyone remembered their lines. I have never heard, 'No Room!' proclaimed quite so loudly before! Thank you to everyone involved for giving us such a magical way to start Christmas.



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Year R

Congratulations to all of Year R for their amazing Nativity performances. Our rehearsals have been the main part of our learning this half term and the children have coped really well with the change in routines. All the staff in Year R are very proud of how well they performed in church and we are sure all of you are just as proud as well. Thank you to all the parents/carers who provided costumes, helped with walking the children to the church and helping during the performances, the Nativity could not have run so smoothly without you. After Christmas we will be starting a new topic, yet to be decided! We will be asking the children in the first week back for some ideas and then the whole year group will vote for a new topic. We will let you know what this is once the results are in!

We hope you all have a lovely, restful Christmas and a Happy New Year ☺



Year 1

Year 1 have been so busy learning about the Julia Donaldson book 'Stick Man.' We really enjoyed reading the story and even received a letter from Stick Man himself! We decided to write a letter back to him so we learnt all about how to write a good letter. Ask us about what needs to be included in a letter and we can tell you! We finished the topic by writing a letter as though we were Stick Man on a journey and changed parts to make it our own. We wrote some fantastic letters!

In maths we have been working on telling the time which we found tricky to start with but we are very good at this now! We can tell the time to the nearest O'clock and half past. We have also been recapping our learning about shapes. We have made 2D shape pictures and have learnt all about 3D shapes. We know how many edges, faces and points different 3D shapes have!

We had fun in topic time making lots of different things and exploring materials in science. To finish this part of our topic we made our own Stick Man using sticks we found outside. We had great fun doing this and thought they looked great!





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We loved our family learning session and were amazed to see so many of you there! We have had a lot of fun on the lead up to Christmas and have been very busy! We hope you all have a lovely break and come back refreshed ready for another busy term!

Year 2

Year 2 have been basing their work around the book 'Dear Father Christmas'. In English they have been writing and receiving letters. They now know how to ask questions, give commands, and to include commas between lists of adjectives. They are able to express an opinion and begin sentences with a variety of sentence starters. It has been exciting to receive letters from Father Christmas and the elves - they seem to know what is going on in school!

In maths we have been working on money, time and fractions. We are becoming proficient at dividing into halves and quarters and have been learning to work out how to find three-quarters. We have been learning to tell the time using quarter to and quarter past.

We had fun in PE carrying out all the different challenges for the NSPCC fundraising. We all tried hard to raise money and Sharks were pleased to win the certificate for the greatest number of returned envelopes.



It was good to see so many parents attending our family learning session and enjoying working with their child to make Christmas decorations. It was great to see a good number of Year 2 children representing Mengham Infants and joining in with the other schools to sing around the Christmas tree for the turning on of the lights in the village. We are now busy preparing for the Carol Service.

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