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Headteacher: Lindsay Rebbitt

## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As always, our start to the school year has been a busy one. The children have been settling into their new year groups and our Year R children are already confident moving around school, chatting happily to grown ups and some even coming to see me to go in the Silver Book already!

Please remember our school website has all our key dates for the school year for parents so is definitely worth a check if you're not sure what's coming up. ([www.mengham-inf.hants.sch.uk](http://www.mengham-inf.hants.sch.uk))

### Marvellous Me – Free App

We introduced "Marvellous Me," a new school App, to all parents that attended our school Welcome Evenings. All parents have their own unique sign in code, linked to their child, which allows them to download the App to their phone. If you were unable to attend the welcome evening, information about this should have been sent home to you.

The App allows teachers to send home immediate praise and messages to you for your child and allows parents to respond with a "High Five" to say they've seen it. This means that for things like our silver book, you will be alerted immediately what value your child has achieved and for what, rather than having to rely on the cards finding their way home. It is also really motivating for the children to know an immediate message has gone home to their parent.

This App was designed by a parent who felt he wanted to be more involved in his child's school life and has been incredibly well received in other schools. We really hope you will take the short amount of time to download the free App so that you can celebrate your child's achievements with us. If you have any issues downloading please pop in and someone can go through it with you.

### New Learning Area for Year One

Mr Anslow has been very busy creating a new outdoor area for our Year One children, designed to give them more opportunity for outdoor learning, whatever the weather.

Following many comments from our Year R parents last year we have fenced off this area as concerns were being raised at pick up times about the number of parents trying to use the Year R exit and the safety issues this raised for our children.

I understand the ongoing works mean that this area is currently a little cramped for Year One parents at pick up, but once the new decking area is down this should relieve this. In addition parents are welcome to stand at the far end of the area under the canopy but we would ask that any younger siblings are closely supervised so that they don't disturb the equipment which is set up in the learning environment.

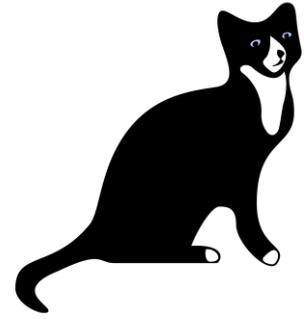
As last year, in order to avoid parents having to get to two different pick up points we will send older siblings to younger siblings classrooms at the end of the day so they can come out together.

### School at the End of the Day

As you are all aware your child's safety is always paramount to us and we take our safeguarding obligations very seriously. We have had a few incidents recently where adults have come into the school building at the end of the school day via the classroom doors whilst teachers have been engaged with other parents. As children are still on site participating in clubs at this time we really must insist that our procedures at the end of the day are the same as any other time. If you need to come into the school building it should be via the School Office so that we can sign people in and out appropriately. If your child has forgotten something then please ask your child's teacher. Please do not just enter the building.

## Cat

One of the local cats seems to have taken a real liking to our school playground. Sadly, he does not seem to be particularly child friendly so we have had a few incidents of scratches to the children. The children have all been told in assembly that they must not approach the cat and staff have repeatedly moved him from the playground but he keeps coming back! Please can you reinforce this message at home for us in order to support us in keeping the children safe.



## Breakfast Station



Our toast station is now set up in the library every morning from 8.30am. If you've been too busy (or too stressed) to sort breakfast before leaving the house please pop in and get your child to help you make them some toast. On Monday and Wednesday mornings we should also have additional food items from the local Tesco store that are available, free of charge, to our parents.

## Friends of Mengham School PTA

A big thank you to all the parents who attended our recent AGM.

I am thrilled that we now have our new committee in place and our new Hayling Hi 5 representatives ready to go.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all our parents who have volunteered to fill these roles. Without support from parents like you our children would not benefit from many lovely things like our newly refurbished pond area, our new library system, our whole school trip and more importantly the fun and enjoyment that the events bring. You are amazing. Thank you!



## Year R

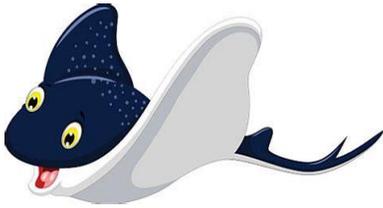
Penguins and Puffins have all settled in to school brilliantly and have been enjoying exploring all of the learning areas in the Early Years Unit. It has been amazing to see how independent they have become in the mornings, saying goodbye to their grown-ups at the door and putting their book bags and water bottles away themselves.



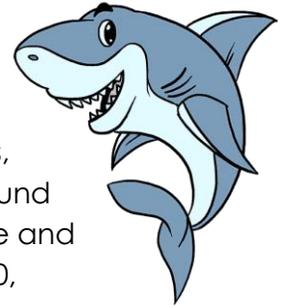
The first few weeks of school have been filled with walks around the school grounds, drawing self-portraits, having a go at writing our names, shape hunts outside, making biscuits and even a few whole school assemblies.

We have also had a photographer come in to take the children's photo for a special section in The News (keep an eye out for the special feature of children starting school on sale soon).

Please remember to look out for the email from Tapestry so that you can create your account and be kept up to date with any photos and observations we make of your child at school.



## Year 1



What fun we had on our Pirate Day – we sang songs, we made pirate sandwiches, we played pirate games, made pirate boats etc. Our work now is all based around pirates. In maths we have moved on from place value and are now learning about addition and subtraction e.g. making number bonds to 10, practical subtraction and beginning to use a number line.

We are so excited our school library has been revamped and is on the computer system. We will shortly begin to use it and will be learning how to use a library properly. We are looking forward to the theatre group visiting us in school next week and then we will be going to Hayling Library shortly. Please make sure you have made your donation for this.

Well done to the people who are reading at home with their child – this does make so much difference to children's progress. However, there are still a few children who are not reading at least three times a week. Well done to Year 1 for their amazing singing at the MacMillan coffee afternoon – they were brilliant and we are sure you are very proud!



## Year 2



What a brilliant start to the school year we have had in Year 2! We have been busy being superheroes and learning stories about Traction Man. We have made him moving vehicles in DT, have tested materials for his suit in Science and have thought about his feelings in PSHE. In English we have been building up to writing our own superhero stories based on our dress up day costumes. In Maths we have been helping Traction Man to partition numbers into their tens and ones, and count in 2's, 5's and 10's.

We were also very lucky and a visit from the Hampshire Fire Service who



taught us all about staying safe near fire and things that could burn us. They brought their fabulous fire engine along and we got to go inside to see what it is like for fire fighters. We also got to have a go at using the hose to put out a pretend fire. It was fantastic!



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**Visit our updated school website at: [www.mengham-inf.hants.sch.uk](http://www.mengham-inf.hants.sch.uk)**