

# NEWSLETTER



17/01/18

Dear Parents

Belated Happy New Year wishes to you all. The time seems to have gone so quick since all the activities that you and the children enjoyed over Christmas. We would like to thank you for all your support over this time. The children thoroughly enjoyed having you there to watch them in their Christmas performance at the Church.

Thank you for your support and generosity for the Christmas presents under the tree. The Salvation Army came and collected the presents on 19<sup>th</sup> December. As a result of your kind donations they were able to help needy people/children in the area.

The support for the Portsmouth Foodbank was over whelming as usual. This was the charity we supported in the Harvest Festival last term. They too help people in the local area and were very appreciative of your kind donations. We managed to give a fantastic 150 kg of food to needy people of Portsmouth.

## ASSEMBLIES

Later this term we will be holding Year Group Assemblies. You are invited to attend your child's assembly. They will be held at **10.15 a.m.** The dates are:

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Year 1    Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Year 2    Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Year R**

We will also be having an Easter Assembly on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March. However, parents are not invited on this occasion.

## ATTENDANCE/HOLIDAYS: ✓

Just a reminder for those of you who may be planning holidays etc. may I remind you of the school policy regarding taking children out of school during term time:

“We believe that children need to be in school for ALL sessions so that they can make the most progress. We are committed to providing all children in the school with the best opportunities to help them succeed. Our views follow the Government and PCC guidelines.

***NO holidays will be authorised by the Headteacher unless there are extenuating circumstances.***

If your child has 10 sessions (1 day = 2 sessions) of unauthorised absence the school will process a Fixed Penalty Notice Request. Holidays of a lesser period will be monitored.

A holiday form (LOAFs) **MUST** be completed **before** the holiday dates and parents can obtain these from the school office.”

Also a reminder that the Year 2 children will be undertaking SATS again this year during the first half of the summer term.

You will have already received a copy of this year's term dates. However, a copy is available from the school office.

## BOOK WEEK/WORLD BOOK DAY:



During the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> February, we will be holding “Book Week” which will include various activities and a Book Sale. On the **1<sup>st</sup> March** we will be celebrating World Book Day and children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Book Sale – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb., 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH/MEDICINES:



It is that time of year when there are lot of colds, flu and sickness viruses going around.

**SICKNESS:** I would like to thank you for your co-operation with letting the school know in the event of your child being unwell. I would just like to remind you that if your child is unwell please could you phone from 8.15 to inform the school on the **first** day of sickness even if your child has been sent home sick the day before.

In the interest of your child's safety, we would appreciate a call before 10.00 and if the call is not received you will get a phone call from the school just to check. It would be helpful if you could explain to the member of staff what the nature of your child's illness and the symptoms they have developed. Also, on their return, please could you send in a letter explaining why your child was off, for our records.

**LIP STICK/GLOSS/SALVE:** Please can I ask that your child does not bring lipstick/gloss/salve to school. Children tend to "share" these items and this is a very effective way of spreading germs. If your child has a medical condition requiring lip salve please ensure the item is **CLEARLY NAMED** and handed in at the school office.

**THROAT SWEETS:** May I also ask that your child does not bring cough/throat sweets such as "soothers"/"strepsils" etc. to school. Again if there is a medical reason for them requiring them please ensure they are clearly named and handed in to the school office.

**MEDICINES:** I would like to clarify that the school is able to issue ONLY prescribed medicine, which needs to be administered 4 times a day. i.e. before lunch. If parents wish to come into school to administer other medicines please arrive at school at 12 noon and your child will be brought to the office from the classroom. All medicines are checked before they are given to the children by another adult.

**EARRINGS:** Please may I remind you that children should not wear earrings to school other than small studs. We ask that on the days your child has **P.E.** they do **NOT** wear any earrings at all as it is the time when ears are most vulnerable. Thank you for your co-operation.

## CONTACT NUMBERS:



Please may I ask that you keep the office updated of any contact persons and telephone numbers. We have had several incidents recently where we have been unable to contact parents because numbers have changed. Also change of address. Thank you.

## CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SCHOOL TRIPS:



We have various class trips coming up in the near future (separate letters will be sent out giving details). Thank you to all of you for contributing to the cost of school trips. We are sure you will agree that the children enjoy these opportunities and gain so much from these out of school activities. We endeavour to keep the cost of each trip down to a minimum by subsidising each child as much as possible. However, we are reliant on you to support us with your contributions as, without your co-operation, we would be unable to offer these important experiences for your children. In the event of insufficient funding the school would be forced to withdraw the range of opportunities that we are at present able to provide which would be a great shame for the children. Thank you for your understanding and support.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY:



I list at the end of this newsletter some dates of events/activities taking place in school, including assembly dates, for your information.

## ENVIRONMENTAL GARDEN – HELP!!:



You may have already noticed that the environmental garden is getting very overgrown! On **Wednesday 18th April** we are hoping to "prune" and tidy it up (weather permitting). We are in need of volunteers to assist us in this. If you are available for any part or all of the day to help with this task please see Miss Brown or Mrs. Simmons. We will be overwhelmingly grateful for your assistance. As we have few tools we would appreciate you bringing your own secateurs/loppers. We will provide coffee/tea and biscuits to help the day along!!! Thank you.

## FOMS ACTIVITIES THIS TERM:



FOMS provide very valued support to the school and organise events such as discos, fayres, fund raising activities. Without this support we would not have the “little (and big) extras” which enhance the children’s learning. FOMS have already raised £1,301 from the Christmas Activities. We would like more members who have children attending the school to join. If you would like to be part of this group who meet informally to arrange such events, please see Mrs. Daish or come into the office. (crèche arranged for meetings). The next meeting for F.O.M.S will be arranged over the next few weeks. They will be organising Discos for all year groups this half term. A separate letter will be sent out in the near future.

## FUND RAISING:



The **Cake Sales** will be continuing this year and the teachers will be buying things for their classroom.

The dates for this term are as follows:

**Red Class** – Fri. 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. – **Blue Class** – Fri. 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. - **Green Class** – Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb.  
**Yellow Class** – Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. - **Orange Class** – Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> March - **Purple Class** – Fri. 9<sup>th</sup> March

Please also see classroom windows for reminders!!!.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE PLAYGROUND:



As you are aware the playground becomes a very congested area at the beginning and end of school. Last term several parents became concerned when younger/older children were riding bikes/scooters etc around the playground whilst waiting for our children to come out at home time. This is obviously a danger to other people in the playground. Please may I ask that bikes etc are not ridden in our playground at any time. Also **no ball games** etc. should be played at these times. Access to the environmental garden also is not permitted therefore I ask that children waiting do not enter this area. If anyone witnesses anyone in this area please could they inform the office. Thank you. Please ensure **all siblings** stay with you in the playground.

## - BIKES/SCOOTERS STORAGE



Sadly I have to ask that siblings of children in the infant school DO NOT park their bikes/scooters in our bike/Scooter racks. We have a lot of our own children who wish to use this rack and as you are aware the storage area is not particularly large. The junior school does have an area for bikes and Scooters to be stored.

## - DOGS:



Please may I ask that you do **not** walk your dog to School. As you are aware dogs are not allowed into the school playground and they are also **not permitted to be tied up on school property** e.g. fencing, gates, entrance etc. You will appreciate that not all children are familiar with dogs and it can cause stress at times both to children and the dogs themselves and I have had incidents where some children are worried about coming into school. Thank you for your co-operation.

## HOME LUNCHES:



Please may I remind you that if you take your child home for lunch or are returning them for the afternoon session, they should not be in school **until 1.10 p.m.** unless prior consent has been given by the Headteacher or you are willing to sit with them. This is for safety reasons as these children will not be included on the registers if a fire alert is administered.

## ICT – EDUCATION CITY:



The school continues to use the Education City learning program for children at school. All children can also access it at home with their own login and password. If you have mislaid your child’s login details please see their class teacher.

## LOST PROPERTY:

Although we cleared all the lost property at the end of last term, already we have a whole boxful of unclaimed items ranging from winter coats to hats and scarves as well as school uniform. I have already taken the items into an assembly but we still have a lot left. If your child is missing any items please can you check the box which is located in the Medical room near the school office. Items unclaimed by half term will be disposed of.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR **CHILD'S CLOTHING IS LABELLED** SO THAT IF IT IS "LEFT" SOMEWHERE IT CAN BE RETURNED. THANK YOU.

## LUNCHTIME EQUIPMENT:

I have been asked by the Lunchtime staff to request that if you have any of the following items at which are in a good clean condition that you do not require any more please could we have them for use at lunchtime play: Plastic garages – fort – pirates - Action Man – Barbie – Dolls – cars - space toys - dinosaurs. Thank you.

## OPEN SESSIONS/PARENT EVENING:

This term we will be holding specific parent sessions. The dates will be the **26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February** and you will be invited to the classroom to look at your child's books and have a 5 minute discussion with the class teacher. We will send out a letter asking for the time zone you would prefer on that evening and the teachers will give you an appointment and put the details on the classroom door. If your child comes with another adult please feel free to ring the school for your appointment time or ask the adult to look out for details for you.

## PARENT CONSULTATION MEETING:

As you are already aware we have a Parent Consultation/Information Meeting with the 'Thinking Schools Academy Trust' on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30 and a later meeting at 3.45 for parents who wish to pick up their children and then come back to school for the meeting. There are exciting times ahead for Meon Infants and I am sure you will all have questions you would like to ask me and our new Academy Provider. This will be your opportunity to meet people from the Trust who, like all the staff and parents, have the children's best interests at heart. However as you know my door is always open and if you wish to come and see me or send in questions we will endeavour to answer them all.

## PACKED LUNCHES:

Please may I remind you that if your child brings in a yogurt/mousse etc. for packed lunch that you provide a spoon. A plastic one would be ideal as they are not so expensive to replace if lost or disposed of by mistake. Thank you.

## PARENT VIEW:

On the School Website there is now a link where you can voice your opinions about us to **OFSTED**. As you may know this year we could have an OFSTED and I would appreciate it if you could use this link to voice your opinions. The instructions are quite easy when you use the link, however if you experience any problems the website address is below:

[parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)

## PARKING ISSUES:

As you are aware the Traffic Warden/Police have been patrolling outside the school for people who are parking illegally at drop off and home times. This is partly in response to various complaints received by both the Infant and Junior Schools. You may also notice that a camera has been installed in Shelford Road to help alleviate this. Please may I re-iterate how important it is that you **DO NOT** park on the zig-zag lines OR stop/pull- in to the middle of the road to drop children off. Some parents have already been issued with a fine and I am sure you will agree that the safety of the children is paramount and you will support the school in this.

## **P.E. KIT:**

Please may I remind you to supply your child with a pair of **trainers** for P.E. **NOT plimsols**. These are used when the children go outside or to the green/park/sports centres.

Please may I also ask that for those of you with girls, if they wear tights to school please can you provide a pair of socks for them to keep in their P.E. bag. Thank you

## **PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES:**

I would like to thank you for bringing in the comics for the children to have at play times. The children really enjoy reading them and sharing them with their friends. If you have any comics that your child has finished with please bring them into the office.

## **PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT:**

I am very excited to inform you that we have just been awarded a grant by the Milton Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund to re-develop part of the playground area. This will include an activity area, a stage, musical instruments and a boat. Hopefully the work will be carried out during the Easter holidays. Our thanks to Mr. Ben Dowling, School Governor who spearheaded the application.

## **PORTSMOUTH MUSIC HUB:**

This is a website which gives information about all music events around the City including The Kings Theatre and Guildhall. You can access the link through our school website.

## **PROFESSIONAL DAY:**

The 3 remaining Inset Days will be as follows:

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018** - Refresher First Aid Training Day.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018** - PREVENT training

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018** - Assessment

## **SCHOOL GATES:**

Please may I remind you that the external gates in Crofton and Shelford Roads are locked at **9.00 a.m.** every day. You will appreciate that in the interest of the safety of the children this needs to be as soon as possible. Should you find yourself left in the building after this time, you will need to leave via the main entrance door in Shelford Road. The gates are opened for home time at approx. 3.10 p.m. Thank you for your co-operation.

## **SCHOOL MILK:**

The school milk scheme continues. If you would like your child to receive milk on a daily basis please register with Cool Milk – [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) – I believe the cost is currently 22p per day and you will be invoiced directly from the company. Under 5s are still entitled to free milk but may I remind parents that once your child has turned 5 you will need to contact Cool Milk if you wish to continue.

## **SERVICE FAMILIES:**

The school is currently updating its records and would appreciate it if service families would report to the office so that we can check that we have the correct information.


## VOLUNTEER HELPERS:

**Parent Support:** If you would be interested in helping to support children in school with speech and language programmes with individual/small groups of children, for a morning or afternoon, or even an hour or so a week on a regular basis, please see Miss Brown. Thank you.

**Making Resources:** If anyone would be interested in spending some time morning/afternoon/an hour or even at home to help us with making resources for our topics/subject areas please see Mrs. Daish or Miss Brown.

If you have any other skills you think may be a value to the school please come in and see Mrs. Daish.

All of our “volunteers” have a DBS check prior to working with the children.

**AND FINALLY**..... I would like to Thank you for your continued support it is really appreciated .

Best wishes

*Lynda Daish*

Headteacher

### DATES FOR THE TERM

<b>JANUARY</b>		
Thurs. 18 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 & 3.45	Meeting with Academy Provider
Fri. 19 <sup>th</sup>	3.20	Red Class Cake Sale
Wed. 24 <sup>th</sup>	3.30	FOMS MEETING – crèche available
Fri. 26 <sup>th</sup>	3.20	Blue Class Cake Sale
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
Fri. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	3.20	Green Class Cake Sale
Fri. 9 <sup>th</sup>		NON UNIFORM DAY - £1 donation please
	p.m.	FOMS DISCOS – see separate FOMS letter for times
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>		HALF TERM WEEK
Mon. 19 <sup>th</sup>	ALL DAY	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED -
Fri. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	3.20 p.m.	Yellow Class Cake Sale
Mon. 26 <sup>th</sup>		PARENTS EVENING – appointment allocated
Tues. 27 <sup>th</sup>		PARENTS EVENING – appointment allocated
Wed. 28 <sup>th</sup>	3.20	BOOK FAIR
<b>MARCH</b>		
Thurs. 1 <sup>st</sup>	All Day	World Book Day – Children come dressed as favourite character
	3.20	Book Fair
Fri. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	3.20 p.m.	Orange Cake Sale
		Book Fair
Fri. 9 <sup>th</sup>	3.20	Purple Class Cake Sale
Thur. 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.15	YEAR 1 ASSEMBLY
Wed. 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.15	YEAR 2 ASSEMBLY
Thurs. 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.15	YEAR R ASSEMBLY
	3.20 p.m.	END OF TERM
<b>APRIL</b>		
Mon. 16 <sup>th</sup>	ALL DAY	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED -
Tues. 17 <sup>th</sup>	8.50	SUMMER TERM STARTS
Wed. 18 <sup>th</sup>	a.m.	ENVIRONMENTAL GARDEN Clearing – help required please