

Newsletter



21.09.2017

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you all back to the new term. We welcome all our new faces and the new reception children.

I would like to thank you for the generosity you extended to all the staff at the end of last term, the staff were overwhelmed by all your kind comments and gifts. I would also like to take this opportunity in thanking you all for all the support you give your children and the school.

As you are aware most teachers remained in their Year Groups from last year and there was just one small change in Year R as Mrs Morey and Mrs Phillips are now in Orange Class. Mrs. Ricketts works 1 day a week to cover PPA and non-contact cover.

ABSENCE:

If your child is absent from school we ask that you notify the school as soon as possible. We request a phone call (before 10.00 a.m.). If this is not made a phone call from the school will be made to you. We do also require confirmation in writing, for our records. If you do not send in a letter a computer generated letter will be sent home which we ask you to complete and return as soon as possible so that the correct coding can be attached to your child's absence records. Thank you.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS:

As you know we have organized some After School Clubs. There are still places on the Gym, Dance, Cooking and French Clubs. Hopefully I will be able to inform you of more later in the term. I apologise to the children in reception as we have to wait until they are 5 before we can offer them a place on most Clubs except for the Cooking Club, however there may be places after Half Term for Year R children.

ANAPHYLAXIS:

There are children in the school who have a severe reaction to nuts (particularly peanuts). Should any of these children come in contact with nuts in any form they would suffer an anaphylactic shock and require immediate medication and hospitalisation. Even contact with a surface on which nuts have recently been could be enough to cause this reaction. Please would you consider these children in the future and refrain from including food that could be harmful to them in your child's lunchbox. Thank you.

ASSEMBLIES:

We have decided to hold a **Harvest celebration** this year for the staff and children so on this occasion you will not be invited to attend. It will take place On **Monday 16th October**. This year we have decided to send the contributions to the Portsmouth Foodbank who give out parcels to hostels and those working with the homeless. You are invited to send in tinned or packaged food (no fresh food please), preferably tins of fruit or vegetables. The children may bring in their food items on the day. We will leave the Harvest display in the school hall for you all to view for a few days.

AUTHOR VISIT:

We are very lucky to have the Portsmouth Schools Award Winning Author Kes Gray visiting the school on Friday 20th October to speak to the Year 1 and Year 2 children. Books will be available to purchase on the day. A separate letter is attached giving information and order forms, if required.

CAKE SALES:

We will be continuing with the Cake Sales again this year. The dates for this term are as follows:

RED CLASS – 15th Sep. BLUE CLASS – 29th Sep. GREEN CLASS – 13th Oct. YELLOW CLASS – 3rd Nov.

ORANGE CLASS 10th Nov. PURPLE CLASS – 24th Nov.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES:

The Christmas performances this year will be held on 19th and the 20th December 2017 at 2.00 in St James' Church. Both performances are the same so if you have more than one child in school you will only need to attend on one of these days. Further details for these performances will be sent later in the term.

COLLECTION OF CHILDREN AT HOME TIME:

Please can I remind you that if you are not intending to collect your child yourself (or the usual person is not), can you send in a note to the class teacher for the relevant days. As you know we are very aware of the need for caution where young children are concerned and, therefore, "challenge" any "stranger" collecting children. I hope you will agree that it is in both yours and our best interest to ensure that everyone is informed of changes in the normal routine. In the case of an emergency please telephone the office to notify us of any change. We ask that siblings do not collect children unless they are over the age of 14 unless a letter of permission is completed by the parent. This applies to After School Clubs as well.

CONTACT FORMS/DATA SHEETS:

We recently sent out a contact form which contains the information we have in school. Please amend any errors and add missing information, particularly medical and contact telephone numbers. Please return the form even if no amendments are required as soon as possible. We also ask that you notify us of any change of numbers as soon as possible. Thank you

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY/TERM DATES:

Please see the attached list for events taking place during this term, including assemblies.

ENVIRONMENTAL GARDEN – HELP!!:

You may have already noticed that the environmental garden is getting very overgrown! On **WEDNESDAY 1st November** 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 complete the slip at the end of this letter or 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.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

The European Year of Languages 2017, jointly organised by the Council of Europe and the European Union, was successful in involving millions of people across 45 participating countries. Its activities celebrated linguistic diversity in Europe and promoted language learning.

The general objectives of the European Day of Languages are:

1. Alerting the public to the importance of language learning and diversifying the range of languages learnt in order to increase plurilingualism and intercultural understanding;
2. Promoting the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe, which must be preserved and fostered;
3. Encouraging lifelong language learning in and out of school, whether for study purposes, for professional needs, for purposes of mobility or for pleasure and exchanges.

On Thursday 5th October staff and children are being asked to join in and celebrate this event. We will be focusing on a “European” theme that will involve a variety of practical fun activities including – food tasting a selection of food from various European countries – games – music lesson – whole school assembly and much more in order to encourage life long language learning in and out of school. As part of the celebration we are asking the children to dress in any clothes/colours which represent the European country of the year group’s choice and make a voluntary contribution of **£1.00** to help towards the food tasting.

The countries selected by each year group are:

Year 2 – Switzerland Year 1 – France Year R - Orange Class-Spain, Purple Class- Greece

We would very much appreciate any support you or any members of your family may be able to offer to help benefit the children. In particular, if you have any knowledge of other countries e.g. language, culture, food or music that you could share with us. If you would be interested in helping us please see Mrs Morey or Mrs Daish.

FAMILY HOLIDAYS:

May I remind that taking children out of school for holidays during term time **is not allowed**.

NO holidays will be authorised by the Headteacher unless there are mitigating 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. We have been informed that the penalty is £60 per parent per child!!!

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

I attach another copy of the term dates for your information. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

FLU VACCINATION:

We will be supporting the NHS Solent Trust programme for flu vaccinations taking part in November. A letter, information brochure and consent form will be sent out nearer the time. For further information now please visit the website: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/child-flu-vaccine.aspx>.

F.O.M.S.:

FOMS (Friends of Meon School) will be holding their **AGM** meeting on **Wednesday 11th October at 3.30p.m.** Teaching staff will run a crèche for the children. All are very welcome to attend and we look forward to meeting some new faces. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our current FOMs members for their hard work and commitment to the School. There will be a Crèche available in Blue Class with Miss Cox for parents who wish to attend with young children. FOMS are already busy organising events for this term. We are arranging a “Sparkly & Bright” Disco for Year 1 and Year 2 children early next half term. FOMS have sent out a separate letter about this.

HEADLICE:

We are continuing to have reports of headlice occurring. This is obviously very distressing for the people concerned so please may I remind you to be vigilant in checking your child’s hair and treat the whole family immediately if you find anything. Please be sure to repeat the treatment after 7 days to prevent re-infestation. Once treated your child may return to school immediately and does not need to be kept off school for periods of time. We will endeavour to put a notice up in the classroom windows if we have a particularly bad outbreak.

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 rode 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.

If your child does ride their bike/scooter to school please ensure it is locked in the cycle area (Shelford Road entrance) before you enter the playground. May I also ask that you supervise any older/younger children you have with you. Children are not permitted to climb on any fencing (particularly the area around the environmental garden). They are also not permitted to enter the environmental garden for any reason!!! No ball games should be played either. Our school children are aware of these safety guidelines and I ask that you extend this to other children in the playground.

Also 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. Thank you for your co-operation.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

The school photographer will be taking individual photographs during the morning of **FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER**. If you also have pre school children to be photographed please take them directly to the hall at 8.50 a.m. Your school aged child will be collected from their classroom after registration by a member of staff so please send them into school at the normal time. A slip requesting your choice is attached. Please ensure it is returned by **30th October**. All children will be photographed although it is not compulsory that you purchase the photo. We need a copy of your child's photograph for our records and also we like to display them in the school's reception area.

Children who have siblings in the Junior School will be taken over there on **FRIDAY 6th OCTOBER** by a member of the infant school staff. Please send your child in as usual on that day and they will be taken over after registration has taken place.

JACK AND JILL PLAYGROUP:

Please could I remind you that the playgroup play area must not be used as a thoroughfare to get to and from school. The safety of the pre school children is paramount. Thank you.

JEWELLERY:

May I once again remind you that **NO JEWELLERY** should be worn to school. If your child has pierced ears a small stud earring is permissible. However, these **MUST** be removed for P.E. lessons and we encourage parents to ensure children do not wear earrings to school on P.E. lesson days. Or ensure that their child is able to remove their own earrings for the lesson. In an instance where earrings are worn and cannot be removed the ears will be covered in mediatape.

LOCK DOWN:

In light of recent events and the press coverage, the school is reviewing its "Lockdown Policy". This will help keep the children safe in the unlikely event of something like this occurring in school. The internal main door to the street will be locked at all times and will only be opened by a member of staff. The children have been advised that they do not open the door even if it is their parents there.

We will endeavor to keep the children as safe as possible and ask that if you have any queries about your child that are not an emergency please can you speak to the class teacher at the end of the day so we can lock the gates as promptly as possible in the morning – by 9.00 a.m.. If you need to go to the office please use the door next to the hall doors labelled "To the Office" from the playground rather than walking through the school after you have dropped off your child at their classroom door. Thank you for your co-operation.

LOST PROPERTY:

A box is located in the medical room. If your child has mislaid something please do take a look. Please may I remind you to **name** your children's clothing/items. By doing this we are more able to return mislaid items to the correct person. Thank you

NOTICE BOARD:

Please keep checking the hall windows and the notice board in the playground for notices, including school meals menus. We find this is the best way to inform parents when a newsletter is not due to be sent out. As well as this system there is a school notice board in the main entrance, which displays a copy of the current newsletter for your information. There is also a FOMS noticeboard in the playground which displays forthcoming events and other information

OPEN SESSIONS:

As previously, the regular weekly sessions for parents to talk to teachers about their children's work will continue on a **TUESDAY** this term from 3.20 - 4.00 p.m. Please inform the teacher of any session you wish to come in for in case more than 3-4 parents already wish to attend. It is important that you have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with the teacher so please come in at least once during this term. This year due to popular demand by the parents we will be continuing to hold parent evenings in the spring term and parents will be able to make an appointment. I will be giving dates for those meetings in the next newsletter.

PACKED LUNCHES:

Please may I ask that no non-rigid yoghurts (e.g. flubes, etc) are sent in with your child's packed lunch. Several accidents have already occurred when children "squeeze" the tubes or indeed when they are being opened resulting in soiled clothing. If your child brings a yoghurt (or similar) pot please ensure you include a **spoon**. May I also remind you that no sweets or fizzy drinks or chocolate bars are permissible. Thank you.

PARENT MEETINGS YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2:

- How we organise and deliver the curriculum
- Topics we cover and linked trips
- What homework the children will be expected to do.
- An opportunity to ask any questions you may have.
- Reminder about the Bug Club

The dates are as follows:

- Year 1's meeting will be at 2.45 in the Music/Drama Room on Thursday 28th September 2017
- Year 2's will be at 2.45 in Blue Class on Wednesday 27th September 2017

Whilst we understand that you may have other commitments we feel this is a very important meeting for you and hope you will feel able to attend. Please complete and return the slip at the end of the separate letter sent out by **MONDAY 25th SEPTEMBER**. I apologise for the short notice and thank you for your continued support.

Year R will also be holding a meeting on **TUESDAY 3rd OCTOBER AT 2.45 P.M.** This will include information about the curriculum, topics, school trips etc.

PARKING/ ROAD SAFETY:

Please note the non parking areas outside the school are regularly patrolled by mobile traffic wardens. Cars which are parked on double yellow/ zigzag lines will be issued with a parking ticket, no matter for how short a period of time. Tickets have been issued already this term. You will appreciate that this is necessary for the safety of our children. Many parents, some who have witnessed near accidents, have complained in the past about cars parking in this way. The school has been given a contact number for complaints but we will need to know the make and model of the vehicle, the registration number and whether the driver is male or female before we can register a complaint. Cars stopping in the middle of the road to "drop off" also causes concern. Please be vigilant and mindful of others. Thank you.

P.E. KIT:

We now have a supply of the school's P.E. kit in school – white tee shirt with logo and maroon shorts. The cost of the kit is £8.00 and is available from the school office. We ask for your support in providing a kit for your child. Thank you.

Please may I remind you that the children need trainers (not plimsols) for outdoor games lessons.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES:

As you are aware we have already had 2 closure dates at the beginning of term. I have only arranged one more at this time. I will notify you once the decision has been made for the other 2 days:

Friday 25/5/18 - Assessment

SCHOOL TIMES:

Please can I remind you that children should be in school by **8.50 a.m.** for the start of the school day. The end of the school day is **3.20 p.m.** and I ask that you collect your child promptly at this time. Most of the teachers have commitments after school and are unable to look after children who are not collected on time. Thank you.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

I am sorry to have to inform you that for the first time in 3 years we will have to increase the price of the school uniform. We have tried to maintain costs for as long as possible but unfortunately the manufacturers have increased their prices yet again. I still feel, however, that the company we use provide very good quality clothing and compared to some others their prices are still competitive.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

May I remind you to keep us up to date with contact numbers for your child during the year. We have found recently that on ringing numbers given they are unobtainable or the person is no longer a named contact.

VOLUNTEER HELPERS:

Cookery: If anyone would be interested in spending some time morning/afternoon (or even an hour) this term to help us with our cookery lessons for the children, please contact your child's class teacher.

Reading: If you would be interested in helping to support reading in school 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.

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.

Kind Regards,

Mrs. L.J. Daish

Headteacher

Translation Service

If you need help in translating this newsletter, please contact the EMAS Home-School-Community Project on tel. 023 9273 3130

DATES FOR THE TERM

SEPTEMBER		
Wed. 27 th	2.45	PARENTS INFORMATION MEETING – YEAR 2
Thurs. 28 th	2.45	PARENTS INFORMATION MEETING – YEAR 1
Fri. 29 th	3.20	BLUE CLASS CAKE SALE
OCTOBER		
Tues. 3 rd	2.45	PARENTS INFORMATION METING – YEAR R
Thurs. 5 th	All Day	European Day of Languages –£1 donation
Wed. 11 th	3.30	FOMS AGM (crèche available)
Fri. 13 th	3.20	GREEN CLASS CAKE SALE
Mon 16 th	p.m.	HARVEST FESTIVAL ASSEMBLY – No parents – donations please
Fri. 20 th	a.m.	Author Visit – Y1 & Y2
Mon 23 rd – Fri. 27 th		HALF TERM
NOVEMBER		
Wed. 1 st	a.m.	Environmental Garden Pruning
Fri. 3 rd	3.20	YELLOW CLASS CAKE SALE
	3.30	FOMS DISCO Year 1 and Year 2 only
Fri. 10 th	a.m.	Individual/Family Photographs
	3.20	ORANGE CLASS CAKE SALE
Fri. 24th	3.20	PURPLE CLASS CAKE SALE
DECEMBER		
Tues 19 th	2.00	CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE – St. James Church – no children
Wed 20 th	2.00	CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE – St. James Church – no children
Thurs 21 st	p.m.	CHRISTMAS PARTY
Fri. 22 nd	3.20	END OF TERM
JANUARY		
Mon. 8 th	8.50	SPRING TERM BEGINS



ENVIRONMENTAL GARDEN WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER, 2017

I am able to help on this day.

Signed Child's Name

Child's Class



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The school photographer is coming in on **FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER at 9.00 a.m.** Please sign and return this slip as soon as possible and by **MONDAY 30th OCTOBER.**

*I WOULD LIKE MY CHILD(REN) PHOTOGRAPHED INDIVIDUALLY

*I WOULD LIKE MY CHILDREN PHOTOGRAPHED TOGETHER
(please state name and class or pre-school below)

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*I DO NOT WISH TO PURCHASE A PHOTOGRAPH

Signed (parent/guardian)