

Newsletter



6th November 2017

Dear Parents,

Christmas is almost upon us, and that time is drawing very near. We hope to make this time as lovely for the children as we can and not have too much disruption in their learning.

I would also like to thank **FOM's and teachers** for all their hard work at the Year 1-2 disco. I would like to welcome the new members to **F.O.M's** and thank them all for their support. The money raised at the Disco has been used to buy special surprises for the children at Christmas. As usual they will be organising the Christmas Festivities for the children and the Christmas Fayre on Friday 8th December 2017. A letter will be coming out shortly regarding these activities.

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 organised some After School Clubs. There are still places on the Football, Gym Club, Dance and Cookery Club (Tuesday). I apologise to the children in reception as we feel it is better for them to wait next term before we can offer them a place on the cooking club.

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 thank you for your generosity at our Harvest Festival and the food has now been distributed to 'Portsmouth Foodbank'. I am awaiting a letter from them regarding the amount of food we donated and I will let you and the children know as soon as that letter arrives.

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. This is also the case with children that go home with an After School Club.

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.

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 be issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice Request. Holidays of a lesser period will be monitored. We have been informed that the penalty has increased from £50 to £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.”

FOMS

FOMS will be holding their next meeting on Wednesday 15th November to organise the Christmas Fayre. If you would like to join the FOMS Committee please do come along.

A gentle reminder from FOMS if you wish to order items from the Christmas Card project please ensure orders with payment are in school by FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER. Thank you.

FLU IMMUNISATION:

This will take place on Friday 17th November. Thank you to those who have already returned your forms. Please may I ask for those who have not that you return them as soon as possible even if you do not wish your child to have the “nasal” immunization.

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. Thank you.

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.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS WEEK

Mon. 13th – Fri. 17th November. Separate letter sent home recently. Please ensure children are dressed in sportswear e.g. jogging bottoms, tee shirts, trainers **ALL WEEK**. On Friday 17th they may add “spots” to support the Children in Need Day. A £1 donation would be appreciated to support this good cause.

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. after dropping your school child into class. Your school aged child will be collected from their classroom after registration by a member of staff. 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.

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.

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 especially following after school clubs! Thank you

NON UNIFORM DAYS

Thank you all for your generosity with items for our Christmas Fayre at our recent Non uniform Day.

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. We are going to continue to hold parent evenings in the spring term and parents will be able to make an appointment. More information will be sent out next term.

If you have any concerns about your child's time in school or are unsure of the work set etc. please do come in and speak either to the teacher or to myself. We have a very "open door" policy here and would rather you air your views to an appropriate member of staff and not worry about it at home.

PARENT VIEW:

The School has now place a link to the Parent View Ofsted page on the website (It looks like a jigsaw). Please use this to voice your views on the school as this will be used by them for our next Ofsted. You will find the link on the 'Prospectus and Ofsted Page.

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.

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.

“POPPY APPEAL”

In aid of the British Legion Poppy Appeal we have several children’s items for sale. Please see your child’s classroom window for the range including snapbands, bracelets, key rings, friendship bracelets. They are either 50p or £1 and all proceeds will be forwarded to the appeal. They can be purchased from the school office. Thank you for your support.

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.

SECURITY:

Just a reminder about Security: 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 at the door. 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 school 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. Alternatively you can go out of the school gate and round to the office via the main door. From Monday 20th November we will not be opening the school gates until **8.40 a.m.**

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

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

VOLUNTEER HELPERS:

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.

Thank you to those parents who gave their time last week to tidy the Environmental Garden area. This was much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES



CHRISTMAS APPEAL:

Following the success of previous year’s Christmas Appeal we have again decided to collect gifts of **NEW TOYS** to put under the Christmas Tree in support of the Salvation Army Appeal.

Your children are very fortunate and live in special, caring home and are loved by their whole family. There are very many children in Portsmouth who are not as fortunate as yours. For these children Christmas is not a time of excitement, warmth and magic but one of sadness and loneliness.

We would like to help make this Christmas special for these children by providing our gifts. If you would like to be part of this project, please send in a gift for your child to put under the Christmas tree in the school hall. Please help us to make these children happy. Toys may be for a boy or girl of any age. If your gift is wrapped please indicate what age and gender it is for so that it may given to an appropriate child. (NB the last date for collection is **Monday 18th December 2017**). The toys will be distributed to needy children by a member of the Salvation Army. Thank you for your support.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE:

I hope you will be able to join us for the Christmas Fayre on **FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER** which FOMS are arranging. There are many activities being planned and there will be fun for all! I look forward to seeing you there.

We will also be having a visit from Father Christmas to School to see the children on Thursday 21st December. They will receive a gift for which there will be a small charge. More details of this will be sent out in a separate letter from F.O.M's.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

The Christmas lunch will be held on **WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER**. The staff join the children for this event and we have a very festive time.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:

This year we have decided to hold the Christmas Concert in **St. James Church**. They will be held on the afternoons of 19th and 20th of December at 2.00 p.m.

Both of these performances will be the same and all children will perform in both so if you have more than one child in school you will only need to attend one. In order to, hopefully, balance numbers we are offering the following days:

Tuesday 19th – Red, Yellow & Orange class parents
Wednesday 20th – Blue, Green & Purple class parents

Please may I ask that you do not bring younger children to the Church as this can be very distracting for the children performing. We hope you will be able to make arrangements for this even if it means you attending the performance other than day suggested for your child's class. Thank you for your support in this.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Once again this year FOMS will be organising the Children's Christmas party, which will be held on **THURSDAY 21st DECEMBER**. This will be held in the afternoon on that day and is not a substitute for lunch. Children with special dietary needs should send in a plate of food on the day. More details will be sent out by FOMS.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you happiness throughout the festive season.

Kind Regards,

Lynda Daish
Headteacher

DATES FOR THE TERM

NOVEMBER		
Fri. 10 th	a.m.	School Photos – please bring pre school children into the hall
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th		HEALTHY SCHOOLS WEEK – sportswear all week please
Wed. 15 th	3.30	FOMS MEETING – Creche in Blue Class
Fri. 17 th	a.m.	Flu immunisations CHILDREN IN NEED DAY – Wear Spots. Donations please
DECEMBER		
Fri. 8 th	3.30 p.m.	CHRISTMAS FAYRE
Wed. 13 th	12.00	CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Mon. 18 th		LAST DAY FOR PRESENTS UNDER THE TREE
Tue. 19 th	2.00	CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Red, Yellow & Orange Class parents NO CHILDREN PLEASE
Wed. 20 th	2.00	CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Blue, Green & Purple Class parents NO CHILDREN PLEASE
Thurs 21 st	p.m.	CHRISTMAS PARTY VISIT FROM FATHER CHRISTMAS
Fri. 22 nd	3.20	END OF TERM
JANUARY		
Mon 8 th	8.50	SPRING TERM BEGINS