



Newsletter

5th May, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and safe at home and you are able to access the Online Learning Programme.

I continue to be amazed at all the staff at Meon Infant School and Moorings Way Infant School for their dedication and commitment to the children of Key Workers who have been accessing our provision over the last few weeks and in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to stress the need for your children to be at home if this is at all possible for their safety and the safety of the staff.

ACCESSING THE PROVISION:

For parents accessing the provision, who we have not already had a registration form for, you will need to give the school 24 hours' notice of any new child attending and, at this present time, it is still for Key Worker Parents, vulnerable children and those with an EHC Plan. Evidence in the form of a letter from your employer and personal id OR NHS id will be required before your child can access this provision. A registration letter is available from the school office. However, I would like to stress for the safety of all that where possible please children can stay at home. We appreciate that in the near future more parents will be returning to work but would urge you to make arrangements for your children outside of school.

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.



I am sure, like us, you have heard some rumours in the press recently about children returning to school on 1st June 2020. What this may look like has not been made clear to us as a school so can I urge you to be patient with us and as soon as I have news, after Mr. Johnson's plan is revealed, I will let you know.

If you have any concerns please feel free to email the school or there will always be someone to answer the phone during the school day. Finally I would like to thank you all for your support over the last few weeks and the weeks to come and I am sure we will be together soon.

FSM VOUCHERS:

I have had a few phone calls regarding the issuing of FSM voucher so I would like to remind you of how it works. Although all infant school children are entitled to a free hot dinner this is different to those who are entitled to Free School Meals through our Pupil Premium funding. It is just for the parents of children who have already been identified as receiving specific benefits and it is allocated through Portsmouth City Council. Parents of these children will already have been contacted so if you have not then unfortunately you are not entitled to be part of the voucher scheme.

I also know that a couple of you have been experiencing difficulty in receiving these vouchers. Unfortunately this is out of our control but we are in touch with Edenred who issue the vouchers and, hopefully, these issues will be sorted shortly – please bear with us.



HOME READING

I hope you are continuing to access the Home Reading with your child. It is a whole school reading programme that will support your child to learn to read and to love reading. It has a huge variety of levelled books to support a journey from phonics to fluency, with levelled books that offer challenge, vocabulary and stamina as your child works through the bands. The books are all bright and modern and there is plenty of variety to interest all the children.



All you have to do is click on the link below, select Meon Infant School and enter the appropriate details (as below) for your child's year group. You will then be able to explore a wealth of books and materials which are matched to your child's ability which will also provide a wide range of reading experiences.

Our chosen scheme is **Collins Big Cat** but you are welcome to investigate other books also. We would encourage the children to read the books themselves. For this they can turn the pages and by pressing the play/pause button this will mute the sound. The younger children may wish to have the story read to them first and then try to read it.



<https://connect.collins.co.uk/school/defaultlogin.aspx>,

Year R Login details:

Date of Birth: 02 February
First letter of Surname: A
Year Group F

Year 1 Login details:

Date of Birth: 01 January
First letter of Surname: A
Year Group 1

Year 2 Login details:

Date of Birth: 03 March
First letter of Surname: A
Year Group 2

MILK BOTTLE TOPS

We are still collecting MILK BOTTLE TOPS (only) which will be used to support a Children's Cancer Charity. So, please continue to save them and you can bring them in when we are back at school. Please make sure you wash them and put them in a safe place.



PSCONNECT/FACE BOOK/YOU TUBE:

I hope you are finding our communication systems greatly improved. I know that you have been receiving several texts/emails from the school and hope this allows you to keep informed and updated. We also have a new Facebook Page – **TSAT Meon Infant School** so please feel free to take a look. We are also just “practising” with our new **You Tube** account and will, hopefully be posting many items in the near future.



ON-LINE LEARNING:

We will continue to put activities on the website and the children will be able to access weekly learning which has been planned by the Teachers. The new Face Book page and a You Tube account can be accessed by the children and we will be putting up challenges and fun videos for the children to view. The activities can be adapted to suit your child and breaks during the day are essential but will be left to your discretion. Please feel free to email the school and send pictures and feedback regarding the activities – office@meoninfantschool.org.uk. Can I please remind you that the school continues to consider parent's wishes regarding their choices of whether they would or would not like their child's photo to be on Social Media, however if you wish this to happen please could you give your permission/or not in the email for that particular picture of your child to go on the Face Book page.

An email will be sent to all parents when we are ready to roll each week on the website – www.meoninfantschool.org.uk Scroll down and on the right hand side under Quick links you will see the Home Learning Tabs for each year group. Click on this and you should be able to access the on-line learning there.

I have had some feed back from parents regarding some of the on-line learning and the teachers and I fully take into account that some parents, especially the ones who are still working, do have limitations on time and find it difficult to complete all the activities. Please can I reassure everyone that we are happy for parents to do what they can do even if it is just the on-line reading.



Unfortunately at this time we are not able to send out paper copies of homework.

HAPPY NEWS:

At this difficult time it is always nice to celebrate some exciting news and it is with pleasure that I have some lovely news for you all (or for those who haven't already guessed from the videos!!). Mrs Cox will not be returning in September as she is expecting the birth of her first child then. We will continue to keep in touch with her, even if it is virtually, and she is blooming. We wish her all the best and send our love and best wishes to her and her family. She thinks -



SAD NEWS:

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that our lovely Attendance dog – **GRACE** – passed away suddenly a few weeks ago. The children loved it when she came into school and our condolences are with Mrs. Loader.



GOOD NEWS:

We have a new Attendance Dog “In Training” – **BILLY**. Most of the children will have already met him and he is also featured on our Water challenge video! I know Mrs. Loader is in the process of training him at the moment and we look forward to him coming into school when we are fully back in action.



And finally – everyone at Meon Infants sends our love to you all – be kind, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all back as soon as we are able.



Kind Regards
Lynda Daish

Translation Service

If you need help translating this newsletter please contact EMAS Home-School Community Project on 023 9273 3130

