



Newsletter

11th September, 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new term and the first newsletter of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and patience during drop off and pick up. I am sure you are aware we need to stick to the time you have been given for your child to be dropped off and maintain Social Distancing to keep everyone safe.

There have been some concerns from Parents in Trust Primary Schools about people not adhering to Social Distancing at drop off and pick times. In light of the announcement from the Government, reducing the numbers of people at a social gatherings to six, the Trust is asking you to support this. Therefore, to ensure continued safety on our school grounds we will, as of **Monday 14th September**, expect face coverings to be worn by adults during drop off and pick up times.

I would like to thank you for your support and generosity you extended to all the staff at the end of last term, the staff were overwhelmed by all your kind comments and gifts.

<p>AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS:</p> <p>Unfortunately we will not be running After School Clubs this half term. This will be reviewed for next half term in light of Government/TSAT guidance re. covid restrictions.</p>	<p>ASSEMBLIES: </p> <p>Due to the restrictions of public gatherings, we will not be having whole school assemblies during the day. Assemblies will be virtual and in the classroom.</p> <p>The school has contacted 'Portsmouth Food Bank' as this is the charity we normally support during Harvest in the Autumn Term. However they have said they would appreciate our support this year during the Spring Term instead and I will update you later.</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES</p> <p></p> <p>Due to the restrictions on public gatherings, we will not be able to have our usual performance at the Church or in School. Consequently we are considering filming the children in school singing/ performing and we will update you later about how to access this.</p>
<p>CAKE SALES </p> <p>For health and Safety reasons unfortunately we will not be holding Cake Sales this half term.</p>	<p>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY/ TERM DATES</p> <p>Please see the attached list for events taking place during this term including Inset Days.</p> <p></p>	
<p>COLLECTION AT HOME TIME: </p> <p>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 or telephone the school 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.</p>	<p>ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:</p> <p>Please see attached information that is ongoing. Please keep this as it alleviates me having to report it on every newsletter but it is always relevant. Thank you.</p> <p></p>	
<p>CONTACT FORMS/ DATA SHEETS:</p> <p>We recently sent out a contact form (Year R will be sent out in the near future) 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</p>		

ENVIRONMENTAL GARDEN – HELP!!:

You may have already noticed that the environmental garden is getting very overgrown! On **Tuesday 13th October** 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 either complete the slip at the end of this letter or see/email Mrs. Simmons (office@meoninfantschool.org.uk). We will be overwhelmingly grateful for your assistance. Miss Brown will be joining the team to help. 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.



FLU VACCINATION:

We will be supporting the NHS Solent Trust programme for flu vaccinations taking part this term. A letter, information brochure and consent form will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. **Please return the form** even if you **do not** wish your child to have the vaccination. For further information now please visit the website: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/child-flu-vaccine.aspx>.



FOMS (Friends of Meon School) will be meeting shortly (social distancing of course) to try and organize an event for later this term. A letter will be sent out when plans have been finalized. Thank you for your support in this.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

The school photographer will be taking individual photographs during the morning of **THURSDAY 5th NOVEMBER**. This year due to covid restrictions we will **not** be able to do sibling photos (even if they are in the same school) as it would mean crossing “bubbles”. You are not committed to purchasing any photos but all children will have their photo taken so we can have a copy of our school records.



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 send them in. Please make sure you wash them and put them in a clean bag.



NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER:



The school has a new main line telephone number. It is: **03333602170**.

The “old” number will remain in action for a short while and calls will be diverted to the new number.

OPEN EVENINGS/PARENT SESSIONS:



Due to restrictions on gatherings we will have to change how we conduct Parents Evenings. I hope to inform you about how we are going to report to parents at a later date.

The staff will be producing some information for parents about the year for each year group and this will be put on the website.

SCHOOL PARKING:



You may have noticed that a single line has been installed outside the school. This is for use only for dropping off by cars displaying disabled stickers. Thank you.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES (INSET):

They all coincide with Meon Junior School dates.

Monday 28th Sept. 2020 - SafeGuard/Reading
Monday 2nd Nov. 2020 - Whole Trust Training Day
Monday 4th Jan., 2021 – Safeguarding/Reading
Monday 22nd Feb., 2021 – Assessment
Friday 28th May 2021 - Curriculum



SCHOOL MEALS:



Chartwells continue to provide school meals for the children. During the current climate the menu choice has been reduced. However, from Monday 21st September there will be more options. Unfortunately there are no paper copies of the menu but it can be viewed on our website: www.meoninfantschool.org.uk Children will choose their meal in the morning on the whiteboard. Unfortunately there is no facility for pre-ordering. You can still provide a packed lunch but please ensure you thoroughly clean the lunch box each evening. Thank you.

SCHOOL NURSE DROP IN SESSIONS:

At the current time there will be no School Nurse Drop in sessions. However, I will notify you as soon as they are to resume.



SCHOOL TIMES:

Thank you again for your support with the ever changing drop off and pick up times. The times will be reviewed as things alter throughout the year. We will keep you informed of any changes.



SEESAW:

Seesaw will become our new Online Learning Program; We will soon be sending home a permission letter which we would like to be returned as soon as possible. Every child will be emailed a log in and unique code once the permission slips have been returned. There will also be a parent user guide to talk you through how to log in. We will be using it as a program to access homework.



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:



We are welcoming DBS checked volunteers, however until we have firm guidance you will not be able to support in the classroom but maybe assist with making resources and in areas away from the children.

WORKS ON BUILDING:



During the summer holidays Year R Toilets had a Refurbishment and various safety measures were installed due to Covid 19.

Please be assured that we are doing everything in our power to make your child's time at school as "normal" and enjoyable as possible during these very uncertain times. However, if you have any concerns, suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Please may I repeat that you keep the attached "**ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**" sheet for future reference.

Kind Regards

Lynda 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		
Monday 28 th	ALL DAY	NO SCHOOL - INSET TRAINING
OCTOBER		
Tues. 13 th	ALL DAY	ENVIRONMENTAL GARDEN PRUNING
Mon. 26 th – Fri 30 th		HALF TERM
NOVEMBER		
Mon. 2 nd	ALL DAY	NO SCHOOL - INSET TRAINING
Thurs. 5 th	a.m.	INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS – NO SIBLINGS
DECEMBER		
Fri 18 th	3.10 /3.20 p.m.	END OF TERM
JANUARY 2021		
Mon. 4 th	ALL DAY	NO SCHOOL - INSET TRAINING
Tues. 5 th	8.40 / 8.50 a.m.	SPRING TERM START



ENVIRONMENTAL GARDEN TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER, 2020

I am able to help on this day.

Name

Signed Child's Name

Child's Team



MEON INFANT SCHOOL

Leaping Forward Together

Newsletter

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Please may I ask that you keep this attached sheet for future reference so that I do not have to repeat it in every newsletter sent out in the future.

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 9.30 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.

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.

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."

As a reminder, if less than 5 days are requested and the child is phoned in "sick" either end of the requested period medical evidence will be required.

Also a reminder that the Year 2 children will be undertaking SATS again next year during the first half of the summer term and **no** holidays during this period will be authorised.

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

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.

CHEQUES:

Please may I remind you that any cheques should be made payable to **Thinking Schools Academy Trust**. Unfortunately we cannot accept payment by card.

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.

If your child displays covid symptoms we ask that you notify the school immediately and then seek a test. Once a test result has been received please can you forward a copy to the school for our information.

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"/"strepils" 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. ie. 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.

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.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Please may I ask that you keep the office informed 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.

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.

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.

I have noticed some children using the Equipment in the Playground at the end of the school day. Our children can play on the equipment during the day and at the beginning of the day before school starts under parent supervision. Please could I ask that **no** children use the equipment at the end of the day for health and safety reasons as there are some children in the playground unsupervised? I will be speaking to the Headteacher of the Junior School as some of these children seem to be of Junior School age. I ask parents to make sure their children do not play on this equipment.

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.

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:

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.

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

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. Please ensure that you thoroughly clean the lunch box/bag each evening. 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

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. You may have noticed that a single line has been installed outside the school. This is for use only by cars displaying disabled stickers and should NOT be used from dropping off to school. 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?

PLAYGROUND TOYS:

Playtimes will be very busy with the new Activity Playground, however it is always beneficial for the children to have books and magazines to look through together. Play toys like Garages, Forts, Castles, Dolls Houses and games are always popular with the children too. Therefore, if you have any that your children have grown out of please could you donate them to the school. They will have a very good home.

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They all coincide with Meon Junior School dates.

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Monday 4th Jan., 2021 – Safeguarding/Reading
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Friday 28th May 2021 - Curriculum

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.

However, during these unusual circumstances the gates will be opened at times appropriate to your child's arrival/collection time and we ask that you adhere to these. Thank you for your co-operation.

SCHOOL TIMES:

Please can I remind you that children should be in school by their stated times and collected at their stated times also. This should alleviate any unnecessary queuing.

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:

We are welcoming DBS checked volunteers, however until we have firm guidance you will not be able to support in the classroom but maybe assist with making resources and in areas away from the children.

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