



Newsletter

16th November, 2020

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and patience during drop off and pick up. Please could you stick to the time you have been given for your child to be dropped off/collected and maintain Social Distancing. Following the directive from Government we ask that you **MUST** now **wear a face covering (mask or visor)** when coming onto the school grounds, this is to protect others and ourselves from the virus. If you fall under the exempt category for face masks please wear a shield if possible. Just to clarify that at the current time school staff (unless preferred) and children do not have to wear a face covering, but obviously we will keep abreast and adhere to future guidance on this.

DROP OFF/COLLECTION AT HOME TIME:



I would like to thank those children who now sensibly get off their scooter or bike during drop off and pick up times. Pavements are now less congested adjacent to the queues outside the school. The areas around both schools can become congested at drop off and pick up times. Please could you drop your child off and leave the surrounding areas of both schools free.

Please can I ask if you are parents from Team **Orange**, **Blue** or **Green** could you please respect people's property and help us by queueing on the **road side** of the pavement.

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 will do everything in our power to keep our school functioning in a safe and welcoming way. I am incredibly proud of all the staff who deal with every eventuality with a smile on their face to help our wonderful children. They all arrive at school very early every morning and leave late as they are making sure everything is as good as it can be for your children.

I understand that not being able to chat to your teacher at the door isn't helpful and for us this goes against everything we believe in as we have always been welcoming to all of our community. But please feel free to ring us with any queries or worries you may have.

I can assure you that this a school full of dedicated and caring staff that would move heaven and earth for your children and they are the finest group of people I have ever worked with.

CHRISTMAS:



We want to keep Christmas as normal as possible however we also need to keep the children safe. We are looking at lots of ideas and I will send out another newsletter in a couple of weeks to share our plans.

We will be supporting the Salvation Army this Christmas by collecting Christmas presents for the needy children in Portsmouth. Please ensure your contribution is sent into school by **FRIDAY 11th DEC.** at the latest so that we can observe quarantine conditions. Please label boy/girl and age range. Thank you for your support.



ENVIRONMENTAL GARDEN:



Can I give a heartfelt thank you to Miss Brown and the parents who came in to help in the garden on 3rd November. I think you will agree a great job was well done and the children will be able to plant out their own area in the coming months. One of the lovely ladies in the group has made a post box and we are asking parents to donate flower seed packets so the children can plant them in the Spring. It will something lovely to look forward to when all of this is over.

We have quite a few black sacks filled with garden waste and are sending out a plea if any parents would be willing to either take one home to put out with their own rubbish or have the facility to collect and dispose of a number of sacks.



MICROSOFT TEAMS

I am hoping to launch this week a new communication platform, which you may be familiar with, called 'Microsoft Teams'. It will help us to all keep in contact and can be used as a teaching aid if you or your children should be isolating. A letter will be coming out soon with your child's log in and some instructions on how it can be used and accessed.

I realize we are bamboozling you with log-ins but I am sure you will understand Digital Education is becoming a huge part of life today.



OPEN SESSIONS/PARENTS MEETINGS:

Due to restrictions on gatherings we will have to change how we conduct Parents Evenings. We will be contacting you in the near future to arrange a telephone meeting.

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 CLOSURE DATES: - Reminder

Monday 4th January 2021 – Safeguarding/Reading
Monday 22nd February 2021 – Assessment
Friday 28th May 2021 – Curriculum

PARKING:

You may have noticed that there is now a single yellow line outside the school. This parking area has been put in place to help **support a child with mobility issues**, please could you **refrain** from parking in this space in the morning and in the evening. It can be used as a drop off in the morning but cannot be parked on for any period of time unless you have a Disabled Badge. I thank you for your co-operation with this.

RESOURCES:

Is there is a parent who has some free time? Mrs Lipscomb has some 'Library' jobs e.g. setting up boxes for a phonics programme. This can be done away from the children and not in the classroom. Please could you ring the office and speak to Mrs Simmons or Mrs Lipscomb to arrange a date and a time. Thank you



SCHOOL MEALS:

The new Autumn/Winter 20-21 Menu is now available to view on the website under the Parents and Community – School dinners tab www.meoninfantschool.org.uk

SEESAW:

I would like to thank you for all the hard work you are doing with your children at home on Seesaw our new on-line learning Platform. If you are having problems accessing it or indeed can view other children's profiles, please contact your child's teacher. Thank you.

However, I would like to point out that this is not a platform to discuss other issues regarding your child. If you wish to discuss anything please contact the school either by email or telephone and we will ensure the message gets to the teacher who will then respond. Thank you.

SCOOTER AND BIKE RACK

Please may I remind you that only the children in the Infant School may use the scooter and bike rack. Also please ensure scooters are parked around the mushrooms and not in the bike rack. I also ask that you are mindful of other people's equipment when storing/removing the bikes from the rack. Thank you

SUPPORTING CHARITIES:



Thank you to everyone who supported the **CHILDREN IN NEED DAY**. The school was amass with Yellow – it was wonderful. We raised £203 for the charity.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY on **Friday 11th DECEMBER** and funds raised will be given to the **SAVE THE CHILDREN** fund.

Thank you for your support.

TEAM BLUE:

Parents and Children in Team Blue may have noticed that Mrs Reid has been working in that classroom over the last couple of weeks. This is to help with the Transition to a new Teacher after Christmas.

Kind Regards

Lynda Daish

Headteacher

WEAR YOUR MASK/FACE COVERING PLEASE

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