



# Newsletter

1<sup>st</sup> December, 2020

Dear Parents,

Celebrations for the Festive period will soon be upon us and the Staff and I would like to make this time of year as normal as possible for the children.

### ADDITIONAL SAFETY:

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. To help protect the staff and keep us all healthy at this moment in time some members do have to work across bubbles. These members of staff work from a safe place in the classroom and have limited contact with the children and adults in the bubble they are working in. This happens because Teachers have half a day for 'Preparation, Planning and Assessment' and they are released to prepare for the following week. To protect these members of staff as from **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020** we will be closing the school **after Lunch Wednesdays** to pupils so that Teachers can work on Planning and the need for a member of staff to be moving across bubbles to cover them will not have to happen. I am sure you realise I have not taken this decision lightly and It is again to ensure the safety of the pupils, families and staff in our school community and reduce contamination. This will also ensure that we can keep our school open for as many children as we can for as long as we can.

As with the previous Lockdown we feel it right to offer some childcare for children where there is no other child care option for them. These could be parents who are Key Workers and we would be able to offer a small number of places but I would ask that this facility is **only** used where **absolutely necessary** as unlike last time extended family may be able to assist. Please feel free to contact the office by email or phone if you feel you are in that situation where child care is extremely difficult. We will require evidence that you are a Key worker. We will not be setting additional work for this afternoon and we would direct parents to the Homework set for the week. Please see the table below for pick up times after the children have finished their lunch:

**YEAR 1: 12.20 p.m. Year 2: 12.30 p.m. YEAR R: 12.40 p.m.**

To help with release time Mrs Priston will return to being in Team Orange on a Thursday and Friday and Mrs Phillips will be in Team Orange on Monday Tuesday and Wednesday.

I hope you can understand the need for these actions and I thank you for your continued support through these challenging times. We will be reviewing this after the Christmas holidays.

### CHARITIES:

Just a quick reminder that 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 11<sup>th</sup> DEC.** at the latest so that we can observe quarantine conditions. Please label boy/girl and age range. Thank you for your support.



**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY** on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER and funds raised will be given to:



Your child can wear a Christmas jumper with their normal school uniform. It is NOT a non uniform day  
Thank you for your support.

### DROP OFF/COLLECTION AT HOME TIME:



Thank you for your continued support and patience during drop off and pick up. 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. Everyone wants to finish the term healthy and ready for Christmas. 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. 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.

## CHRISTMAS:



### CHRISTMAS CARDS:

Your children will be allowed to bring in Christmas cards for their friends, however this will be limited to friends within their bubble only. The final date for bringing in cards will be **11<sup>th</sup> December 2020** so that they can be quarantined before they are distributed. Children must put cards in their bubble postbox and not hand out to children individually.



### CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

This will take place on **TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**. All children are invited to join the staff. If your child is usually a packed lunch but you would like them to have a lunch on that day please let their teacher know.



### CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT:

We are very fortunate that we have been able to engage ALED PRICE PRODUCTIONS who will be entertaining the children with a Christmas Performance (via Zoom). This will take place on **THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER in the morning**.



### CHRISTMAS PARTIES:



Christmas Parties will be held on the afternoon of **THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**. Please could the children arrive in school on that morning in their Party Clothes. Parties will be in the classroom and no bubbles will mix or use shared spaces. The Party food will be wrapped and put in individual bags. The bags will be kept for a quarantined period before that day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank FOMs for financing all the Christmas celebrations and for making this time special.

### SANTA'S VISIT:

Santa will be visiting as usual, but due to restrictions it will only be a flying visit !! Children will be issued with a small "gift" bag but these will be kept in the classroom and we will not be having the Grotto this year.



### CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES:

We want to keep Christmas as normal as possible however we want the children to be safe. The school will be joining together in the playground to celebrate Christmas with songs and readings. We will be recording the event and putting a link on the Website so that you can listen to it. I know this is not ideal but the safety of the Staff and children is paramount and to have an Audience would be a mistake at these times.

Some of our children from Year R took part in a Musical Celebration of Christmas. *Starshine!* will be premiering on **Friday 4 December at 10:30am** and you can watch the video on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/portsmouthmusichub](http://www.youtube.com/portsmouthmusichub)



### OPEN SESSIONS/PARENTS MEETINGS:

Thank you to all those parents who have made themselves available for these sessions Year R and Year 2 are well underway and Year 1 will take place next week. I hope you have found these sessions useful and informative.



### PARKING:



Just a reminder 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.

**SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES: - Reminder**

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



School will close at the end of term on:

**FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
at the normal allocated times.

**RESOURCES:**



Thank you to those parents who have offered to come in and support in the Library. Mrs. Lipscomb will contact you shortly. If anyone else feels they have some time to spare, please contact the school office.



**SEESAW:**



Just to remind you that if you are experiencing any problems with SEESAW or MICROSOFT TEAMS please contact your child's class teacher.

**VIRTUAL TOUR:**



We are pleased to say that the virtual tour is now available to view on our website: [www.meoninfantschool.org.uk](http://www.meoninfantschool.org.uk). It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> tab in on the menu bar. It includes a short message from Mrs. Daish and a video tour of the school.

**May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2021.**

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