



Newsletter

21st September, 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year and also mine!!

It has been an absolute pleasure to see the children settle into school so well in this new academic year having returned to some sort of normality.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new Year R children and parents to our Meon family. The Tea, Tears and Tissues meeting was very successful and has already introduced you to some housekeeping rules for school life at Meon.

I would like to wish Mrs. Daish a happy and healthy retirement and am sure she will be popping back in at some point!!

Thank you on behalf of the teachers and other staff for your generosity and thoughtfulness at the end of the summer term with the wonderful gifts and comments you gave. It is very much appreciated.

It was a sad end for Year 1 who, unfortunately, missed the last few days of the term due to isolating.

I am overwhelmed by the kindness you have shown me in my first couple of weeks as Acting Head and I look forward to meeting you all at some point.

<p> AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS:</p> <p>After School Clubs will start up again after the half term holiday. We are hoping to arrange football, cookery, Spanish, Dance and anything else we can sort. More information will be sent out later when dates have been organized. Yoga is currently taking place and this is by invitation only. I am sure later in the year most children will have the opportunity to attend.</p>	<p> ASSEMBLIES:</p> <p>Assemblies have, hopefully, returned to normal now and are being held mostly in the hall. There is a weekly assembly led by Mrs. Nickerson and one by Mrs. Thripp (SENCO) as well as a “celebration assembly” on a Friday.</p> <p>The school has contacted ‘Portsmouth Food Bank’ as this is the charity we normally support during Harvest in the Autumn Term. More details will be sent out later.</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES</p> <p></p> <p>We are hopeful that these will take place this year. They will be held at St. James Church on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th December (mark the date in your diary). Again more information will be sent out nearer the time. It is with great sadness that we have learned that Father Paul is leaving to take up a new Parish in Chichester. Father Hugo will be taking his place and we are hoping he will visit the school in the near future.</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>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> CONTACT FORMS/ DATA SHEETS:</p> <p>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</p>	<p> ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:</p> <p>Please see attached information that is ongoing.</p> <p>Please keep this as it alleviates me having to report it on every newsletter but it is always relevant. Thank you.</p>	

FLU VACCINATION:

We will be supporting the NHS Solent Trust programme for flu vaccinations taking part this term (16th December). A letter, information brochure and consent form will be sent out nearer the time. **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) – our parents' support group - will be meeting shortly to try and organize events for later this term. A letter will be sent out when plans have been finalized. If you would like to become involved with FOMS please see Mrs. Kingsbury (Purple Class TA) who will give you more information. Thank you for your support in this. A huge thanks you from everyone at Meon Infants for FOMS continued efforts as without this we would not be able to have the little 'extras' for the children.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

The school photographer will be taking individual photographs during the morning of **WEDNESDAY 17th NOVEMBER**. Junior school and/or preschool siblings will be invited. A letter will be sent out nearer the time. Please indicate on the slip if you wish siblings to attend (with class name/no. (if appropriate)). I have been assured they will be back in time for Christmas. 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**. Please make a note of this number as some parents do not recognize it and therefore do not answer and the call could be of importance!

OPEN EVENINGS/PARENT SESSIONS:



This term we will be holding informal "Get to know the Teacher/settling in" meetings. These will be held on 5th and 7th Oct. and will be for Year 1 and Year 2 parents only. A letter has been sent out asking for your preferred time slots. Please ensure this is returned as soon as possible. Thank you

PARKING:



Please may I remind you 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.

Friday 22nd October 2021
Friday 3rd December, 2021
Monday 4th January, 2022
Friday 18th February, 2022
Friday 1st July, 2022



SCHOOL COMMUNICATION:



We will, where possible, continue to communicate with you via either a text or email (My Ed) and ask that you check your emails frequently for any new ones. May I also ask that you keep us updated of any change of either e mail address or telephone number. Thank you.

We are trying to minimize paper copies and so letters, forms and other information will continue to be sent through electronically. Any response should be sent to office@meoninfantschool.org.uk as the office are unable to access responses via either ps connect or My Ed.

SCHOOL MEALS:



Chartwells continue to provide school meals for the children. We now have more choices. Unfortunately there are no paper copies of the menu but it can be viewed on our website:

www.meoninfantschool.org.uk or viewed in the hall door window. 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 TIMES:

As you know the school times have reverted to 8.50 a.m. drop off and 3.20 collection for all the year groups. The gates are opened at **8.40 a.m.** and we ask that you stay with your child until the teacher opens the classroom door. 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. Please check you have the correct scooter as we are still missing one. May I ask that you label your child's scooter in some way so we can identify it easily. Thank you.

SEESAW:

Seesaw will continue as our Online Learning Program; We will be using it for you to access homework and for Year R children to form part of their Learning Journeys.

**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.

UNIFORM:

Please may I ask that you ensure your child's uniform is **labelled**, including P.E. kits. It is sad that we acquire so many unnamed items which we cannot return to their owners.

As you are aware we are running down our supply of uniform held in school. However, we do ask that you come and check in the office before ordering directly from Hargreaves. Order forms are available in the school office.

VOLUNTEER HELPERS:

We are welcoming DBS checked volunteers, either to work in the classrooms or by helping make resources/library. DBS checks can be undertaken through school. Please see your child's class teacher or the office staff if you would like to volunteer.

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

Kind Regards

Karen Morey

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		
Wed. 29 th	a.m.	YR Photos – The News
	p.m.	Author Visit – Year 1 and Year 2 (£6 required if your child wishes to purchase a book)
OCTOBER		
Tues. 5 th	p.m.	PARENTS' EVENING (1)
Thur. 7 th	p.m.	PARENT'S EVENING (2)
Fri. 22 nd	ALL DAY	NO SCHOOL (INSET DAY)
Mon. 25 th – Fri 29 th	ALL WEEK	HALF TERM
NOVEMBER		
Wed. 17 th	a.m.	INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS –SIBLINGS invited
Fri. 19 th	ALL DAY	NON UNIFORM DAY – Items for Christmas Fayre
Thur. 25 th	p.m.	FOMS CHRISTMAS FAYRE
DECEMBER		
Fri 3 rd	ALL DAY	NO SCHOOL (INSET DAY)
Fri. 10 th	ALL DAY	CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY – Information to follow
Mon. 13 th	2.00 p.m.	CHRISTMAS CONCERT – ST . JAMES' CHURCH
Tues. 14 th	2.00 p.m.	CHRISTMAS CONCERT – ST. JAMES' CHURCH
Thur. 16 th	p.m.	CHRISTMAS PARTIES
Fri. 17 th	3.20 p.m.	END OF TERM
JANUARY 2021		
Tues. 4 th	ALL DAY	NO SCHOOL - INSET TRAINING
Wed. 5 th	8.50 a.m.	SPRING TERM START



MEON INFANT SCHOOL

Leaping Forward Together

Newsletter

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Please may I ask that you keep this attached sheet for future reference

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. Non reporting of absence will be followed up with a letter which will require an explanation.

COVID

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. Children should attend school if another member of the household has tested positive, unless they are showing symptoms themselves.

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:

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.

LOST ROPERTY:

If your child is missing any items please can you check with the class teacher initially and then the box which is located in the Medical room/toilet 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 (when we get our new one!) 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/menu for your information. We continue to use MyEd (PS Connect) to communicate with parents.

We also have a Facebook page and are hoping to be able to put more information up on that in the near future.

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, which is currently being updated, 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?

SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES (INSET):

They all coincide with Meon Junior School dates.

Friday 22nd October 2021
Friday 3rd December, 2021
Monday 4th January, 2022
Friday 18th February, 2022
Friday 1st July, 2022

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.

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, either to work in the classrooms or by helping make resources/library. DBS checks can be undertaken through school. Please see your child’s class teacher or the office staff if you would like to volunteer.

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