



## Meon Junior School Newsletter

YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO THE SCHOOL NEWS, INFORMATION AND EVENTS.

Welcome to our July newsletter which will keep you informed of important success stories, school events and ways in which we can work together to ensure the best for our children.

Dear Parents/Carers,

It hardly seems possible that we have only two days until the end of term! The summer term has been very busy and the staff and children have worked very hard. It is now time to say a sad farewell to our Year 6 children who are moving on to the next exciting phase in their education. We wish them lots of luck in their new schools and every success for the future.

There are many exciting changes being implemented for September and these are outlined in this newsletter.

Thank you for continued support.

*Luke Hanna*

Luke Hanna

### Our Curriculum

Our aim is to immerse the children in a curriculum that is exciting, creative and relevant. High standards in English, Mathematics, Science and ICT are vital in our school along with a strong emphasis on History, Geography, RE, Physical Education and the arts. Therefore, the teachers at Meon are implementing carefully planned cross-curricular projects. Children will be able to apply the knowledge and skills learned in one subject in a range of contexts which will reinforce their learning and increase their understanding, independence, confidence and love of learning.

In the 21st century, mastery of the basic skills, such as reading, writing and maths is critical, but not enough. We face a tremendous increase of readily available information with new technologies that are constantly changing. To be competitive in the workplace our pupils will need to be:

- Critical thinkers and problem solvers
- Communicators and team workers
- Analysers and designers
- Innovators and entrepreneurs
- Confident workers and leaders

Knowing this, we must develop new ways to motivate and teach this generation; our pupils need rich educational opportunities that will equip them to be life-long learners, productive workers and active citizens. No matter the year group or subject area, real world relevance in learning is critical. The experience of thousands of teachers across the world, backed by research, confirms that Project Based Learning helps pupils flourish and progress. The content is rigorous and the nature of the projects help students develop those skills that they will need to be prepared for the world beyond school. Each project will involve contact with a public audience, stretching beyond the direct school community, as a means of sharing the project outcomes.

In our project based curriculum, pupils are active and take charge of their learning, in group based scenarios. By making learning relevant to them in this way, pupils see a purpose for mastering National Curriculum skills and content concepts. We look forward to sharing our projects with you.

### Whole school projects for the coming year

#### Autumn Term

#### **The Meon Gallery - arts focus (10 week project)**

*How can pupils at Meon plan, design and run an art gallery for the residents of Portsmouth?*

#### Spring Term

#### **City of the Future - humanities focus (10 week project)**

*How can Portsmouth change as a city to cope with the demands of the future?*

#### Summer Term

#### **World Community - citizenship focus (10 week project)**

*How can we explore different communities across the world and share our findings*

A planning overview for our first project, 'The Meon Gallery' is attached to the newsletter with a sheet for your child to complete and return so that we can build in some of their ideas as the project progresses. Teaching for 'The Meon Gallery' will begin after the first two weeks at school.



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Headteacher: Mr Luke Hanna BA (Hons) NPQH

## Changes to the staffing structure

From September, alterations are being implemented to our existing staffing structure to reflect the development of the school. At the end of my first year at Meon Junior School, I feel the time is right to add additional capacity into our leadership structure.

The new academic year will see a new leadership structure. Christine Turner will remain as the Deputy Headteacher and will be supported by two Phase Leaders, one for Lower School (Years 3 and 4) and one for Upper School (Years 5 and 6). Mr Ben Esposito will be Phase Leader for the Lower School and Mrs Jo McKenna-Aspell will be Phase Leader for the Upper School.



Mr Ben Esposito  
(Lower School Lead)



Mrs Jo McKenna-Aspell  
(Upper School Lead)

So how will this affect parents/carers? To a large extent it won't. If you have an issue relating to your child's education, the first port of call will remain their class teacher. We have parent consultations twice a year but additional meetings can be arranged through the school office if requested. If a concern remains, however, parents can approach the Phase Leaders as the next port of call.

The Phase Leaders will have an oversight of the teaching and learning and will also closely monitor behaviour across their Phase. The Phase Leaders will support myself and Miss Turner with the day to day running of the school, which will be invaluable as the school grows. Mr Bayliss will take charge of pastoral care: line managing the SENCO and her team, and developing pupil voice and engagement.

I am not going anywhere and will still be available, but the additional leadership capacity will improve effectiveness and ensure that matters are addressed by the appropriate personnel to develop communication across the school.

## Home/School communication

To further improve lines of communication between home and school the following changes will be implemented from September.

- All letters will be issued on a Friday so that parents know when to look out for communication. They will also be available on our website.
- Yearly and termly calendars will be issued to help parents plan ahead for key events (you will find the outline for the year ahead attached).
- A new Meon Junior School app is available to download. This provides information from the website in a scaled down version for smartphones. When downloading, please allow push notifications to receive reminders and notices. The app can be downloaded from the Android or Apple store by searching 'Meon Junior School'.
- The school website will continue to be a primary source of information.



## School day

Just to remind parents that our school day starts at 8.50 with our gates open to pupils at 8.35 am. It is important for your child to be in school, ready to learn on time as the first session of the day begins. Being persistently late can have a negative effect upon your child's learning and can result in action by Portsmouth City Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that it is vital to make an appointment to see a member of teaching staff as they are unable to leave a class unattended at the start of the day to see a parent without prior appointment.

The Infant School have asked us to remind parents who are accompanying children on the Infant school playground at the end of the school day, that children must stand with a parent and are expected to behave appropriately.

## Uniform

Children are expected to wear Meon Junior School uniform at all times during the school year. The uniform has been kept very simple and inexpensive so that it is easy to find and buy. Parents are expected to send their children into school correctly dressed, in clean uniform, and we ask that you inform us by telephone or in writing if for any reason the appropriate school uniform cannot be worn. We do recognise that there may be difficulties, if these occur, please contact the Phase Leaders who will be happy to discuss solutions. Alternatively, good quality, clean second-hand uniform can be purchased via FOMS - ask for details in the school office. Fleeces, cardigans, jumpers, polo shirts and reversible fleeces all marked with school logo are available at Hargreaves, Aspen House, Airport Services Road, PO3 5RA. Tel: 023 9282 2436. We are also able to order non-logoed school jumpers via ASDA Direct through the school office.

**Boys:** grey trousers. White shirt or polo shirt. Maroon jumper, cardigan or fleece. In early autumn and summer the boys may wear grey shorts.

**Girls:** grey skirt or grey pinafore dress or grey trousers. White blouse or polo shirt. Maroon cardigan, jumper or fleece. In warmer weather, a red gingham check dress may be worn.

**Shoes:** suitable school uniform shoes are black shoes or completely black trainers (including black trims) and must be practical for school use (no open toes, high heels or sling backs).

Please note : No make up (including nail varnish) should be worn and hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back for school.

**PE kit** - all children require grey / black / maroon shorts or grey / black tracksuit bottoms and a white t-shirt, as well as PE shoes.

When a child is not wearing school uniform, a slip will be issued so that you are made aware and we may lend correct uniform to a child until an alternative is provided.

## School Dinners

I would like to remind parents that if they have not already done so, to please register on the [www.feedinghungryminds.co.uk](http://www.feedinghungryminds.co.uk) website in order to pay online for your child's meals.

Additionally, all new parents, whose children will join us in September, are also encouraged to register themselves on the website, so that all is set up ready for them for when the new school year starts.

Furthermore, as from September 2016, the school will operate a no credit policy, and all meals ordered will thus need to be paid for using the online facility (minimum payment is £10.00 online). Should meals taken, reach the £10.00 limit without any payment made, then your child's account will be frozen until full payment is made, and a packed lunch would need to be supplied for your child.

## Early Bird Reading

Parents are invited to come into school every morning when the gates open at 8.35am to read with their children for 15-20 minutes. The class teacher will be on hand to support and advise where necessary. Children who wish to come in before school to read silently by themselves are also very welcome to do so.

## Meon Summer Reading Challenge

We want the children and staff to get caught reading over the summer.

Get someone to take a photograph of you reading somewhere unusual and send it to Mrs O'Nion at [enquiries@meon-jun.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@meon-jun.portsmouth.sch.uk)



Parents – catch your children reading in unusual places, for example in a laundry basket or up a tree and be as creative as you can. Photos will be displayed in school library for all to see!

Winners and two runners up will be selected at the start of the new term.

You could win a £10 Waterstones voucher!



A few weeks ago Libby Hester and Amelia Hodgkins 3DL took part in a football trial for Southampton ladies. We both made it through to the final and we played 3 long matches. During the trials, we did lots of stretches, passing, a speed test and an agility test and then played some matches. Libby got into the Southampton team and Amelia got into Reading. We now both play for an academy and have a one year contract.



On the 9th July 2016 Imogen Maggs, Tianna Greville and Alyssa Krycler took part in a show at the New Theatre Royal called Moving On. We were part of Pete's Dragon, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory as well as other numbers. We had been practising for nearly a year and finally the big day had come, but on the day it was all a big rush because it was really exciting and we had lots of quick costume changes as well as tears backstage. At the end, all of us got a big shock because it poured with indoor fireworks and we all screamed with joy.



If you have any news items about your activities or holidays over the summer and you would like them included in our newsletter at the beginning of next term, please give them to Mr Bayliss who will do his best to include as many as he can.



## Sports Day

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June, the most competitive event of the year took place. At approximately 9.10am, the whole school vacated the premises to visit St James Field. Once there, Alliance, Mary Rose, Victory and Warrior were separated into their individual areas. Many races were completed, including: Sprint, Sack Race, the Ball and Spoon, Fun Run, Skipping and the relays. The houses went wild as they cheered for their teams. Towards the end of the morning, to cap a great competition, we had a dad's race, a mum's race, a teacher's race and even a toddler's race. Sports Day was a huge success with Warrior winning, followed by Victory, Alliance and Mary Rose. It was a fabulous day! A big thank you to all the parents who attended.



## Year 3 Marwell

Year 3 went to Marwell Zoo on Friday for our school trip. We were looking at the enclosures to see if they were suitable for the animals and how we could improve them. We looked at all the enclosures but we thought the giraffe enclosure was the best because they had lots of space to run around. Afterwards, we went to a workshop and learnt about some animals. We saw and touched a rat and a Madagascan Hissing Cockroach which were really interesting. There were some animal skins on the ground which had been brought back by tourists including a piranha, turtle and some wild cats. There was a massive snake skin that looked like a python. We all had an exciting day.

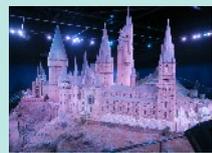


Fred and Samuel

## Year 4 Harry Potter Studios

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, Year 4 travelled to the magical universe of Harry Potter. Although it took two hours to get there, J K Rowling's wonderful creation was definitely worth the long journey. It was fantastic. From the grandeur of the Great Hall to the eerie magic of Hogwart's Castle, it was a magical day. Among the many superb attractions, everyone loved the walk down Diagon Alley and enjoyed the visit to Number 3 Privett Drive. It was a day we will never forget and cannot wait to visit again.

Inigo and Louisa



## Hampshire games

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of June, the Year 3 and 4 Tennis Team travelled to Aldershot to represent Portsmouth in the Hampshire Games. After an Olympic style opening ceremony in the main sports arena, we headed over to the Tennis Centre to compete in the Hampshire finals. We were up against fifteen other schools from across the county in a series of group stages. Although we didn't place, we had an amazing day and everyone played really well, honouring the games ethics of honesty, teamwork, respect, self belief, passion and determination.

In the afternoon, we visited the Military Fair and took part in some exciting activities.

We would really like to thank Lauren Collier's Grandparents for travelling all the way to Aldershot to support us for the day. It was greatly appreciated.

Lauren Collier, Cianna Preston, Harry Jackson and Savva Sujetov



## Rock Steady Assembly

A huge well done to all the children who took part in the Rock Steady assembly on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July. The whole school was thoroughly entertained by their fantastic display of musical skill. Performing in front of a live audience with a band is not easy. Playing a range of instruments (guitar, keyboard, drums and vocals), their performances were superb. Also, a big thank you to all the parents who attended and to Luke, the Rock Steady teacher, for his tremendous enthusiasm, musical and song arranging skills.

A huge thank you to FOMS for their incredible hard work this year. This term, they have raised £96 selling drinks at Sport's Day, £500 from the Summer Fayre and a fantastic £600 from the years 3, 4 and 5 Summer Party. This will be of tremendous benefit for all the children in the school.

