

November 2016



Meon Junior School Newsletter

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

Welcome to our November 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,

Thank you for your support during the first term. It has been a busy and productive time for all. It was good to see so many of you at parents' evening and we thank you for your positive comments. I hope you had a chance to meet your child's teacher and discuss achievement and progress so far this academic year.

Within school, all staff have been working hard to adapt the curriculum to ensure the learning we offer is engaging, motivating and raises standards. Our first whole school project has gone well and the children have been excited to learn about different artists, produce their own artwork and prepare for our gallery exhibition at The Pyramids. We cannot wait to share our work with you.

With Christmas fast approaching, we are looking ahead to our projects for the New Year. For the coming term each year group has chosen their own project title. If you have time to discuss these with your child or read anything related to the project, this would be a huge help.

Year 3 – How can we teach others about mountains, coasts and rivers in a fun and interesting way?

Year 4 – How can we persuade others to protect the rainforests?

Year 5 – How can pupils at Meon educate the local community about cultures from around the world?

Year 6 – Can we plan & host a VE Day party to share what we have learned about the Battle of Britain?

At the end of term, two members of teaching staff will be leaving the team at Meon to pursue other adventures. Mel Kelly has been a member of the staff team for over 17 years, teaching many pupils over her time at the school and has pushed forward the arts provision offered, she will be missed for her creative flare and vast experience. Katie Lamsdale joined the team in 2008 as a teaching assistant. After completing her teacher training, she returned as a class teacher. Katie will be missed for her calm nature, creativity and manner with the children. We wish them both the best for the future. From January, Mel Kelly will be replaced by Anna Oliver, an experienced Junior School teacher and Katie Lamsdale by Deborah King, who is also an experienced teacher with specialisms in languages and arts.

Thank you again for all your support over the term. Have a restful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Luke Hanna

Christmas Carol Service

We are delighted to announce we will be holding a carol service on Wednesday 14th December at 2.45pm. Everyone is warmly invited. The service will take place in the playground, so make sure you wrap up warmly. We look forward to seeing you on the day!



Christmas Festive Fete

Our Christmas Festive Fete will take place on Tuesday 13th December, 3.15pm - 4.30pm, in the school hall. If anyone could donate teddies or raffle prizes, these will be gratefully accepted in the school office. Any cake donations would also be gratefully received. These can be brought in on 12th or 13th December.

Miss Merewood will be in the playground on Friday 9th December, 8.45 - 9.15am selling raffle tickets.

FOMs are always looking for new members so, if you have some time to spare, and would like to make a really valuable contribution to the life of the school, details are available in the school office.



Tel: 02392 732844

email: enquiries@meon-jun.portsmouth.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Luke Hanna BA (Hons) NPQH

New PE Studio

We are about to undertake an exciting project to turn our old music room into a new PE studio, which will enable us to increase the opportunities for pupils to take part in sports and exercise, especially in wet weather. The room was originally an old science block and we have been able to recycle some of the old science lab furniture with a local café. In exchange, the café owner, who is a well known local artist, will be carrying out a street art workshop with some of our older pupils at the end of this term. We hope we will be able to launch the new studio in the middle of the spring term - more news to follow.

Newsletter

Please note a version of the newsletter is always available on the school website in glorious colour.

Children, do you have any items about your out of school activities or achievements you would like included in our December newsletter,? If so, please give them to Mr Bayliss who will do his best to include as many as he can.

Lego league 2017

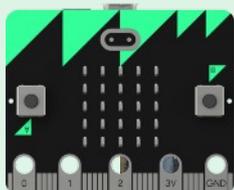
In year 6, ten children have been selected to be in the First Lego League Challenge Team for 2017. These children are: Lucy, Lydia, Paige, Estelle, Emily, Darcy, Bertie, Max, Ben & Beau. The First Lego League is a competition where schools gather together to do loads of fun activities. The activities include: a presentation, a team challenge and missions where you have to program your robot to carry out specific tasks. The event will happen on Friday 6th January 2017 at Portsmouth University. If we get through that, we would go to a UK wide competition. If we win that we would go to the world competition in America. **We can't wait!**



By Estelle Hobbins

Micro:bits

In year 6, we have been programming and running micro:bits which are small computer-like machines. We have been using Windows Block Editor to program our micro:bits to show numbers, faces and strings of characters on its front lights, known as LEDs. We are learning how to write programs to make games next week in our Computing lesson which will use the two buttons on the front and the pins too. Micro:bits are used to help children in schools learn how to program something efficiently.



By Eddie Frazer 6M

Mini Steel Pan Workshop

On Thursday 24th November, Year 5 participated in a Mini Steel Pan Workshop. We learned all about how Steel Pans are made and played. We also learned to play scales, melodies and baselines. Singing and playing at the same time was tricky but we got the hang of it!



Cookery Club

Thought the Great British Bake Off was exciting? Well, you should see the culinary fun and games taking place in Meon Junior's Great British Cookery Club. Pizzas, Rock Cakes, M & M Cookies, Breakfast Brownies and Rocky Road Tray Bakes are just some of the delights the children have cooked up.



Children in Need Day

A huge thank you for your incredible generosity on Children in Need Day. Everyone looked great in their spotty gear and the final amount banked for this extremely worthwhile charity was well over £200.

Dates for your diary

DECEMBER

- 2nd December 2016 Art Gallery @ Pyramids
- 13th December 2016 Festive Fete - FOMs
- 14th December 2016 Children's Christmas Dinner
CAROL SERVICE
- 16th December 2016 NON UNIFORM
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY
Break up for Christmas

JANUARY

- 3rd January 2017 Start of Spring term

School App

Please remember we now have a school app for your smartphone. This is easy to download from your App Store and will enable you to receive instant push notifications with the school information that's important to you.

