

## Welcome to our first newsletter of the year!

Regular newsletters are issued to keep you informed of important success stories, school events and ways in which we can work together to ensure the best for our children.



## Newsletter, September 2016

Welcome back! On behalf of all the staff at Meon Junior School, I am happy to welcome you to the 2016-17 school year! We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognise that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education and we look forward to working together over the coming year. *Luke Hanna (Headteacher)*

### Reading

As we embark on a new academic year, we are keen to explain some of the developments we are making to reading at Meon. Your child has been issued with a new Reading Passport, to replace the old Reading Records, to help celebrate all reading successes across the school year. The passports were explained in class this week so that children are becoming familiar with how to use them.

During library sessions, children will choose two library books from within the correct range for their reading level; this will be determined by an Accelerated Reader Star Test which children take at the start of each term. Children should bring one book home to read and keep the other at school for our new, daily reading slot: DEAR (drop everything and read!).

In the passport, the pages headed *Home Reader* are dedicated to the books your child will be reading at home. Our expectation is that for each home reader, your child should aim to read aloud to an adult at least twice if the book is short and even more than that for longer books! Please also encourage your child to fill in the *Home Reader* page for each new book brought home. There are spaces for children to keep a record of the title, author, level, start date and end date; also, they can make a comment about the book and review or rate it. Please see your child's teacher if you'd like more guidance on using the *Home Reader* pages.

By the end of September, your child's teacher will set a personal reading target and this will also be recorded in the passport. By sharing this target with your child, yourself, the teacher and the class TA, we hope to open up a greater dialogue about your child's reading skills and habits.

At the back of the passport, children will find an additional Book Bingo challenge. This will run across the whole year and children who successfully complete the Book Bingo challenge will be rewarded in July.

Children should keep their Reading Passports safe and bring them to school each day as they will be widely used this year. If a Reading Passport is lost, you will be asked to pay £1 towards the cost of a replacement.

As many of you are aware, we use Accelerated Reader at Meon; it is a computer program that helps school staff monitor and support children's independent reading practice within levels. The levels indicate the degree of difficulty in terms of vocabulary, sentencings and structure. When children finish their books, they will take a short quiz on the computer. The quiz results indicate comprehension and help staff to support or redirect reading practices. Pupils will be rewarded for quizzing on their finished books and for passing the quizzes. We have reorganised and refreshed our library stock; all of our library books are now linked to Accelerated Reader Quiz. You can use [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) to check whether the books you have at home have an Accelerated Reader quiz available and whether they are a suitable level for your child.

If you have any questions about reading, the library, Accelerated Reader or the Reading Passports, do please speak to your child's class teacher or make an appointment to see me on a Wednesday.

Becky O'Nion (School Librarian)

Tel: 02392 732844, Fax: 02392 772030, e.mail: [enquiries@meon-jun.portsmouth.ch.uk](mailto:enquiries@meon-jun.portsmouth.ch.uk)

[www.meon-jun.portsmouth.sch.uk](http://www.meon-jun.portsmouth.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr L Hanna B.A (Hons), QTS, NPQH



### Autumn Term - The Meon Gallery - arts focus

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

This project will run over 10 weeks of the Autumn term and involves children planning, designing and running an art gallery for our local community. During the 10 weeks all children will visit a gallery, study a famous artist, work with a local artist and produce work for their own gallery.

This is a really exciting project that will involve every child across the school. Please keep the afternoon of Friday 2nd December free to visit our gallery (venue to be announced)

*If you have skills or time you could offer to help during this project we would love to hear from you.*

### Staffing

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 or make an appointment to see 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.

Lower School Phase Lead - Mr Ben Esposito

Upper School Phase Lead - Mrs Jo McKenna

### Communication

● 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.

● 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

[www.meon-jun.portsmouth.sch.uk](http://www.meon-jun.portsmouth.sch.uk)

### Basic skills

Reading, spelling and multiplication tables form a large part of the National Curriculum and are an essential tool which support all work in Maths and English.

To reinforce these skills we have now allocated time slots each day in which they will be covered. This means your child will participate in 15 minutes spelling, 15 minutes times tables and 20 minutes independent reading each day.

We ask that you guide and support your child's learning and in particular the basic skills by ensuring that your child:

- attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience
- completes all homework assignments (tables and spellings) given by teachers
- reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school

*Children need to now show that they are able to recall all multiplication tables at good speed in a variety of ways; therefore your child may start the year at a point they are already comfortable with to build both speed and confidence before moving on.*

### Uniform

Just a note to remind all parents that correct school uniform should be worn at all times. The uniform is designed to create an ethos in which everyone comes to school looking the same and fashion and branding is put aside. The school uniform is as follows:

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, grey trousers or grey pinafore dress; white blouse or polo shirt; maroon cardigan, jumper or fleece. In early autumn and summer, a red gingham check dress may be worn.

School uniform can be purchased at a variety of supermarkets and Matalan. Uniform with logos from Hargreaves (Airport Services Road, Tel: 023 9282 2436).

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

