



# Meon Junior School Newsletter

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

Welcome to our February 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,

What an exciting half term we have had so far. Even though it has been short, we have packed in a huge amount of learning experiences.

Year 3 have travelled back to the Stone Age and made cave man drawings and 'Stone Aged Fruit Stew'. Year 4 children told me they have enjoyed learning about fractions in maths and writing about their Greek Mythical creatures. In Year 5, the children have had great fun making board games based on their reading of 'Jumanji'. Finally, the pupils in Year 6 have told me how much they have enjoyed the challenging learning as they prepare for their SATs and writing diary entries using the context of 'The Highwayman'. In particular, Year 6 have had a great time doing PE in the park on a Friday as a reward for all their hard work and effort.

I really look forward to seeing what is in store next half term!

Yours sincerely

*Sara Paine*



First Lego League Team, Year 6

As you are probably already aware the Year 6 robotic programming team have already won the regional competition at Portsmouth University and are through (for the third year running) to the UK and Ireland National Final which is being held at the University of the West of England in Bristol on Saturday 24th February. In order to raise money for the transport costs to Bristol, the children ran a cake sale in morning break on Wednesday 31st January. They raised a massive £216.84! However, without the fantastic support of the Meon Junior School community this would not have been possible. The Lego team (known as the 'Water Warriors') would like to thank everyone who either contributed by either making and donating cakes or by buying them!

We wish the Water Warriors all the very best for the final and look forward to hearing how they get on.

## Guy Bass Author Visit

This Wednesday, children's award winning author Guy Bass visited Meon Junior to meet and talk to the year 3 and 4 children. Guy has written the very popular 'Spynosaur', 'Legend of Frog', 'Stitch Head', 'Atomic' and 'Dinkin' Dings' series. Guy thoroughly entertained the children with tales of his childhood, his early inspirations for writing and extracts from his books. He left the children feeling truly inspired to read and to write. Not only was his presentation fantastic but he then spent over an hour signing and illustrating every book with humour and a smile on his face. In the words of the children, "He was awesome!"



**Year 3 Stone Age Stewed Fruit**



Year 3 decided they wanted to try some stone age food. As we couldn't find any deer to hunt, we decided to make some stone age stewed fruit instead. We followed the instructions carefully, although we did have to change some of the ingredients because we are a nut free school. We had a fabulous time and at the end of the day, we all had a pot of our delicious stew to take home.

**Reading**



Reading is a great activity to share with a family member. Just make sure you have your reading glasses handy if you need them.

Don't forget the library is open at breaktimes, lunch-times and after school for when you need to change your school reading book.

**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 next newsletter? If so, please give them to Mr Bayliss who will do his best to include as many as he can.

**BBFC**

On the 22nd of January, Year 5 had a film talk with Heidi, (from BBFC), about age classification on movies. The children got to learn how age classifications were made, and why they were important. The talk consisted of Heidi showing all of the age ratings, and she had the children guess which types of movies fit into that category. Then, they got shown clips, and had to guess which age group the films fit into. The children had this talk because of their current topic, Jumanji, (which has 2 films.) The children really enjoyed the experience and were intrigued about the job itself.



Vicky Tencheva

**Dancing and Cheerleading Competition**

We are all in a cheerleading team called Portsmouth Warriors. We competed on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017 in Colchester at The Winter Wonderland Future Cheer Competition. Our cheerleading and dance team Spartans came fourth with zero deductions. Freya and Sophia's level 1 stunt team came first with zero deductions. Eva's level 2 stunt team came second with zero deductions. We had all had a great time.



Eva Welch (5W), Freya Cruikshank (4P) and Sophia Welch (3E)

**Greek Day**

On the 15th January 2018, Year 4's Greek day was incredibly fantastic. All of the year 4's had a fabulous time full of laughter and joy. As we strongly believe that this fantastic Greek Day was an absolute success, full of a mix of fun and learning opportunities, we feel that we should have many more days like this around the school in the future. We really enjoyed getting to experience these wonderful activities such as: theatre research, Olympic sports and making a tzatziki dip from scratch. We hope you agree about having more days like this around school because it is a fun enjoyable way of learning. It was also a fresh way of coming back to school after the weekend dressed in Ancient Greek costumes. Therefore, we thank our magnificent head -teacher and teachers for hosting this memorable Greek Day.



Ariela , Molly and Macey

**Friendship Day, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

I am Alyssa, I have made quite a few friends in Meon Junior School. My friends have helped me get through any tough times. These friends are called Dolly, Daisy, Lola, Bethany and Leila. Meon Junior is a very supporting school. Anything inside school or out they help you stand up for yourself and improve your bravery skills. Some of my friends have had times where they have had break up with other friends, but with the things they learn during class, they have come together pretty quickly!

**WE LOVE THIS SCHOOL!!!**

By Alyssa K and Dolly G  
5B and 5S



**VACANCY FOR LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR  
PLEASE ENQUIRE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE  
FOR JOB DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION  
FORM**

**1 HOUR 5 MINUTES PER DAY  
MONDAY – FRIDAY**

**CLOSING DATE:**

**WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

**Dance Competition**

On the 27th of January I went to a dance competition. This was no ordinary competition this was a qualifier street dance competition. If you were in the advanced category and you reached the end; won a trophy, then you would get to go to the European Championships in Germany. I will be going to Germany. I won one trophy and two medals. The metallic silver trophy is for fourth in my pairs. Even though we didn't come first we still qualified. The medals are for 1st in my small group and 1st in my team. Along with the medals, we also won a huge trophy that is at my dads dance studio -TMI-

By Layla Smith 5W.

**Drum Club Assembly**

On Friday we performed a Drum Club Assembly, showing years 3, 4 and 5 what we had learned. Maggie, Olivia, Lola, Alfie and myself took part. As we took turns, everyone cheered and clapped wildly. Lastly, Mr Bayliss entertained the children with some really talented rhythms. Even though it was nerve racking, we all gave it our best try. It was a great experience.



Peaches Davies

**E-Safety**



On Wednesday 28th February, Ollie Barron, a Family Support Worker with Parent Zone will be coming to Meon Junior School to talk to parents about keeping their children safe online. The session will run from 9 - 9.45am in the School Hall. Your child will be bringing a letter home soon with a reply slip so make sure you book your place!

Ollie Barron will also be running a session for the children in years 4, 5 and 6 in the School Hall later in the morning.

On Thursday 1st February, 30 of us were lucky enough to be invited to Milton Park Primary school to participate in a music festival, celebrating music from around the world. Along with a few other schools, our school listened and learned some songs from different countries. Our favourite part of the morning was when we learnt how to sing a Latin-American song (including speaking some tricky foreign words) incorporating some salsa type moves and accompanying the lively Cuban music with instruments. Unfortunately, the music festival was only 75 minutes long so it ended too soon but we really enjoyed our morning. Thank you to Milton Park for inviting us and for the Portsmouth Music Service for putting it on.



Year 6

**Dates for your diary**

**FEBRUARY**

9<sup>th</sup> February 2.15pm Year 5 open afternoon

NON UNIFORM

Break up for half term

19<sup>th</sup> February INSET

20<sup>th</sup> February Return to school

21<sup>st</sup> February Friendship Disco - LS 3.30 - 5pm US 5.30 - 7pm

22<sup>nd</sup> February Y5/6 Literature Quiz @ Pyramids

24<sup>th</sup> February Lego competition at Bristol

**MARCH**

1<sup>st</sup> March World Book Day (more details to follow)

8<sup>th</sup> March Y4 Rainforest Visit

19<sup>th</sup> March 3.30 - 5pm Y6 Formal Parents' Evening

20<sup>th</sup> March Book Fair in school

3.30 - 6pm Y6 Formal Parents' Evening

23<sup>rd</sup> March Y5 Chichester Planetarium

26<sup>th</sup> March 3.30 - 5pm Y3,4,5 Informal Parents' Evening

27<sup>th</sup> March 3.30 - 6pm Y3,4,5 Informal Parents' Evening

29<sup>th</sup> March NON UNIFORM

Break up for Easter

**APRIL**

16<sup>th</sup> April Start of Summer term



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Headteacher: Mrs Sara Paine MA NPQH**

# Attendance News

Legally, all children of compulsory school age must be in receipt of full time education. Under section 444 of the Education Act 1996, parents of a child of compulsory school age are under a legal duty to ensure the regular attendance and prompt punctuality, of that child at school.

School gates open at 8.40am and class registration is at 8.50am. Please ensure that your child attends school every day in time for registration. Children who arrive after the gates have closed, will need to sign in via the office. **Any child arriving after the close of registration at 9.05am will be recorded as 'U' which is equivalent to an absence for that session.** Unauthorised and persistent lateness may result in a fixed penalty notice or prosecution.



## Current Year Attendance Percentages

Group	% Attendance
Year 3	95.71
Year 4	94.96
Year 5	95.88
Year 6	95.31
2017-2018	95.47
2016-2017	96.11



## Who is our first Attendance Champion?

Huge congratulations to **Harley Gale** our first **Attendance Champion** for Spring 2018 Term 1. Our brand new mascot will be presented to Harley to keep in his class for the next half term. Harley has considerably improved his attendance and punctuality. Well Done Harley keep up the good work!

### WINNING CLASS THIS HALF TERM



A very big **Well Done to Class 5W** who have the highest attendance percentage for this half term 98.39% and have won the trophy to keep in their class for the next half term.



## Holidays in Term Time: The Facts

Term time holidays have very much featured in the press recently. However, there have been no changes to the law which states that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. These can be defined as rare, significant, unavoidable and short periods of time.

Circumstances will always vary child to child and all requests for leave of absence should be made, using the appropriate leave of absence form available from the school office, prior to the absence.

When making a decision as to whether to authorise an absence, the student's previous attendance records may be taken into account. If an event can reasonably be scheduled outside of term time, then it will not be authorised.

If a request for leave is not granted and the child is absent on the dates notified, the matter is subject to referral to the local authority, who will issue a fixed penalty notice. In order for the school to authorise any further absences due to illness, medical evidence is required.

Regular attendance is important for your child. Not only does the law require it, but also because it is the best way of ensuring your child makes the most of the educational opportunities available to them.

**Jan Atrill**  
**Office Manager/Attendance Officer**