



## Parent Newsletter Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April

### Sonia Nickerson- Executive Head of Meon Infant School, Meon Junior and Moorings Way Infant School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you are keeping well and keeping safe in these challenging times. As you may be aware, I have been absent from school since the beginning of January. I'm now recovered and ready to support our amazing schools, staff, parents and children.

As Executive Headteacher of all 3 schools, I would like to thank you all for your continuing support. We are living in unprecedented times and everyone is having to live their life very differently at the moment! All 3 schools are getting regular feedback on what you are getting up to at home through different mediums. Our facebook pages are full of amazing photos and we are trialing different programs in different schools. Moorings Way parents and children are trying out 'see-saw', which is an interactive teaching site, which allows teachers to give feedback. Meon Infant School are soon to get a facebook page so WATCH THIS SPACE! As soon as this is up and running we will let you know. In the meantime, the Meon Infant website is offering ideas for learning materials. Meon Junior is using Google Classrooms which we have had great feedback from.

Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Admin Assistants are all learning to work in a completely different way under very different circumstances so there may be times when we don't quite get it right. I really value your patience for this. Our Key Worker children are all being accommodated with both Moorings Way and Meon Infant children on the same site to reduce the need for higher ratios of staff. Meon Junior children are using the Junior School and making use of the space to keep as safe as possible.

### **HOME LEARNING**

*I would like to take the opportunity to ease any anxiety over the work that has been set for your children. If you are struggling with this then please take comfort that you are not alone and we as staff and parents alike understand the challenges of home education. There will be days when you or your children are really not feeling it! I also know that when we publish photos of the wonderful things that children are doing at home, that some parents may feel disheartened. We publish these so children can see each other's faces and to give ideas out. At TSAT we have an important message that 'Child First' is a priority. Your child's well-being is important at this time, as they will never have experienced the barriers they are facing right now. We as adults are struggling to come to terms with not seeing families who are our support systems so this must be doubly troubling for our children. In my home, we are struggling with routines and sleeping (especially with my two teenagers who have become nocturnal). My whole family are missing their friends and the physical contact that we didn't realise was important until we were not allowed to hug the people who are special to us. My dog has not been impressed with the DIY haircut we attempted and currently hides every time she sees anything that resembles scissors!*

*The main point I want to communicate here is that whatever you do with your child is enough. When we return to normal schooling, we have trained specialists to help support your children. Please put your own wellbeing and your child's mental health first.*

## **KEEPING SAFE**

I have a duty of care to ensure all staff and children are kept safe in these times. All our schools are running rotas that allow flexibility and reduce the contact between adults and children. When teachers and TA's are not on site they are working on setting learning tasks, responding to children and checking in with some parents. They will also be looking after their own children and going through the same emotions as most parents trying to get home learning done!

## **THE FUTURE**

As a trust, we are working hard behind the scenes to begin preparing for the children's return. As you are aware, we have no indication of when this might happen. We are receiving all communications from the Department of Education and are trying to do the difficult job of planning ahead on a draft basis. When we have more information we will communicate our plan with you.

## **CONTACTING OUR SCHOOLS**

All 3 schools have mechanisms for parents to contact them. If you need to talk to someone at school, please do not hesitate to do this. You may need a bit of help with some of the work set, in which case we would make sure that a teacher was able to support you. Our pastoral members of staff are still available and are at hand to support with any other concerns you may have. We want you to know that we are here for you. If you are unsure of your school's current procedure for contacting staff please phone the school office for more information. Our headteachers are releasing regular newsletters so keep your eye on them.

## **KEEPING HEALTHY**

With the weather changing, getting outside for exercise may be a challenge. I'm sure you and your children have discovered the Joe Wicks daily workout and if you are completing this every day I commend you! I tried for 3 days and was unable to walk for a few days after so have taken to walking the dog regularly instead! It is amazing how a little bit of exercise can lift your spirits a little.

During this time there will be lots of things we lose. There will also be some things that become new and permanent to us. Technology has been used in innovative ways and that is something we can hold onto for the future. There is one thing I'm sure of: Life will be different. Our schools are committed to embracing that change and supporting you all along the way. We are all in this together.

Take Care and please do contact your child's school if you need any help.



**Sonia Nickerson – Executive Headteacher**