



5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to thank you all for your commitment to ensuring your child is in school every day and in school on time! Last week our attendance was at 96.92% with two classes at 100%. This is a huge achievement, particularly in light of covid and ensuring we follow all guidelines to isolate.

There are still a few children who are arriving after 8:50am. We teach the children that being punctual is an essential habit to have and will set them up well for adulthood. As well as this, pupils arriving late impact on the education we provide, as adults are needed to re-open our school gates. I have challenged the children, that when we have a year group with no lates at the end of a week, they will be rewarded with an extra playtime. Please use this incentive at home to encourage your child in the morning.

Reminders and Information:

**1. Flu Nasal spray**

Forms to be completed whether you consent or not and returned to school as soon as possible.

**2. Parent Consultations**

Due to COVID restrictions, we are unable to host this face to face in school but would like to give you an opportunity to talk to your child class teacher on the phone this term. Each child's teacher will be made available between 1pm-5pm over the next few weeks and you will be able to sign up for a 5-minute telephone consultation using parent mail.

For your diaries the dates will be:

| Date and Time                            | Class and teacher                  |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October 1pm-5pm   | 4D (Miss Duncan)                   |
|  | 3G (Miss Gale)                     |
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> October 1pm-5pm | 5RM (Mrs Roberts and Mrs Mewett)   |
|  | 6W (Mrs Wallace and Miss Mitchell) |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 1pm-5pm    | 3S (Mr Spencer)                              |
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 1pm-5pm   | 4C (Miss Chidlow)<br>6J (Miss Judd)          |
| Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 1pm-5pm  | 6WL (Mrs Watton-Lawrence)<br>5S (Mr Sellers) |
| Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 1pm-5pm | 5J (Mrs Jewell)                              |

### 3. **Homework**

Homework was set last week on our new digital platform Seesaw. This is completely new to staff and pupils this term and we would appreciate your support and feedback as we get this working well for our school. I have included a short parent help guide with this email that you may find useful. I am aware that some of our families are struggling with this, as their child does not have access to a device to use at home. Unfortunately, we are financially unable to support with this and do not have any that we can loan out. The department for education will help school to purchase devices in these circumstances only:

*Schools will be able to order an allocation of devices for:*

- *disadvantaged children in years 3 to 11 who do not have access to a device and whose face-to-face education is disrupted*
- *disadvantaged children in any year group who have been advised to shield because they (or someone they live with) are clinically extremely vulnerable*
- *disadvantaged children in any year group attending a hospital school*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-laptops-and-tablets-for-children-who-cannot-attend-school-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

To support our families now who are struggling, pupils will be able to access a device during a break time to complete their homework, or ask for a paper copy of the homework set.

We will continue to review this as an academy trust and will do all we can to support our families.

### 4. **Remote Learning Policy**

In the event of the school or a bubble closing and pupils needing to be taught at home we will be following the Thinking Academy Trust remote learning policy, which can be located here on our website, just copy and paste the following into your browser:

<https://www.meonjuniorschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Remote-learning-policy-TSAT-PrimariesV2-1.pdf>

### **Microsoft Accounts**

As well as Seesaw, all our pupils have now been given access to Outlook Express email and Microsoft Teams on Office 365. They currently use Microsoft software in their computing lessons, and have learned how to use their emails. In the event of a bubble needing to isolate or the school closing, we plan to use Microsoft Teams to provide daily live learning opportunities. You will be receiving home a letter with more information and your child's email and password details. Please look out for this letter.

### **6. Black History Month**

This week we will begin our work on Black History Month. It was launched by an assembly today, and then pupils will take part in a series of lessons in class. As well as this, the Thinking Schools Academy Trust is inviting all its schools to take part in an Art Competition to celebrate Black History Month 2020. I have included a poster in this email with more details.

### **7. Every Mind Matters**

The challenges of 2020 have taken its toll on everyone. I wanted to share with you a really good website that can be used to support the mental health of the whole family. We can all be very good at looking after our physical health but often our mental health can get overlooked. At Meon, we are very open and honest with our children that mental health is just as important! I encourage you to take a look at this site that contains lots of useful information.

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Warm Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Paine". The signature is written in black ink on a light grey rectangular background.

Mrs Sara Paine