



11/1/21

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a start to the Spring term!

I cannot find the words to describe how proud I am of our **whole school community** and what we have achieved. Overnight, teachers changed how they deliver lessons and from Tuesday 4th January at 9:15am taught their first live online lesson! Not only were they teaching the children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils in school, but were simultaneously teaching pupils remotely at home. Your children have adapted to this new way of learning well and have continued to work hard in their lessons and submit their work on time.

Thank you for all your support with this process. I know it is not easy for you at home and many of you are having to juggle your own work commitments as well as young siblings.

We have really loved the messages of support, thanks and appreciation that have been sent in. I have been sharing these daily with all staff and it has really kept us going through the challenges we have faced.

Here at Meon Junior School we have such dedicated, hard-working and thoughtful members of staff and for that I am truly grateful. We are here for you all, so please do not hesitate to ask for advice and support.

Provision in school for pupil of critical worker:

On Friday, government guidance was updated, stating that '**parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can**'. (page 25 of restricting attendance during national lockdown). I am therefore reaching out to you to assist us in playing our part in the reduction of the transmission of the virus by requesting that you now keep your child at home **if you can**. Please be aware that our school is only offering full-time places for eligible pupils, part-time attendance will not be implemented. We are considering setting up after-school provision for children with parents who are critical workers. This will be a paid provision running until 4:30pm. Please let the school office know if this would be of interest to you by Wednesday 13th January.

End of Term Progress Report:

You will be receiving a short progress report from your child's class teacher for last term. This will either be sent home if they are in school or will be posted. This report is an evaluation of your child's progress, based on a combination of assessments including class work, formal tests, pupil participation in class discussion and activities, teacher observations and checklists. We track our pupils' progress throughout the year and children are expected to make at least a year's progress from their starting point. If your child is working towards their current year group curriculum at this stage then they are on track to achieve expected standard at the end of the year. Please remember your children have missed almost 6 months of formal in-school education last year. If they are not on track at the moment, then that is understandable and we will work closely with you to catch them back up. Some of this work may have to be on hold until school re-opens for all children.

Vaccination Centre at St James Hospital:

I have received information from Portsmouth City Council that St James' hospital will be used as a Vaccination Centre for the city. They will be setting up a one-way system for cars, using Locksway Road as the entrance road in, and Edenbridge Road as the exit. The Centre is aiming to be open 8am-8pm. Please be aware this may cause additional traffic in the area. If you are currently travelling to school for provision from outside the area, I would suggest avoiding Locksway Road.

Remote Learning:

You may have read the recent DFE guidance 7.1.21 that schools should provide a minimum of 4 hours of remote learning a day (this includes live support and time to complete work set). On average, we are currently providing 4 hours and 40 mins daily. From the feedback we have received from you, this is just about manageable. We feel that any additional work supplied would not be helpful at this time.

The Trust policy is that pupils are not able to have their cameras on during live lessons. Our teachers have found this challenging and feel that having the ability to see pupils would support them in teaching your children remotely. The Trust are currently reviewing their risk assessments and we are hoping that this function will be available later this week.

Thank you again for all your patience and support whilst we settle into the new world of remote teaching.

Free School Meal Parcels

If your child is eligible for free school meals and they are not attending school, then a free school meal parcel will be available for you to collect from the Shelford Road gate area of the school either on Wednesday 13th January or Thursday 14th January between 10.00am and 10.30am.

Warm Regards

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

Mrs Sara Paine

Head teacher