

# Medina Primary School

## Newsletter

October 2021

*The last 7 weeks have flown by and I am extremely pleased with the way the children have engaged in learning after 18 months of disruption. As you are aware, from my many emails, a number of children and staff have had to isolate following a positive PCR result and, sadly, because of the positive numbers in Years 2 and 3 these classes had to revert back to bubbles in order to keep everyone safe. As of today, we only have one child isolating so, after half term, these classes can go back to 'normal'. However, the news, both local and national, reports that infection levels are increasing and in some areas of Portsmouth the rates are extremely high. I am worried that the weeks following half term will bring more positive cases to our community. If cases, within school, rise to significant levels we will have to consider returning to some of the measures previously introduced. Just this week two Portsmouth schools closed early for half term because of their infection levels. Please do continue to keep yourself and your family as safe as possible during the holiday.*

### Kindness

This half term, we have been focussing on 'Kindness' as an assembly topic. Children have shared their own acts of kindness and considered how simple actions can make such a difference in school, at home and within the community. The topic came to its conclusion with classes from Years 1 to 6 designing their own posters. The winners were celebrated in a final whole school assembly and awarded a 'kindness' book. Congratulations to:



Jett (Y1)                      Rosanna (Y2)                      Hudson (Y3)  
Flora (Y4)                      Ellie-Mai (Y5)                      Kenzie (Y6)

### After School Clubs

As a result of a successful grant application, we were able to offer three after school clubs this half term – Basketball, Girls Football and 'Get Active'. These proved very popular and I'm pleased that the money hasn't quite run out, therefore two more clubs will take place after half term – the always popular 'Get Active' for Years 1 and 2 and a Multisports Club for Years 3 and 4. The online application clearly works as the Year 3 and 4 club was heavily over subscribed and sadly some children will be disappointed. The children who have missed out will have the opportunity to partake in future clubs.

### Shoebox Appeal

Once again, the Medina community showed that 'kindness' runs through its veins with so many contributing gifts for those children in Eastern Europe who have very little. We decided to organise this as 'class boxes' again this year in order to ease the burden on families trying to make up whole boxes. However, as usual, we had a significant number of children bring in complete boxes – thank you so much – so kind.

### Road Safety

I am afraid I am unable to inform you when we will have a Crossing Patrol Officer back on duty so please be mindful of this as you bring and collect your child from school. For those parents who collect children you will be aware that bollards have been placed on the corner of Sixth Avenue and also PCC Officers have been in attendance on a number of occasions. These officers are not there to assist children/families across the road, their purpose is to engage with people who park inappropriately causing visibility problems for a safe crossing. They have informed me that they will continue to randomly visit Medina Road and continue to challenge car owners who put the lives of our children at risk. During the next half term children will receive education from PCC's Road Safety team – more details to follow.



### School Photographer

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, we are able to have professional photographs taken of all our pupils. On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021, photographs will be taken of individual children and sibling groups. Those children that have not given consent to have their photograph taken by the school photographer will not take part.



### Parents Evening

Online booking was an overwhelming success. Parents have stated that they appreciated being able to book their own individual times. I haven't completed the evaluation yet but it looks like we have had more parents meet their child's teacher than ever before.

Thank you to parents of our Year 2 and 3 pupils for their understanding and for rebooking appointments for this week.

### Poppy Appeal

At Medina we believe it is important, every year, to spend learning time talking about 'Remembrance Day'. After half term each class will consider what this means, at an age appropriate level, and a whole school display will be completed. Alongside our work in class, there will be poppy appeal merchandise available to buy from the office. The suggested donation for snapbands, bracelets etc is £1. Children should bring the correct money please.



### Homework/Reading at Home

Can I ask all parents to support and encourage children to complete their weekly homework tasks? From Year 2 to 6 homework is set on Google Classroom on a Wednesday. All children should be able to log on and access the work. It is designed to take no longer than 30/40 minutes to complete – depending on the age of the child. It will not be new learning, the children will have completed similar pieces of work in class – it is about reinforcing the learning, and hopefully embed it, so children can become more confident. If you feel the work is too difficult or you have any other issue with homework, including accessing Google Classroom, please email your child's class teacher.

After half term, parents of children in Year 1 will receive (via Studybugs) information regarding Google Classroom so that Year 1 children can access their homework.

Since the return from lockdown I have been greatly impressed by the number of children reading at home. Reading is the key to being successful at school and if you can manage just five minutes a day that will make such a difference.

Children in KS2 are still able to access 'Times Table Rock Stars' at home. We have bought into this programme for another year because, when it was introduced during lockdown, the impact was really good. Again, similar to reading, if children spend a short time on their tables, 3-4 times a week, they will find their maths work in school so much easier. If you find accessing TTRS difficult please email the class teacher.

### Free School Meals/Vouchers

If you think your child may be entitled to receive free school meals, which in turn may enable them to receive a voucher during the school holidays, please apply directly to Portsmouth City Council:

<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/schools/school-meals/>



### Parent Governor Needed

The Governing Body are in need of an additional member – a parent! The commitment for Governors is to attend four full governing body meetings and four committee meetings a year. Meetings are held during the week from 4pm until approximately 6pm. The role of a parent governor is to be a voice for our parent community. Training would be available to support you in the role. If you are interested please, in the first instance, email [admin@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:admin@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk)

### Attendance

For obvious reasons, our overall attendance this half term has dropped significantly. I would like to thank all the parents who sent in PCR test results – it helps record your child's absence accurately. I would like to remind all parents that children should arrive at school from 8.45am and be in the building by 8.55am. If pupils arrive later than 8.55am the entrance doors may well be closed and children must enter via the school office.



### Keeping in touch - Studybugs

You will have seen a number of emails and messages regarding our move to Studybugs for all school-parent messaging. Studybugs has replaced our previous messaging/email system (MyED). Our aim is to make it easier for you and school to communicate using an effective app, which is easily accessible for all. If you haven't already, please download the free Studybugs app to ensure you don't miss key information.

### Flu Immunisation – Nasal Spray eConsent

For the first time, Medina pupils are consenting to receive the nasal flu immunisation electronically. The deadline for consent is Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Schools are not privy to the consent information until the day of the immunisation, however we will continue to send reminders to all – please ignore if you have already given your consent. This year, again for obvious reasons, it is more important than ever for children to receive flu immunisation. Further information regarding the immunisation and how to give your consent can be found on our website.



### Breakfast Club

Please remember that all breakfast club places must be booked online, via ScoPay, in advance. On a number of occasions children have arrived without a place booked – this could mean that we have more children attending than our risk assessment allows. If this happens your child may, unfortunately, be refused entry and you may be contacted to collect your child.

### School Uniform

Please remember that we no longer sell uniform in school, however we do have a limited number of PE bags for sale at £4 each. We also have a very limited number of the smallest size (24") and the largest sizes (adult size extra small to large) cardigans and sweatshirts for sale at £5 each and a small number of yellow PE t-shirt (at £2.50 each). Please bring correct money as we do not have any change.



### Mobile Phones in School

Increasingly children are bringing their mobile phones to school. Whilst I appreciate that some children use their phones to contact parents for safety purposes, please ensure that children only bring their phone to school if necessary.

All phones must be handed into the school office, before the beginning of the school day. It is the child's responsibility to collect their phone at the end of each day.

Please note that Medina accept no responsibility for the loss or damage to phones, however we encourage all phones to be clearly marked with the child's name and class.



### Scooters/Bikes

Please remember that scooters/bikes should not be ridden on school grounds, including the footpath, it is a hazard to other pedestrians. Please ensure all children (including pre-school) adhere to this.

### Term Dates

Please see below term dates for this academic year.



#### Autumn Term 2021

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
Half term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October

#### Spring Term 2022

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April  
Half term: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February

#### Summer Term 2022

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
Half term: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

#### INSET Dates (school closed to children)

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022

#### Key Dates

##### October 2021

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Secondary transfer deadline

##### November 2021

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> City Fireworks – King George Field  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Anti Bullying Week  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Flu immunisation consent deadline  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> School photographer  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Flu immunisation  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Reception 2022 Open Morning

##### December 2021

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Xmas Dinner/Jumper Day  
Further information to follow after half term

Please remember to 'friend' us on Facebook, download the Studybugs App and visit Medina's website for updates regarding school events.

If you have any questions regarding any items in this newsletter please message us via Studybugs or email [admin@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:admin@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk)