

Medina Primary School

Newsletter

February 2022

The last day of this half term and school is closed due to a storm – which makes a change to schools being closed due to the pandemic! However - we have made it – we are now half way through the academic year. With a few adjustments, it has been a relatively 'normal' few months. I am so pleased that we did not have to revert to a period of online learning and, unlike some of the local secondary schools, where Covid hit staffing very seriously, we have not had to restrict any learning days. As it looks likely that restrictions will change once again, I am hopeful that we will be able to continue, right through to July, without any further adjustments to our school day.



Covid-19 Update

The Government will announce new guidelines very soon, however, in the meantime, Medina will continue to follow the guidelines that have been in place since 17th January 2022. Any changes to these guidelines will be communicated to you as soon as possible via StudyBugs.

Please remember that if your child tests positive on a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) then the test result must be uploaded to the NHS website.

In order for us to determine and advise you of the next steps, once you receive the confirmation text/email from the NHS, please forward it to: admin@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk

Please note that we are only able to record absence as authorised for Covid-19 if test evidence is seen.

Parking/Crossing Patrol

As you are all aware, the Local Authority are still unable to appoint a Crossing Patrol Officer and it is unlikely that they will. Consequently, I think we will be without a Crossing Patrol Officer until Leanne returns from maternity leave – I do not know when that will be.



I have been contacted by a number of parents and local residents asking what the school can do about the small number of people who park either illegally, or inappropriately, along Medina Road, particularly on the junction of Sixth Avenue. The simple and unsatisfactory answer is that we, as a school, can do nothing – other than appeal to our parents, and the community, to think of the safety and welfare of all the pupils and park elsewhere.

Portsmouth City Council's Road Safety Team (RST) have been contacted by local councillors and indeed two councillors have recently observed, for themselves, the difficult situation at the top of the path – particularly at the end of the school day. It was their intention to strongly suggest that the RST regularly visit Medina Road and hand out fines to all cars parked illegally. Whether that happens or not – your guess is as good as mine.

I therefore, once again, urge all parents to walk that little bit further and park somewhere that does not impact on the crossing areas at Medina Primary School.

Portsmouth Music Hub celebrates Aspirations Week

Portsmouth Music Hub marked the climax of Aspirations Week with a fantastic concert by electric string trio, Cordelectra, for schools across the city at the New Theatre Royal. A group of 12 girls from Years 5 and 6 enjoyed watching this internationally renowned group. The cello player honed her skills in Portsmouth and was part of the Music Hub's children's orchestra when she was 12 years old – just shows you what you can achieve with hard work and dedication. Our Medina girls loved listening to 'modern' music played on electrified traditional instruments – the violin, the viola and the cello. Check out a [3-minute video](#) of the concert. The [full 45-minute concert](#) is available to stream free, up until February half term. We hope that you enjoy it!

School Trips

To further prove that we are getting nearer and nearer to normality a number of trips have taken place this term.



Reception Class had their very first school trip – a big milestone in their learning life! Marwell Zoo welcomed 30 very excitable and lively pupils who all had a fantastic day. Some of the art work they produced as a result of the trip was brilliant. Looking at the children on their way out of school, at the end of the day, showed how much they had enjoyed it – I am sure they all slept well that night – as did the staff!

Year 2 visited 100 Acre Woods as part of their science topic. They are learning about habitats this half term and by having that first hand experience, it enables the learning to come to life and by doing so, children are more likely to remember what they have been taught. As part of the follow-up from the trip, the children produced some wonderful pictures of the forest using their observational skills really well.

I want to share with you an extract of writing that a *Year 2* child wrote to accompany their painting 'my trees are long and have lots of thick branches. The flowers are ready to blossom for spring. The ivy wraps around and around the tree trunk and it is beautiful the way the sun is shining in the trees'. What a great description of the day!

Year 4 all had the time of their lives when they spent 5 days and 4 nights at Stubbington Study Centre. It is such a big deal for a child (and indeed parents!) to spend that amount of time away from home, living with their class mates. As is to be expected there will always be children who are anxious and get a bit homesick but every single pupil rose to the challenge and then some!

During the week children experienced team building activities, pond dipping, orienteering and investigating mammals – which included making an animal hotel and getting a guest field mouse or bank vole to stay the night!

In addition to the exciting curriculum side of the week, the children all developed life skills – being responsible for themselves, becoming more empathetic towards other children, becoming more organised and overcoming challenges. These skills aren't ones you can easily learn within the confines of a classroom but I witnessed real progress in every single child.

One pupil, at the end of the week said, in front of the whole group, 'at the start of Stubbington I was scared and really missed my mum but I am now proud of myself because I didn't give up and had the best time!' – and that's why we believe that residential visits are such an important part of a child's school life at Medina.

I must thank Mrs Reeder, Miss Canwell and Miss McCloud. Without staff giving up their own time to take the children away these trips could not happen.

We have received some emails from parents saying how much their children have enjoyed the trips this term. A lot of work for these trips go on in the background and this kind of feedback is really good for all staff to hear – thank you.

Family Learning



The very successful Year 1 Family Learning Maths course ended this week and I was really pleased to see how many parents committed themselves to the five week course. You cannot underestimate how much your children will have gained from having their parents join them in their learning. Feedback from the parents suggest they got lots out of it too.

Already, five of our Year 1 parents have signed up for the English course that starts on Tuesday 1st March (1pm to 3pm) – information regarding this course has been emailed to Year 1 parents and is available on our website.



School Nurse

During the pandemic, the School Nursing Service has generally operated remotely and I am very pleased that they are now able to come into schools to support/advise parents.

Information regarding the Coffee Morning for Reception/Year 1 parents has been emailed and is available on our website. Depending on the number of parents that want to attend we may be able to extend the invitation to other families – please keep an eye on StudyBugs for more information.

It is our intention that our School Nurse will host regular surgeries where parents can book appointments to discuss, confidentially, any medical issues relating to their school aged child.

School Dinner – Menu Change

The menu will change after half term – a copy of the menu has been sent via StudyBugs and is also available on our website: <https://medinaprimary.co.uk/school-dinners/>



Please remember that all meals *must* be ordered in advance, online via ScoPay. You can book your child's meals right to the end of the academic year. If your child does not have a school meal ordered you must provide a packed lunch.



Breakfast Club

In order to adhere to health and safety requirements places are strictly limited to 20. If you have booked a place that your child no longer needs please cancel it as soon as possible in order for the place to become available for another child.



Bikeability

Another indication of moving back to normality was the presence of the Bikeability instructors in schools. This week, Year 5 pupils, despite some awful weather, worked hard to achieve success. That success is determined by whether they are able to cycle safely, control their cycle and be able to confidently ride on the road. A significant number of pupils achieved Level 2 but, just as importantly, all children showed real progress in their ability to cycle safely.

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March 2022

Parents will, I'm sure, be delighted to know that children will *not* be dressing up as characters from novels for World Book Day! Medina will be celebrating the occasion, as a school, focusing on writing a really good book review. There will be a class competition with the three 'best' book reviews being displayed in school and then a representative, from the School Library Service, will be invited to judge the overall winners. All this work will be completed within school curriculum time.



Red Nose Day – Friday 18th March 2022

Red Noses will be on sale, at breaktimes, from Monday 14th March. On the day, children will be invited to wear 'red' clothes in return for donating £1 to this extremely worthwhile charity. Further information will be sent after half term.

Term Dates

Please see below term dates for the remainder of this academic year.



Spring Term 2022

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

Summer Term 2022

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

INSET Dates (school closed to children)

Monday 28th February 2022
Friday 27th May 2022
Friday 1st July 2022

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 via the school email address: admin@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk



I hope the weather improves dramatically and enables you and your family to get out, safely, during the half term break. I look forward to seeing all children on Tuesday 1st March (school is closed for staff training on Monday 28th February).

Please remember that class emails, StudyBugs and school phones are NOT monitored during school holidays. However if you need to contact school, in an emergency, please email admin@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

