

Medina Primary School

Newsletter

April 2022

It has been a great half term seeing school events starting to return to some normality. As you will see from this newsletter, we are having more trips and more visitors to the school. I know that Covid-19 is still having a big impact across the city and indeed within lots of schools – staffing does still remain a challenge in some schools – however we have not had to restrict any school days for any year group and that is thanks to staff being as flexible as possible.

I hope you, and your family, are able to get outside and enjoy the Easter holidays and I look forward to the final term of the year – without any disruptions!

School Trips

A great indication of normality is the fact that we've had classes going out on school trips. Since the last newsletter the following trips have taken place:



Year 3 Titchfield – with a geography learning bias
Year 6 Chichester Festival Theatre – to watch a performance of Private Peaceful, a book they have been studying during English lessons
Reception Longdown Dairy Farm – with the focus on animals and life cycles.



Balance Bike

We were fortunate to be able to book the Balance Bike team to deliver training to Reception and Year 1 children. All pupils made progress over the week and some were even able to ride, unaided, across part of the playground having not been able to 'walk' with the cycle when their training started.

One thing that the trainers told me was that, when learning to ride a bike, children should avoid cycles with stabilisers. I just presumed this was the way children progressed – in fact it inhibits their development because they become too reliant on the stabilisers, to the detriment of their 'balancing' skills. Something to think about!

Family Learning

I would like to thank Joanne, from Family Learning, who delivered the second series of sessions this term. Following the successful Maths course, a number of parents committed to attend an English one. Again, feedback from parents suggest they not only enjoyed the course, but learned how they can support their child's learning at home.



Reading in Key Stage 1

It is very obvious to state that reading is such an important part of a child's early education – but it really is the key to being successful both here, at Medina, and for a child's future education and beyond.

Mrs Cudlip held three afternoon events which explained the changes in our approach to early reading. One key difference is the books that will be sent home for the child to read with their parents. We have spent a significant amount of money on new resources and we want to introduce them as soon as possible – rather than wait for the start of the new academic year. I know that the parents that attended the meetings found them very useful, however, if you have any questions please email the school.

Parent's Evening (Reception to Year 5)

It is great to see that so many parents have already booked their appointment via ScoPay – the system works really well.



If you are yet to make an appointment please see the letter, on our website, and follow the instructions accordingly.

PE Kits

Please ensure your child brings the correct PE kit to school next term. Being hopeful of some dry weather, all classes will have at least one PE lesson a week outside and with athletics being a focus for all year groups. It is important that children change for PE.



As a reminder children should wear a yellow t-shirt and black shorts/leggings. In addition, children should also wear appropriate footwear for outdoor sports.



Covid-19 Update

As previously advised, schools are no longer required to record and report cases of Covid-19. The simple guidance is – if your child is well enough to be in school – he/she should be. A welcome return to our normal attendance procedures.

As part of Infection Control, parents are now able to book vaccinations for their 5-11 year olds via the [NHS website](#).

Pedestrian Pathway

Please remember that children should not bring cycles or scooters into school. If parents bring them for pre-school children they must walk them up the pathway. With over 350 people leaving the school, up that narrow pathway, it is not appropriate to allow cycles or scooters. Thank you for your consideration.



School Nurse

We have already had two morning 'drop in' sessions for parents to discuss, confidentially, any medical issues for their school aged children. I urge parents not to be hesitant in making an appointment – the parents who have taken up the opportunity have found the advice useful. Sometimes it is just good to talk to someone not directly involved with Medina – but who can give valuable and professional advice. The remaining dates are:
25th May 15th June 13th July

To make an appointment to discuss, confidentially, any medical issues relating to your school aged child please email admin@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk

Ukraine Appeal

I cannot tell you how grateful staff from Astra Recycling were when they collected the massive amount of 'stuff' that was donated for Ukraine. The variety, and quality, of items you donated was just wonderful to see. Thank you on behalf of all those who will benefit from your contributions.



Red Nose Day

The selling of red noses, in school, and the donations on the day raised £436 for this extremely worthy cause – thank you.



Contact Information

Please ensure the school office is aware of any changes to your contact information – it is vital that we are able to contact parent/carer in case of emergency.

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.



Please note that the cost of Breakfast Club will increase to £2 per day from 1st September 2022 (£10 per week). I am sure you will agree this still represents excellent value for money.



School Dinners

Please remember to order your child's school dinner for after the Easter holidays. You can order for the whole term!

If your child does not have a school dinner ordered you will be contacted and asked to provide a packed lunch.

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 in the near future.



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.

Easter Events

Easter Drama Clubs

The Young Creatives will, again, be holding free drama clubs for those children entitled to free school meals. Please see the website for further information: <https://medinaprimary.co.uk/letters-info/>



The SLS newsletter was emailed to all this week. However, I want to draw your attention to the following events, which may be of interest:

Easter fun at Fort Nelson – 9th/10th April



A free falconry display will take place at Fort Nelson. Find out more and book a free entry ticket via website at <https://bit.ly/3tnotE1>

Portsmouth Museum – 16th April

Free Easter Basket Making Session in the Activity Room of Portsmouth Museum & Art Gallery. Bookings must be made in advance.



If you have any questions regarding any items in this newsletter please email admin@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk

Important Dates

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



Summer Term 2022

Monday 25th April – Friday 22nd July
Jubilee Holidays: Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd May
Half term: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

INSET Days (school closed to children)

Friday 27th May 2022
Friday 1st July 2022

School Events

Please see below a list of proposed events. Where appropriate, further information will be provided in due course.

April 2022

Monday 25th Children return to school

May 2022

Monday 2 nd	Jubilee Holiday (school closed)
Tuesday 3 rd May	Jubilee Holiday (school closed)
Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th	Y6 SATs
Monday 9 th	YR – Y5 Parent's Evening
Tuesday 10 th	YR – Y5 Parent's Evening
Wednesday 11 th	YR – Y5 Parent's Evening
Friday 20 th – Monday 23 rd	Y6 loW Residential
Wednesday 25 th May (am)	School Nurse Drop In
Thursday 26 th (pm)	Family Picnic
Friday 27 th May	INSET (school closed)

June 2022

Friday 10 th	Y2 Stubbington Trip
Wednesday 15 th (am)	School Nurse Drop In
Friday 17 th (am)	Class Photographs
Tuesday 21 st (am)	New YR Parent Meeting

July 2022

Friday 1 st	INSET (school closed)
Saturday 2 nd	Stubbington Open Day
Friday 8 th (pm)	Summer Fayre
Wednesday 13 th (am)	School Nurse Drop In
Wednesday 13 th (pm)	KS2 Sports Day
Friday 15 th (am)	KS1 Sports Day
Friday 15 th	Reports home
Friday 22 nd	Last day of term

Please note that the above events are subject to change, in accordance with Government guidelines and/or Medina's risk assessment.

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

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.

