

Just before writing this newsletter, I took a stroll around the grounds and was reminded how lucky we are to have such a wonderful school environment – especially at this time of year. With Easter approaching I do hope families will be able to get out during the holiday and enjoy some time together.

Literature Quiz

Under the guidance of Miss Burford, eight children represented Medina in Portsmouth School's Literature Quiz. Pupils, from Years 5 and 6, in two teams of four had to answer questions relating to four selected books plus general literature questions. The pupils clearly put the work in as their final scores were much improved from last year with one of our teams achieving an incredible second place. Well done to:

Team A – Maizie, Flora, Joey, Stacey;
Team B – Sally, Khloe, Madison Sophie

Bikeability

I am sure parents saw children bringing cycles into school recently – this was because Y5 took part in 'Bikeability' – a truly important life skill.

As was the case last year, the weather wasn't kind – but the children and the tutor battled through. We only get one week and wouldn't have been able to postpone or repeat any days. 22 pupils took part with 17 receiving the Level 2 award. I was really impressed with the resilience of three pupils who started the week unable to get onto a cycle – they kept at it and refused to be defeated and they achieved Level 1. Well done to all.

February Parents Evening

Thank you for the great turn out – it is really important that parents are involved in their child's learning and these Parents Evenings give an opportunity for class teachers to discuss progress and give ideas how you can effectively help your child at home. It won't be a shock to you to hear me say 'if you can read every night for just 5-10 minutes it will make such a difference'.

New Site Manager

On Monday 25th March 2024 our new Site Manager, Mr Phillips, joined us. We have been without a Site Manager since Christmas and although the school building and grounds still look good we are looking forward to Mr Phillips making them look even better. Welcome to Medina Mr Phillips.

Year 1 (Y1) Teacher

As Y1 parents are aware, I have appointed Miss Meaden as Y1 Class Teacher, starting after Easter. We are looking forward to Miss Meaden joining the Medina team. Mrs Marsh will still, on a part-time basis, teach at Medina for the summer term. I would like to thank her for her efforts with Y1 this term.

Rail Safety

Due to incidents of trespass on the railway please see links to safety videos – please watch with your child.

For KS1 (Reception to Year 2)

<https://learnliveuk.com/ks1-primary-school-safety-talk/>

For KS2 (Year 3 to Year 6)


<https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-primary-school-safety-talk>

World Book Day/Week

This year we celebrated reading throughout the week rather than just for World Book Day. Every class read the children's book called 'Maisy's Big Book of Kindness' and then, at the end of the week, shared their work and ideas with the rest of the school. There were some great interpretations of this book including a kindness tree, calendar and a leaflet highlighting what kindness looks like at Medina.

In addition, the photographs of children reading in unusual places were enjoyed by all – some very strange ways of reading. Classes 'buddied up' with pupils of different ages to read to each other. It was lovely to see children sharing books throughout the school. All of the activities certainly raised the profile and children were continually talking about books during the week and a real 'buzz' was created.

Infant Voices

I want to congratulate all the Year 2 children who performed at Portsmouth Guildhall last week.  Alongside 200 pupils from 12 schools they 'wowed' a packed audience with brand new songs about 'The Sea'. It was incredible to hear the massed choir of young children sing so brilliantly.

Not only did our Year 2 perform as a choir, they were chosen to perform a solo song. The song was extremely challenging – in terms of melody and tempo but our Year 2 class rose to the occasion and performed with confidence and great joy.

All songs were written by Portsmouth Music Hub and if you would like to see photos/video from the event please visit:

[Infant Voices Showcase 2024 — Portsmouth Music Hub](https://youtu.be/BqDhgJu8uMU)
<https://youtu.be/BqDhgJu8uMU> (Medina's solo is 25 minutes into the video).

Once again, well done to the children of Year 2, the parents who provided such special costumes and the staff who worked so hard to make this unique event a success.


Safety at the Top of the Path – Home time

Can I ask that all parents/carers of children in Key Stage 1 accompany their child along the pedestrian pathway. This week a number of children have rushed out of the gate and caused a problem by the crossing patrol – on one occasion there was almost an accident!

Sport Success

With Pompey flying high in League 1, children at Medina have been following suit. The Under 10 team came second in the league and then were runners up in the cup – both times being beaten to the top slot by a very skilful Highbury Primary team. Matches were very close and the competition was played in an excellent sporting spirit. Well done to our Under 10 team.

Important Dates

Monday 15 th April	First day of Summer term
Wednesday 17 th April	School Nurse Clinic 

Monday 6 th May	Bank holiday
Wednesday 15 th May	School Nurse Clinic
Monday 27 th – 31 st May	Half Term

Monday 3 rd June	INSET (school closed to children)
Wednesday 19 th June	Reception 2024 Parent Meeting
Wednesday 19 th June	School Nurse Clinic
Friday 21 st June	Class Photos
Saturday 22 nd June	Stubbington – Open Day

Monday 8 th July	INSET (school closed to children)
Wednesday 17 th July	School Nurse Clinic
Wednesday 24 th July	Last day of Summer term

Easter Holidays – Contact

Please remember that class emails, Tapestry, StudyBugs and school phones are *not* in use during school holidays, therefore these will not be monitored after 3:30pm on Thursday 28th March. If you need to contact us, in an emergency, please email admin@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk and we will get back to you as quickly as possible. If you have any concerns about the safety of any child during the Easter holidays you should contact Social Care on 023 92688793 or email mash@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

And finally, I hope families are able to get out during the Easter holidays and enjoy some time together. We look forward to seeing all children back in school on Monday 15th April 2024. *Please remember to order school dinners/book Breakfast Club.*