

Menston Mail—Number 4

14th February 2020



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As we come to the end of the first half term of 2020 we have passed the halfway point of the school year. We have welcomed families to parents' evenings and have enjoyed the opportunity to discuss not only attainment and progress of children, but their wider personal development. As we move towards the summer we are looking forward to the construction of our new Polytunnel and hope to take advantage of our improved pond area as the weather improves.

Unfortunately we are fighting a losing battle with Lost Property and the pile of unnamed (and unclaimed) school jumpers continues to grow. Please can I ask that you check that **all uniform, coats and PE Kits are clearly named** so they can be returned to their owner. Mr Jones



Plastic Free Schools

January saw the exciting launch of our "Plastic Free School" journey at Menston Primary School with the first meeting of our Plastic Free Champions.



Over the coming months, pupils and staff will be working towards achieving the criteria set by the charity, Surfers Against Sewage, who have devised the Plastic Free School program. One of our aims will be to reduce the number of single use plastics consumed in school. We will be completing a survey of single use plastics in school, whether in the classroom, kitchens or in pupils' lunch bags, with a view to reducing our wastage across school. Pupils have lots of great ideas on what small changes they could make at home to reduce plastic waste, so please encourage your child to share their ideas and be sure to let us know of any changes you are making at home to reduce single use plastic.



Big Pedal 2020

We have signed up to take part in the Big Pedal 2020 from 22nd April to 5th May. All children are asked to cycle, scoot or skate to school on any or all of the days over these 2 weeks. We will be keeping a tally of how many people travel to school on their bikes, scooters, etc. every day and loading our totals onto the Big Pedal website. More information will be sent out before Easter.

World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character or to bring in their favourite book or both!



School Lunches

School meals are free for all children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2.

For Years 3 to 6, from 1st January 2020 the cost of school meals is £1.90 per day/ £9.50 per week.

Please ensure your ParentPay account is in credit prior to meals being taken by children.

The total for the half term from Monday 24th February to Friday 3rd April is £57.00.

The current menu can be found on the school website: <https://menstonprimary.co.uk/our-school/school-meals/>

Forthcoming Themed Meals:

Thursday 5th March: World Book Day Themed Meal

Tuesday 17th March: French Themed Meal

Please note: if you have any questions relating to payment for school meals you need to contact Facilities Management on 07973 841632.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 24th February: School opens for Spring Term 2

Thursday 5th March: World Book Day

Friday 3rd April: School closes for Easter holiday

Monday 20th April: School opens for Summer Term 1

Friday 8th May: May Day Bank Holiday - School Closed

W/C Monday 11th May: KS2 SATs Week

Friday 22nd May: School closes for May Half Term

Wednesday 3rd June: School opens for Summer Term 2

Friday 17th July: School closes for Summer

Please see your Year Group Newsletters for Key Stage specific diary dates

FOMPS

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 27th March - Bingo Night

Friday 3rd April - Easter Egg Hunt (during the school day)

Saturday 25th April - FoMPS Yomp

Friday 22nd May - Sponsored Fun Run to raise money for the crossing

Saturday 6th June - Ladies YOMP

Saturday 27th June - Summer Fete / Scarecrow Trail

Friday 25th September - AGM

As well as the Easter Egg hunt for children on Friday 3rd April we will be holding an 'Open Afternoon' after school to showcase the new Polytunnel, pond and outdoor learning areas. More details will be provided in our Newsletter which you should have received separately.

Look out for more information for all events on the FoMPS tree notice boards in the coming weeks in the school playgrounds or visit

<https://fomps.org.uk/>.

We Care About Clean Air

The 'We Care About Clean Air' campaign has been launched to help tackle air pollution outside Bradford's primary schools. The campaign aims to encourage drivers to switch off their engines whilst waiting outside schools to help improve the air we all breathe. This is an essential step to ensure the environment outside schools is as clean and safe as possible to keep our children healthy and happy.



Lost Property

Please check that all uniform, PE kit and coats are clearly labelled with your child's name. We have a mountain of unnamed items in Lost Property. Items which have been labelled in pen have faded and are impossible to read so we are asking you to rename these. Please can we also ask you to assist us in making children responsible for their belongings to reduce the amount of Lost Property.



News from the Governing Body

One of the areas governors discussed at our meeting this month was the school's Pupil Premium and PE & Sports Premium spending. These are very important and much needed additional sources of state funding that have to be spent according to government regulations. Pupil Premium funding is used to improve the achievement of disadvantaged pupils, such as children receiving free school meals, looked-after and adopted children, and children of armed services personnel. Our school uses the Pupil Premium grant for targeted support as well as whole-school improvements through, for instance, precision assessment and teaching, staff development, and by employing a Parent Involvement Worker. The PE and Sports Premium grant is aimed at improving PE and school sport. Benefits of spending this year include membership of the local School Sports Partnership, sports coaches, and contributions to the new Clamberstack in the playground and improvements to the track in the field. If you are interested in finding out more about how this funding is spent, you can find the strategies on the school's website under Key Information.

Annet Nottingham, Chair of Governors

