

# Menston Mail

26th March 2021



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The school has been open to all children for three weeks now and so far we know of no new cases of coronavirus. It is marvellous having the children back. We would like to thank all our families again for remaining vigilant for the symptoms of Covid and for acting with care and caution in order to keep the virus away from school. Over the coming weeks, as the lockdown restrictions are lifted, this care and caution will be even more vital. It does, however, seem that we are now entering a different and more hopeful stage in our battle with the virus. We do hope that all our families will enjoy some safe and happy time this Easter with their friends and families.

We are delighted to announce that after Easter we will be working with employees of Virgin Media to sow wildflowers, plant woodland bulbs and plant new trees and hedging around the school site. This is part of our overall plan to attract more insects and other wildlife onto the school site to facilitate more learning outdoors. We are very grateful to Virgin Media for working with us to make a difference for our children.  
Mr Jones



## Easter Egg Hunt

Mrs Meakin and FoMPS have very kindly organised an Easter Egg Hunt for all the children today. Every class has been out today with their Easter quiz sheets and all children have received a chocolate egg/treat. Thank you to FoMPS for donating all the lovely Easter treats!

## Super STEM in School

School has been a-buzz with lots of exciting STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) activities taking place in school since we have been able to have all our wonderful children back. Several year groups took part in British Science Week in the first week back by carrying out amazing experiments or entering the science week poster competition – fingers crossed for a winner perhaps! Many of the STEM activities took place outdoors too by investigating plants and habitats. Seeing the children's faces full of awe and amazement as they discover the wonders of the world around them is truly wonderful. Look out for more information (and pictures!) in the next edition of our curriculum newsletter at the start of summer term.

## Red Nose Day

Thank you to everyone who made an online donation to Red Nose Day. We are pleased to announce that we raised a total of £324.00.

## Cake!

We would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to the generous people of the Cornerstone Café who brought a delicious selection of cakes and scones for all the staff last week. The treats were very much appreciated and we all enjoyed them.



## Access to the School Office

If you have been past the school office recently you may have noticed the new intercom system that has been installed. If you are dropping off or collecting your child from the office, please can we ask that you use the intercom to speak to the office staff. The office will then open the door for your child to come in or make arrangements for your child to be brought out to you. Thank you!

## School Lunches

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

For Years 3 to 6, 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 12th April to Friday 28th May is £64.60.

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 12th April:** School Opens for Summer Term 1

**Monday 3rd May:** May Day Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 18th May:** Class Photographs

**Friday 28th May:** School Closes for May Half Term

**Thursday 10th June:** School Opens for Summer Term 2

**Friday 23rd July:** School Closes for Summer

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

# FoMPS

Firstly a big well done to all staff, children, parents and carers for getting through the last 12 months. We can start to see light at the end of the tunnel and we've begun to think about fundraising again. FoMPS have continued to support the school during lockdown with the purchase of fruit trees for an orchard in conjunction with Virgin Media and small chocolate eggs for every child for a little Easter egg hunt on Friday. We are starting to make tentative plans for a summer event on the school field... Look out for updates in the coming weeks, if you would like to be involved, please get in touch [admin@fomps.org.uk](mailto:admin@fomps.org.uk) In the meantime, if you are spring cleaning your home and discover pennies down the back of the sofa and underneath the bed, please consider donating the sum to FoMPS via our website or give the change (counted and bagged) to Mrs Meakin on the school gate. Finally, as always, we have a bank of secondhand uniform that you can purchase (£2 per logo item, all others £1) and we will take donations of good condition used uniform, we love recycling!

**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/>.**

## Staff Development



Over the last few months we have really focused on developing our staff. Here is some of the recent training completed by staff:

**Catch-Up Literacy and Catch-Up Maths:** Five of our Teaching Assistants have completed this training and are looking forward to putting what they have learnt into practice.

**COSHH Awareness:** Mr Lockwood has successfully completed his COSHH Awareness course.

**EYFS Reforms Training:** Mrs Wilson, Miss Lain and Miss Greenwood completed the EYFS Reform Training to prepare for September 2021.

Congratulations to Mrs Wilson who has successfully gained the National Professional Qualification for Headship recently.

## Staffing Update

Mrs Borg, who has worked with the school for many years from Bradford Music and Arts running the School Band and Choir, as well as teaching music in school, will be leaving after Easter. Mrs Borg will be staying within Bradford Music and Arts in another role. We also say 'goodbye' to one of our Teaching Assistants Miss Corkett-Beirne. We wish them both all the best in their new roles.

## News from the Governing Body

It is nearly a year ago since our last contribution to the Newsletter. It has been a very busy and challenging year for everyone in school and I trust you can agree with me that all staff have made exceptional efforts to support our children's learning, be it in school or from home. For that, and for your own contributions to home schooling, we are most grateful.

Whereas in normal circumstances, governors focus is on children's achievement and development, this year we have been mainly concerned with children's and staff health and wellbeing. In addition, we have worked on the further development of the outdoor environment, and meeting the budgetary requirements in a most unusual year. And as you are aware, we are in the process of recruiting a new Headteacher to replace Mr Jones from September 2021, and his are big shoes to fill indeed.

For now, governors will continue their work online, but we all look forward to being able to come back into school in the near future.

Annet Nottingham, Chair of Governors

