



Thursday 17 October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Autumn Term 1 Newsletter

Well, we've had a great start to our new school year and students are settling into their new classes and the routine of school life really well.

We would like to share with you an update of activities and events that have been happening in school, as well as activities planned for the rest of this term.

School Nurse Surgery

Our school nurse will be visiting on Thursday 14th November to offer a surgery for parents only to attend. This will provide an opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have about your child. Appointments are for 20 minutes and are available at 10.10am, 10.30am, 10.50am and 11.10am.

To book an appointment to discuss your child, please call our Reception on 01733 821403.

Forest School Plans and Activities

Mr Howick, our Lead for Learning Outside the Classroom, has been busy with some of our secondary pupils building a fire pit, which they have dug out and created from scratch, in our forest school area. Both primary and secondary pupils have subsequently been enjoying some lovely sessions around the fire pit, learning all about the fire triangle of heat, fuel and oxygen. Pupils have also been learning about how to stay safe around a fire including how to start a fire, manage it and extinguish it.

Whilst out and about in our forest school area we have discovered a new resident who has recently moved in. A local hedgehog has decided to nestle down in one of our small outdoor structures and hibernate there for the winter. We hope to be a good host to him and it will be great for pupils to learn about their hibernating patterns.

We are looking forward to taking receipt of 30 tree saplings donated by the Woodland Trust. We are due to receive them at the end of November and Mr Howick and pupils will then get busy planting them all in our forest school area.

After October half term we will welcome staff from Travelex, BGL and A B Agri who will be volunteering their services for the day to do some creative work in our forest school area, including extending our tyre trail. We look forward to welcoming them into our school and seeing their wonderful creations.

October half term dates

A quick reminder that the **October half term dates will remain unchanged for Pupils in the following classes: Busy Bee, Squirrel, Fox, Hedgehog, Owl, Mouse, Rabbit, Dragonfly and Hawk.** As planned, pupils in these classes will be away from school from Monday 21st October – Tuesday 29th October, inclusive, returning to school on Wednesday 30th October.

The October half term dates for Pupils in Classes 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20, however, will now be from **Monday 21st October - Friday 25th October inclusive** and we would like them to return to school on Monday 28th October for three days **and then have Thursday 31st October and Friday 1st November off** whilst Secondary Staff are trained.

*Medeshamstede Academy is part of the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust
Group of Academies*



The dates for the remaining school holidays are available in the Parent Section of our website.

Harvest Festival Donations

A huge thank you to everybody that sent in thoughtful donations for our Harvest Festival collection. Reverend Moore from St Mary's, our local church, attended school on Thursday 17th October to collect the donations as well as co-host an assembly. Reverend Moore asked us to pass on his thanks and gratitude to everybody for their kindness.

Medeshamstede School Emergency Food and Clothing Bank

At the start of term we advised that we were setting up an emergency food and clothing bank to help support some of our pupils' families.



There are many reasons why families might need some help and support and, through an unfortunate set of circumstances, might find it impossible to provide for themselves and their family.

An emergency **food donation** is intended as support to provide essentials for two days to provide a basic meal and help families get back on their feet. Attached is a list of items we are hoping to be able to provide. If anybody is willing to donate any of the items listed, it would be greatly appreciated. This facility has already been utilised by some of our families.

Similarly, we have also set up a **clothing bank**, which has also been very well received by some of our families.

If anyone is willing to donate any good quality clothing, that is no longer needed, and would fit children aged 4-16 years of age, would you please contact us.

In particular, second-hand coats, rain jackets, clothes and school uniform would be greatly received.

Should you need help yourself, please either telephone or email Mrs Cheryl Toshack. We will then arrange for emergency supplies to be sent home and will be able to direct you to someone for further support. Please note that we treat all requests for support in the strictest confidence.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support.

Pupil's Attendance

Medeshamstede Academy is committed to providing an education of the highest quality for all of its pupils and recognises that this can only be achieved by supporting and promoting excellent school attendance for all.

Thank you for supporting your children's education for good attendance. We understand that from time to time children will be off school and we will always contact you to discuss this if your child is absent.

A pupil becomes a "persistent absentee" (PA) when they miss 10% or more schooling within an agreed period of time, for whatever reason. We monitor all absences thoroughly and any case that is at risk of moving towards the PA level is given priority and parents/carers will be informed of this immediately.

Best Wishes for a great half term

All that's left for us to say is have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to welcoming pupils back on either Monday 28th October or Wednesday 30th October, depending on which class they are in.

Yours sincerely

Mrs T Ydlibi
Executive Principal

Mrs L Ives
Head of School and SENCo

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date 2019 / 2020	Activity
Monday 11th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 20th November	Community Café: Secondary Only
Wednesday 27th November	School Photos
Wednesday 18 th December	Primary Nativity
Thursday 19 th December	Whole School Christmas lunch
Friday 20 th December	MFL Rewards Day for whole school
Thursday 16th January 2020	Community Café : Primary Only
Friday 24th January	RE Day
Weds 29th - Friday 31st January	Hilltop Residential
Tuesday 11th February	Whole School Parents Evening
Friday 14th February	MFL Rewards Day
Monday 2 March - Friday 6 March	British Science Week
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Monday 9th - Friday 13th March	Sports Relief Week
Wednesday 11th March	Community Café: Secondary Only
Monday 30th March	World Autism Awareness Day
Weds 1st April	Easter Assembly with Reverend Moore
Thursday 2 nd April	MFL Rewards Day for whole school
Thursday 30th April	Community Café: Primary Only
Friday 22nd May	MFL Rewards Day
Thursday 18th June	Community Café: Secondary Only
Tuesday 23rd June	Whole School Parents Evening
Tuesday 30 th June	Year 11 Leaving day
Thursday 16th July	MFL Rewards Day for whole school
Friday 17 th July	Whole School Sports Day

Medeshamstede Academy Family Support

We would be very grateful if you were able to donate any of the following items:

Food Items		
Foods for protein	Foods for starchy carbohydrates	Foods for Vitamins
Tinned Meat Tinned Fish Tinned Curry Tinned Spaghetti Bolognaise Meat or fish products that do not need refrigeration/freezing Beans Pulses Lentils Grains e.g. pearl barley	Tinned Potatoes Rice Pasta Noodles Couscous Oats Savoury Biscuits/Crackers/ Breadsticks Breakfast Cereals Cereal Bars	Tinned Peas Tinned Sweetcorn Tinned Mixed Vegetables Tinned Carrots Tinned Tomatoes Tinned Fruit Fruit Juice Vegetable/Tomato based sauces. Marmite or similar
Foods for Minerals	Foods for Flavour	Other Food and Drink Items
UHT Milk Powdered Milk Soya Milk Dried Soya Chunks/Mince Dairy Based/Creamy/Cheesy jar sauces Tinned Macaroni Cheese	Dried Herbs and Spices Vinegar Garlic Puree/Garlic Powder Tomato Puree Stock Cubes Worcestershire Sauce Bottles of Sauces/Ketchup Gravy Granules Pasta Sauces Sugar	Tinned Soup Cup a Soup (Or similar) Tea Coffee Sweet Biscuits Cooking Oil Fruit Cordial/Squash Seasonal Treats Foil Clingfilm Food Bags Washing Up Liquid Kitchen Cleaning Products Toilet Rolls
Hygiene		
Shampoo Shower Gel Conditioner Sanitary Wear		