MEDINA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

13th November 2026

Dear Medina Families,

What an energetic, inspiring week we have had across the school! Walking through classrooms, I have been blown away by the incredible standard of writing from all our year groups, from our youngest authors building their very first sentences to older pupils producing wonderfully atmospheric, creative stories. Alongside this fantastic classroom work, the children have thrown themselves into an array of enriching experiences—moving with rhythm and joy in our vibrant Diwali dance workshops, exploring friendship and resilience in our interactive SCARF workshops, and representing the school impeccably during Year 1's magical visit to the theatre. To round off such a bustling week, our school community came together in a brilliant sea of neon shades, Pudsey spots, and vibrant outfits for BBC Children in Need; thank you so much for your generous support and for helping make our school such a compassionate, lively place to learn.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs McGarvey

ATTENDANCE - THIS WEEK'S PERCENTAGES

Year R	90.4%
Year 1	87.8%
Year 2	95.3%
Year 3	97.8%
Year 4	88.8%
Year 5	94.8%
Year 6	94.8%

Our school target is 96%

Green met the target (95-100%)

Yellow is just below target (90-95%)

Red is below target (below 90%)

Attendance Matters Every Day Counts....

House Points

Oak	156
Willow	187
Sycamore	161
Beech	215

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Week of Monday 16th Nov: Anti-Bullying Week
- Friday 20th Nov: Anti Bullying (Odd sock day)
- Monday 23rd Nov (AM): Individual and sibling photos
- Week commencing Monday 23rd Nov: UK Parliament
- Monday 30th Nov (9:30 - 11:30) :Year R/1/2 Music Hub Music and Storytelling



It’s Never Too Early to Mention Christmas!

While it might feel like we’ve only just returned, festive preparations are already quietly beginning behind the scenes! With our Santa Run, Christmas discos, performances, and end-of-term celebrations just around the corner, December is going to be truly magical. We will be sending out full details, dates, and ticket information very soon, but we wanted to plant the seed early so you can get ready for the sparkle, the tinsel, and plenty of festive fun!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – DECEMBER

- Thursday 3rd Dec PM: School Games year 5 /6 basketball 3v3 Tour (TBC)
- Friday 4th Dec: Elfridges Non uniform day please bring in a donation
- Monday 7th Dec: Year 3/4/5 Music Hub African Drumming
- Thursday 10th Dec: School Disco
- Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th Dec (2.00 - 3.00): EYFS & KS1 Nativity
- Thursday 17th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner & Santa Run
- Friday 18th Dec (AM): KS2 Church Service
- Friday 18th Dec (PM): School Talent Show











Diwali Dance

This week, pupils across the school enjoyed a fantastic session of 30-minute Diwali dance workshops led by a visiting specialist.

During the sessions, the children learned all about the festival of lights, exploring its history, traditional stories, and the important role that dance plays in the celebrations.

Every class had the chance to get active and practise traditional dance moves and expressive poses.

The workshops were a hit, especially with our Year 5 pupils. One pupil shared, 'I enjoyed dancing because it was very energetic,' while another noted, 'We learned about the history and story of Diwali.' Others agreed on the practical fun, saying, 'It was fun learning the poses and dance moves and how they are important to the festival.'

It was a wonderful, high-energy way for the whole school to celebrate and learn about the significance of Diwali together.





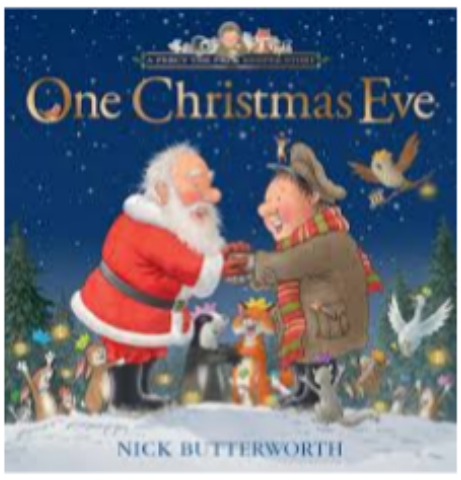


Year 1 visit to the Kings Theatre

On Wednesday afternoon, Year 1 had a wonderful trip to the Kings Theatre to see renowned children's author and illustrator Nick Butterworth.

During the visit, Nick shared his passion for storytelling and art with the children. He showed the pupils how to create fun doodles, encouraged them to use their imaginations to bring characters to life, and treated everyone to a special reading of his new Christmas story.

The children were a real credit to the school, showing fantastic behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the entire trip!





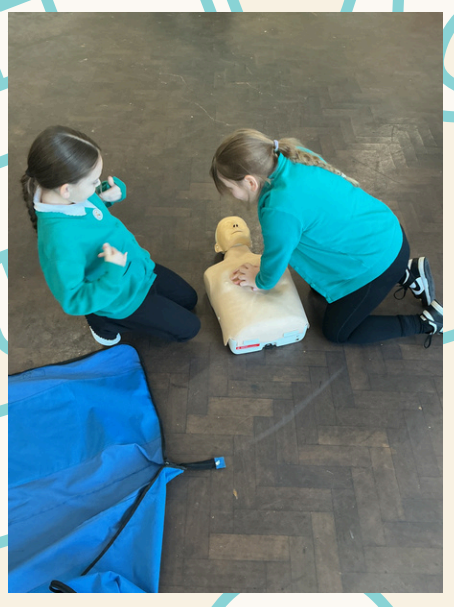
Year 5 Become Lifesavers with Heartstart!

This week, our Year 5 pupils completed their third and final Heartstart training session, equipping them with essential, potentially life-saving first aid skills. Over the three sessions, the children learned how to stay calm and act quickly in an emergency. They practised assessing a situation for danger, checking for a response, putting a casualty into the recovery position, and dealing with choking and serious bleeding. The highlight for many was getting hands-on experience practising chest compressions on Resusci Annie, learning the rhythm and technique needed to perform CPR.

The pupils approached every session with fantastic maturity, focus, and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of how confidently they have mastered these vital skills—well done, Year 5!







Brightening Up the School for Children in Need!

Today, our entire school community came together in a sea of bright colours, spots, and Pudsey ears to celebrate BBC Children in Need!

From vibrant jumpers and neon socks to face paint and fundraising accessories, the corridors were bursting with energy and colour as pupils and staff showed their support for this fantastic cause. Throughout the day, classes took part in fun activities to learn more about how our donations help make a real difference to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK.

A huge thank you to all of our families for your generous donations and for helping make the day so special—we will share our grand fundraising total with you soon!

Community News







Solihull Togetherness

An NHS-funded digital learning hub offering free expert-led courses for Portsmouth families, covering topics such as:
Childhood development
Emotional wellbeing
Understanding child teenager's brain
Understanding your child with additional needs
Understanding your child's feelings

All designed to strengthen family relationships.
Visit the Togetherness Learning Portal:
LEARN - Togetherness
Access Code: PARENTSUPPORT

Portsmouth leisure card

The Portsmouth leisure card is available to residents who receive means-tested benefit within PO1 – PO6 areas (and some properties in PO7 qualify where these pay Council Tax to Portsmouth City Council).

It gives you discounts on a range of culture and leisure services in the city. You can enjoy sports centres, swimming pools, golf, museums, city arts and Portsmouth Historic Dockyard when you show a valid leisure card for each adult/child.

Arbor

How to log an Absence

