

MEDINA PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



2nd October 2026

Dear Medina Families,

Welcome to this week's newsletter! It has been a wonderfully busy week across the school, filled with memorable experiences, hard work, and plenty of reasons to celebrate.

I have been exceptionally proud to see some fantastic writing being produced in every year group, with the children showing off creative descriptive writing, detailed reports, impressive vocabulary, and wonderful effort. Alongside our classroom success, Year 2 had a fantastic geography fieldwork trip to Cosham where they explored our local area, put their skills to the test.

Finally, we held a very special celebration this week for Tracey, who has reached an incredible milestone of 25 years working at Medina; her warmth, dedication, and tireless hard work have made a lasting difference to the school over a quarter of a century, and we are so grateful for everything she brings to our school community. Thank you all for your continued support, and I wish you a restful and enjoyable weekend ahead.

Warmest wishes,
Mrs McGarvey



ATTENDANCE - THIS WEEK'S PERCENTAGES



Year R	93%
Year 1	92.7%
Year 2	95.3%
Year 3	93.5%
Year 4	92.4%
Year 5	92.4%
Year 6	93.3%

Our school target is 96%

Green met the target
(95-100%)

Yellow is just below
target (90-95%)

Red is below target
(below 90%)



House Points



Oak	287
Willow	297
Sycamore	272
Beech	258



Mental Health Schools Team

Please note that short consult appointments to discuss your child's needs are available. If you wish to make an appointment please email: senco@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Y5 Science Museum Trip - Wednesday 7th October
Parent evening 12th October and 14th October
Year 6 residential 19th October - 23rd October
Half term 26th October - 30th October

INSET DAYS

Monday 2nd November
Monday 4th January
Monday 22nd February
Friday 28th May
Friday 25th June



Allergy Aware School



To help protect students with severe allergies, we kindly ask that nuts are not brought into school. This includes produces made with nut i.e. nutella. Thank you for your support in keeping our community safe and inclusive for everyone!

Next week at Medina

Next week, we are celebrating Kindness Week at Medina! To help build a caring, supportive community, pupils will be taking part in several special activities in school throughout the week:

Daily classroom activities focused on empathy and positivity.

Assemblies throughout the week centered on kindness and building strong relationships.

Staff will be handing out stickers, with a special focus on recognizing kind acts on the playground.

Children will receive kindness reward slips in class, leading up to special certificates at the end of the week.



Community News



ARE YOU SUPPORTING SOMEONE WHO IS AUTISTIC OR NEURODIVERGENT?



**ROOM ONE
LOVED ONES GROUP**

Join our **friendly** group to share your thoughts, feelings and recent experiences with people who **understand**.

Meet other carers and loved ones who may be **supporting** adults or children with **neurodiversity**.

Everyone at the group has **lived experience**, including the facilitators: Laura (Portsmouth Carers Service) and James (Room One).

 **ROOM ONE**

 **2nd & 4th Friday of the month**

 **10:00 - 12:00**

 **Carers Centre, PO4 0AD**

Children's Programme

An evidence-based parenting course on promoting confidence, learning and positive behaviour in children aged six to 11 years.

The 9-week course supports parents to manage their child's emotional well-being, behaviour and to be more affective in their communication, be happier and more relaxed parents.



Parents can self-refer or ask a professional to refer on their behalf by emailing ParentingService@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Parents Plus is an Irish charity that develops practical, evidence-based parenting and mental health programmes. We train professionals working with children and families to deliver the programmes in communities and clinical settings. Our programmes support families to communicate effectively, build satisfying relationships and overcome emotional and behavioural problems. www.parentsplus.ie

A partnership between



Special Needs Programme

A Practical, Evidence-Based Course for Parents of Adolescents with Additional Needs (11-18 years)

The Parents Plus Special Needs Programme has been developed in partnership with parents of adolescents with additional needs and professionals working with families. This is the first programme of its kind developed in Ireland. The focus of the programme is to support parents in managing issues that are common for families raising a teenager with a learning disability or other additional needs.

Some of the topics included in this course are:

For parents	For adolescents
- Understanding the journey of parenting a child with additional needs - Managing stress and looking after yourself as a parent - Supporting siblings and family relationships - Establishing good family routines - Supporting positive behaviour	- Supporting good friendships and social opportunities - Building self-esteem, confidence and independence - Supporting teenagers' education and development - Dealing with puberty, sexuality and relationships - Preparing for future transitions and adulthood

Parents can self-refer or ask a professional to refer on their behalf by emailing ParentingService@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

A partnership between

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

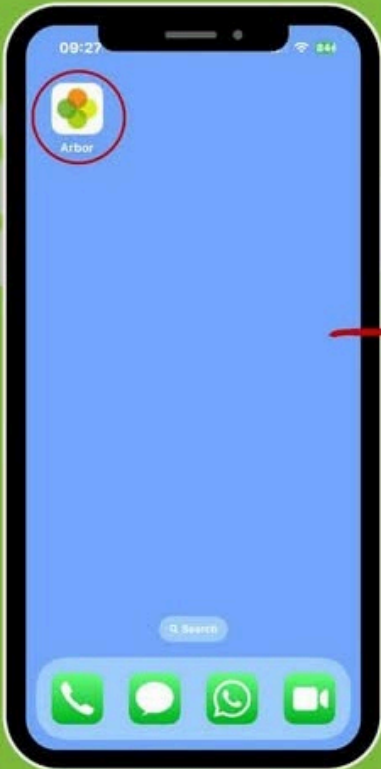
How to log an Absence

How to Log an Absence:



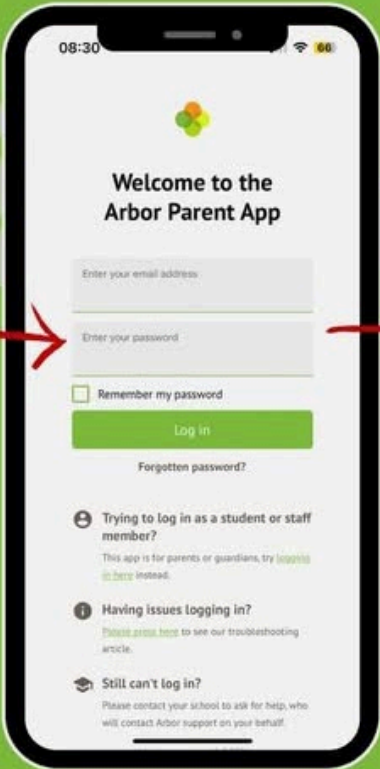
Step 1:

- Open the Arbor App



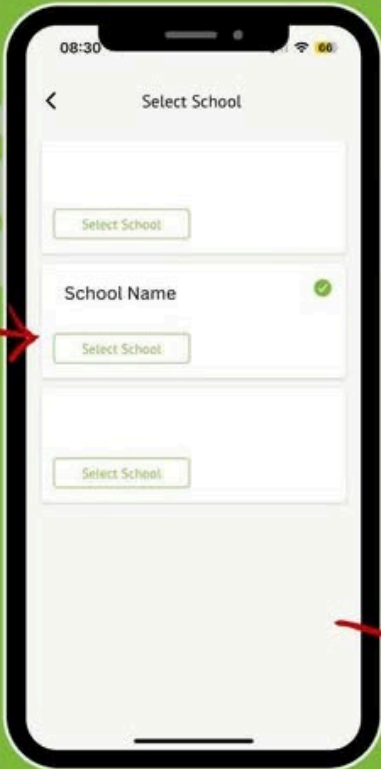
Step 2:

- Log into your Arbor account



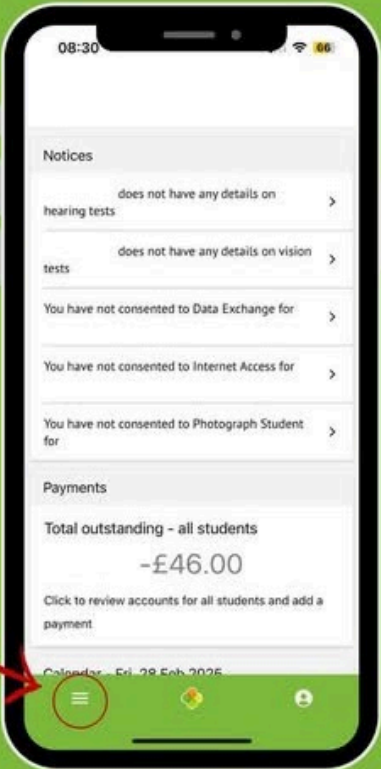
Step 3:

- Select your Child's School



Step 4:

- Select the menu button (circled in red)

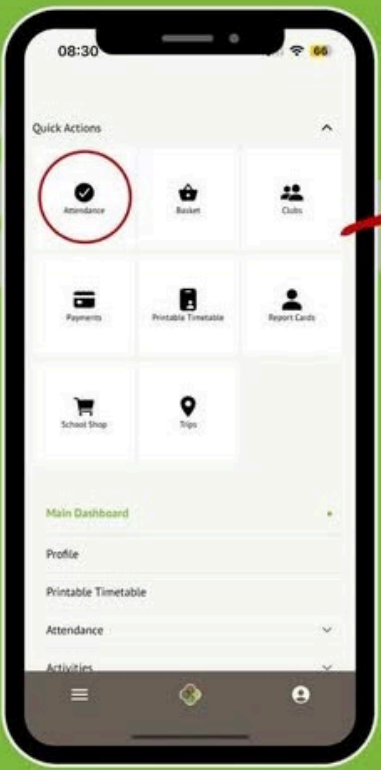


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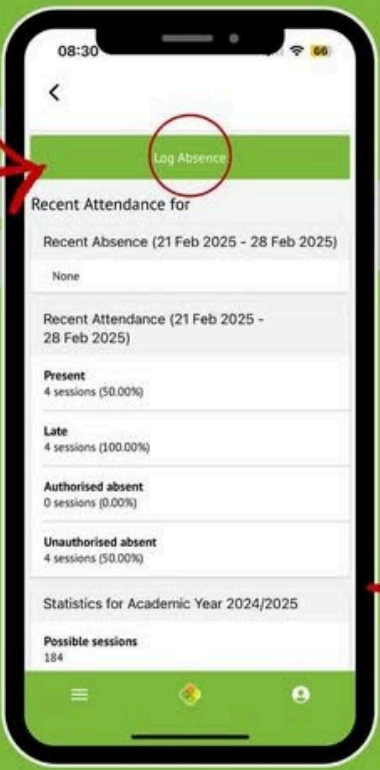
Step 5:

- Click on Attendance Button



Step 6:

- Click Log Absence



Step 7:

- Fill in the details and click Log Absence to confirm

