



East Meon Weekly Newsletter

'Love, Courage, Hope'

18th September 2026

Dear parents and carers,

I am delighted to share several updates that reflect the energy, care and community spirit across our school.

Our Reception children have now settled into East Meon full time, and we could not be prouder of how confidently they have embraced school life. They are already showing curiosity, kindness and a growing independence.

Next week, information about voting for Parent Governors will be shared. This is an important opportunity to shape the strategic direction of our school, and we warmly encourage all families to take part. Furthermore, as part of our ongoing reflection on who we are as a school, we would love your input on whether our current values of 'Love, Courage and Hope' truly reflect our children, their experience of school life, and the aspirations we hold for them. Your voice is vital. Please share your thoughts using the form here: [Values Parent Survey](#).

We have also been asked by the Admissions Team to help publicise the starting school application process for families who may have younger children due to start school in September 2027 (for those born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023). We would be grateful if you could share this information as widely as possible within our community. As the County Council cannot write to parents directly, they rely on schools to ensure this message reaches families who may need it. Applications open on **Sunday 1 November 2026** and close on **Friday 15 January 2027**.

There can sometimes be a stigma attached to being a Free School Meals (FSM) family, but we want to be absolutely clear that FSM status is confidential, supportive and hugely beneficial. Children in Years 3–6 receive free school lunches, and each FSM pupil brings in nearly £1500 of additional funding to support teaching, learning and pastoral opportunities. This funding helps us provide resources, trips and enrichment experiences; for example, Bedales offers Outdoor Experiences specifically for FSM-eligible pupils. Checking eligibility and applying takes only 5–10 minutes and can make a significant difference. Please visit [Free School Meals](#) to apply.

Keeping children safe and ensuring strong attendance remain key priorities. We have recently installed a magnetic lock on our hall fire doors, which releases automatically in the event of a fire but keeps us all safe and secure during the school day. Further improvements are scheduled to ensure our grounds and building remain secure. Attendance also matters greatly: we want to see your child every day, as good attendance is directly linked to higher attainment, improved wellbeing and better long-term outcomes. Conversely, if your child is genuinely unwell, please do not send them in, or send them in with a dose of medication in their system. If it is viral, they are contagious, and if they have something like Calpol, once the effects wear off, they can feel more unwell. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. More details on how attendance affects attainment and future earnings can be found on page 2.

Thank you for your continued partnership, positivity and support. Our school is strengthened by the contributions of every family, and we are grateful for the trust you place in us each day.

Warmest wishes,
Mr Penarroja



How attendance affects attainment

Recent research by the Department for Education shows just how closely attendance and attainment are linked.

At primary school, children who attend nearly every day in Year 6 (95–100% attendance) have 30% higher odds of reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to similar pupils who attend 90–95% of the time.

The link is even stronger at secondary school. Year 11 pupils with near-perfect attendance have almost double the odds of achieving grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to similar pupils attending 90–95% of the time. In other words, missing just 10 extra days is associated with half the odds of achieving these grades.

The long-term impact on earnings

Missing school doesn't just affect exam results and a child's time in education – it can impact future earnings too.

Persistently absent pupils in secondary school could earn £10,000 less at age 28 compared to pupils with near-perfect attendance.

For each additional day of absence between Years 7 to 11, the typical pupil could miss out on an average of £750 in future lifetime earnings.

Stars of the Week

Adventurers: Bonnie, Ellie and Leonard

Explorers: Thomas and Josie

Voyagers: Aidan and Alice

Dojo Winners of the Week

Adventurers: Otis

Explorers: Lula/Xavier

Voyagers: Lylah

Key Dates

Fri 25th September – Mufti Day

Mon 5th October – Harvest Festival

Weds 7th October – Phonics Meeting

Fri 9th October – Mufti Day

Thurs 15th October – Quiz Night

Tues 20th October – Parents Meeting

Thurs 22nd October – Parents Meetings

MUFTI DAY

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

FEMS invites all children to wear suitable home clothes in exchange for bringing in a Bottle donation of some kind. It can be big, small, drinkable or not. All bottles will be used as prizes in our Bottle tombola at the Christmas Fayre.

Email: adminoffice@eastmeon.hants.sch.uk

Website: www.eastmeon.hants.sch.uk

Address: East Meon C of E (Controlled) Primary School Chapel Street, East Meon, Petersfield, GU32 1NR

Telephone: 01730 823218

Did you guess the storybook character from page 1?

East Meon School Council

As part of one of our priorities to develop the children spiritually and pastorally, I am proud to announce that today we appointed our School Council:

Head Boy/Girl

Dom and Hattie (Y6)

Collective Worship Leaders

Waldek, Arrietty, Grace and Freddie P

Global Ambassadors

Logan, Xander, Ted B and Emily

Eco-Warriors

Bradley, Maya, Tyr, Eyja and Xavier

Librarians

Sebbe, Josie, Orla and Annabelle

Play Leaders

Teddy B, Fletcher and Willow

Starting school
in September
2027

If your child is 4 or
will turn 4 before
1 September 2027,
they can start school
in September 2027

Applications open for
Hampshire residents on
1 November 2026

THE NATIONAL CLOSING
DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS
FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2027
DON'T MISS IT!



For more information go to
www.hants.gov.uk/admissions

We are also very excited to host our Community School Quiz on **Tuesday 15th October**, from **6–8 pm**. It promises to be a fun, friendly evening bringing together families, staff and friends of the school. While we cannot provide childcare, you are welcome to bring your children; we will happily put on a film for them in a classroom. A QR code will be added to the event poster shortly.



Voyager's poetry

I dare you!

I dare you
to open the door.
There could be a
creature, a tree,
even just a plain field!
There will always be hope.

I dare you
to turn the page.
There could be an
essay, a story,
even just a blank page...
There will always be potential.

I dare you
to pull up the blinds.
There could be an
elephant, a playground,
even just a grassy meadow...
There will always be life.

I dare you
to open the box.
There could be a
spider, some old books,
even just an empty box...
There will always be space.

The door

Go and open the door;
Maybe there's a forest,
or a lake,
or a magic fish.

Go and open the door.
Maybe there's a cat purring.
Maybe you'll see a nut falling,
or a squirrel doing parkour.

Go and open the door.
Even if there's a wolf howling
or a bear growling,
even if there is nothing.

Go and open the door.
If there is a storm,
it will clear.

Go and open the door,
Is it's broken,
you will find the key.

The door

Go and open the door.
Perhaps there will be
beautiful flowers or a
sunny day.

Maybe you'll see a colorful
bird full of song while
singing.

Go and open the door.

Maybe there will be a
scent full of beautiful
animals.

Go and open the door.

Is the rain there will
be a glassed rainbow,
or a plain blue sky.

Go and open the door,

You will find love!