



Moorings Way Infant School

Year R Newsletter -September 2026

Wow! What an amazing first week! The children have settled in so well and have started to make friends. Thank you to everyone who was able to send in an 'all about me bag'. If you have not yet done this, please don't worry, there is still lots of time. The children have loved to share their special items and it has helped them find friends in their new teams with a similar interest! Everyone was so confident when talking out loud. Amazing start! You can expect a newsletter each half term from the Year R team letting you know about upcoming events, topic plans and general requests/news. If you have any questions or think you know a way to enhance the curriculum further, please speak to a member of the year R team. We look forward to a great year of working together to make the first year of school as exciting as we can!

Question responses

The following information is in response to some of the questions we have had over the last week, or when we went to visit some of you at home. We hope the information helps to answer some of those. If we have missed anything, please let us know and we will send a message out.

PE- Our PE lessons will begin on Tuesday 15th September and will continue to be every Tuesday afternoon. Please can the children wear their PE kits into school and wear them for the day. This allows PE sessions to be longer and reduce the amount children are bringing into school. At this moment in time, we will only be having the one PE session per week. We will still include lots of active learning in our provision using our outdoor learning space.

Book Bags- From Monday 14th September the children will begin to learn letter sounds. The children follow Read, Write, inc phonics scheme. If you wish to explore any helpful videos or other available resources, I will attach an email address to this newsletter. The children will not bring home a reading book until they are in a ditty group. At this point they will have learnt lots of the letter sounds and will be starting to blend them to read simple words. Please continue to share books daily at home and where possible discuss characters, settings and story plots. Sharing the language in stories is key to helping the children become successful readers and writers.

Water bottles- Please can you make sure you are sending the children to school with a named water bottle each day.

Spare Clothes- If you are concerned your child may have an accident at school, please can you provide a spare pair of clothes for them to change into. If you have any clothes (mostly bottoms) that you might be able to donate then we would be grateful for any spares we can get eg- trousers, pants and socks.

Name Items- Please can you label EVERYTHING to ensure the children are coming home with all their own items. Especially coats and Jumpers/cardigans.

Lunch Menu- Just a reminder that you will now need to log all lunch options on Arbor by the Sunday before the start of a new week. This includes listing if they are going to be having a packed lunch.

Puddle suits and welly boots- We are very lucky in our setting to have the outdoor learning area that we have. The weather can often mean that there is a lot of mud! So that we are able to still make the most of our outdoor area, we would like to request that the children bring to school a puddle suit and some welly boots. If you would like to, the children can leave them here to be stored, or you can bring them in daily. Please make sure that welly boots and puddle suits are named.

Gates to the Year R area- The gates will be locked until year R staff open them for the start of the day. This is to allow the year R team to set up the learning resources before the start of the day. The gates will then be locked at 3.30 to make sure our resources and space are looked after once the year R children have gone home.

This half term our topic is....

All about me

This half term we will be learning all about us and our new friends. We will be finding our feet at school, learning how to be part of our new teams and all the new routines in our busy days. Below is a breakdown of the early year's foundation stage learning areas.

Personal, Social, emotional development

We use a scheme called Jigsaw.
This half term the focus is on friendships and all about me.
We will be using circle times and small group task to help us.

Communication and Language

We will be playing lots of games that encourage the children to listen to others and find their own voice.

Physical development

The children will have PE each half term with a PE coach. This half term, the sports coach will work through the PE scheme Real PE with a focus on fundamental movement. This supports footwork, balance and spatial awareness.

Literacy

The children will start to explore phonics sounds each day. They will also explore nursery rhymes looking at rhyming words. We will have lots of opportunity to develop pencil control and fine motor strength as part of our daily planning too.

Mathematics

This half term as part of our maths curriculum, we will be exploring numbers to 4 and the different ways to make them. We will also be looking at some 2D shapes.

Understanding the World

We will begin the year by exploring the classroom and our school. We will then take a look at Portsmouth and our local surroundings.

Later this half term there will also be a focus on Harvest.

Expressive Art and Design

We have set up a home corner in the classroom to support role play. We have instruments outside to explore music and singing.

We will be having opportunities to work on scissor skills, colour mixing and applying them to self-portraits.

Helpful links;

Phonics

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parentsandcarers/>