

# MILL RYTHE INFANT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## Dear Parents and Friends

Thank you for your patience and support during this spell of bad weather, and for co-operating with the arrangements we have put in place. Until the thaw takes place, we are extending our registration period in the mornings - registers will close at 9.30am and we are allowing early pick up from 2.30pm. We are sending out a text message this morning to ask you to collect from your child's classroom door. Please continue to log on to the website for up-to-date daily information - many, many thanks to Mrs Anna Dollery for posting the messages for you. She has also put up a stream of photos showing the hard work undertaken and initiated by parents and governors on Sunday to clear paths and persuade the gritter to work on the access road and staff driveway. There is a possibility of snow again tonight, but we shall have to see - the blizzard forecast for Sunday did not materialise. We will do our utmost to keep things as normal as possible for the children.

Portsmouth Football Club will recommence their Tuesday club **next week, 19 January**. FOMS will also hold their first meeting of the term on that evening at Jane Stevens' home.

## Free School Meals

On 1 April of this year, the government are giving selected schools (Havant and Hayling Island included), an extra sum of money in the form of a Disadvantaged Subsidy. The amount of money each school will receive is calculated by **the number of pupils claiming for Free School Meals**. We know that at Mill Rythe there are parents who are eligible for FSM but do not claim them for all sorts of reasons - sometimes because their child prefers a packed lunch from home. The governors want to make sure that we receive everything we are entitled to in order that we can improve the life chances of every pupil here. **PLEASE CLAIM FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS IF YOU ARE ENTITLED TO THEM EVEN IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO TAKE THEM - *it helps the school, and it may mean that your child can access outside activities that you cannot currently afford.*** Please ask Jayne in Reception for advice on whether your family qualifies and what you need to complete the application. This information is kept completely confidential.

## Stick Insects

Our stick insects have been breeding and we have lots available if children would like to have some as pets. Please see a member of Year R staff if you are interested.

*We would recommend that parents check the qualifications and suitability of all staff and leaders running outside activities or services signposted by school.*