

Getting students September ready



Adam Marshall, primary school teacher

#BeSeptemberReady was Adam's approach to home learning as colleagues across the school continue to prepare students for the next academic year through virtual learning online at Milton Park Primary School.

What has changed?

Preparing students for the academic year ahead has been a priority for teachers at Milton Park Primary School. Since the government announced changes for the phased return of reception, year 1 and year 6 students, other students continue to be home-schooled.

At Milton Park Primary School, students are getting ready for a September start utilising online learning through Seesaw. Through assessment-based teaching, students are completing core topics that include times tables, subtraction and fractions. Students have also been completing English assignments to help with creative writing skills. Other activities include participating in Hampshire school games as well as daily questions.

What we did

- Introduced #BeSeptemberReady initiative to ensure students are ready for next September in core subject areas
- Specific subject areas include maths, English and science
- Idea generation and creative writing has helped build better vocabularies as students must avoid 'snooze words'
- Themed weeks help structure what students do including STEM week and RE weeks
- Taking part in Hampshire School Games challenges helps students get the school to the top of the leaderboard either in the classroom or at home
- Daily question on Seesaw allows students to answer more philosophical questions, interact with each other and converse with teachers
- Weekly mindfulness diaries allow teachers to spot any changes in how students feel enabling them to better support them while at home alongside their parents/carers

The impact

- The mindfulness diary has had a huge impact on how we respond to students and support their needs. Parents/carers have found this hugely helpful.
- Students have become more responsive and have been incredibly resilient to change. Communication is key. Seesaw has helped with this.
- Small daily challenges like the philosophical question allows students to work together to come up with their own answer. While this doesn't replace classroom conversations, it goes some way to helping.

Why do I teach in Portsmouth?

I studied classic music at Leeds College of Music and remember having conversations with friends about teaching. I felt I wasn't ready but wanted to gain experience in a school first.

I found a job in admin at a Winchester school for three years. I applied for Portsmouth Primary SCITT in 2018, went for my interview and was successful. I started my NQT year in 2019.

The city's historical heritage really appeals to me. As a teacher, I feel like I have the opportunity to show them incredible sites. Some students that I teach have this on their doorstep but have never explored it before in great detail. Having Southsea beach nearby is also an added bonus too.

About the teacher training provider

As one of the top 5 teacher training providers in the UK, Portsmouth Primary SCITT runs a one year course that qualifies successful trainees to teach either children aged 5-11 years in primary, junior and infant schools (Primary course) or children aged 3-7 years in primary, infant and nursery schools (Early Years course). Portsmouth Primary SCITT has been rated by Ofsted as outstanding since 2004 and continues to recruit exceptional people to teach the city's children.

Want to find out more?

Cate Worrall, Principal at Portsmouth Primary SCITT
Email: admin@portsmouthscitt.co.uk

