

Newsletter 20

Friday 16th February 2024

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Happy Half Term

Firstly I must begin by thanking you all for your calm response to the unexpected sounding of the fire alarms as you were dropping the children off this morning. Unfortunately, when the Fire Brigade arrived and checked the building we discovered that an alarm had been activated on purpose. I have spoken to the older children about the potential consequences of these actions for others when the Fire Brigade has to be diverted to our school for a false alarm



and I hope they have fully understood the seriousness of such pranks.

The children have been telling me about the plans

they have for the half term break, but if you are staying at home and are looking for some exciting family days out, the museums in Cambridge are running their popular twilight sessions throughout half term week. There will be a variety of activities on offer many of which are free. More information about the events can be found at

<https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/theme/twilight>

Whatever your plans I wish you all a happy and enjoyable half term spending some valuable time together.

Medical Tracker

As you know the school office staff currently send you an e-mail if your child has received First Aid for a bumped head or other head injury. We have been investigating how we can keep you better informed about all the First Aid treatment your child may receive in school and so I am pleased to inform you that we have purchased a new cloud based system called Medical Tracker. Medical Tracker allows us to inform you every time your child receives First Aid in school or medication is administered. When we return to school after half term you will receive an e-mail each time your child receives First Aid. The e-mails will be sent directly to you by the member of staff who administers the First Aid to your child. These e-mails will be sent from **donotreply@medicaltracker.co.uk**. Please add this address to your e-mail address book or approved sender list to prevent it being blocked by your SPAM or junk filters. Please be assured that we will continue to telephone you if we feel that you need to collect your child or if we feel you need to seek further medical attention for your child. We hope you will find the Medical Tracker system helpful and informative. If you have any questions about the system please contact us via the school office and we will be happy to discuss the system with you.

Eddie the Penguin and Year 2 Save the World!

Year 2 delighted audiences this week with their spirited production of 'Eddie the Penguin Saves the World.' With a plethora of catchy songs such as the Melting Song, If You're Feeling Hot Dress Cool and the Walking Song, the children entertained us all whilst giving us some very important messages about the responsibility we all have to save our planet. Members of the audience were taken on a journey around the world visiting the United Kingdom, the USA, Brazil and Australia in an attempt to halt the melting of the polar ice caps and save the precious habitat for penguins and polar bears.

Well done to all the children for treating us to such an entertaining, meaningful and polished performance.



A Message From the Royal Mail



The Royal Mail have asked for our support in raising awareness for their current 'Dog Awareness' campaign.

In 2022/23, 1,916 Royal Mail employees were attacked by dogs whilst delivering mail to our homes. Some of the 'posties' who were injured, suffered permanent and disabling injuries.

Even if dogs are placid they can behave differently if someone they don't know approaches their home or if they are feeling unwell or unsettled. A dog's loyalty and protective nature—the reasons why we love them so much – can mean they aren't always friendly to visitors. Consequently, the Royal Mail is asking us to:

- Secure our dogs behind a gate or in another room before opening the door to accept delivery of a parcel or letter.
- Make sure side and back gates and doors are closed so that dogs can't get loose.
- Consider fitting an external mail box or letter cage to prevent bites to hands and fingers.

More information is available on the Royal Mail's website:

www.royalmail.com/dogawareness.

Year 1 WOWed by London

Year One had the most amazing WOW day in school this week, exploring London. This was the icing on the cake (... or scone) to a fabulous half term's learning all about this capital city. The children became the new King or Queen of London for the day when they made their own stunning, bejewelled crowns, and then flew their own Union Jack flags. These activities took perseverance, concentration and focused on the fine motor skills we are trying to develop in Year 1 to aid our developing handwriting style. Making scones was definitely one of the highlights of the day and the whole school was captivated as the scent wafted down the corridor, drawing in many children and staff. In the afternoon, the children re-capped and practiced many of the yoga skills we have learnt during our PE lessons this half term. The children's flexibility and imagination really came to the fore as they thought about many of the landmarks they have learnt about during this exciting topic.



Reception in the Woods

To finish their Amazing Animals topic, Reception children visited the woodland area opposite school on Monday to see if they could spot any signs of animal life. They enjoyed exploring with magnifying glasses, log rolling and listening to sounds of nature all around them. I think their comments show how much they enjoyed their visit.



"We found a slug family."

(Nathan)

"I saw a frog but it got away." (Theo)

"The moss on the trees was slimy." (Matilda)

"I looked all around for a squirrel but I didn't spot one." (Reuben)



Our Charity of the Year

Following a whole school consultation run by members of the school the children voted to support the British Heart Foundation this year.

February is British Heart Foundation's Heart Month when people are encouraged to go red and fundraise for the charity. We will be doing our bit by hosting a red themed bake sale after the half term break on Wednesday 13th March (further information to follow).

Sadly, many of us will witness a cardiac arrest in our lifetime. The British Heart Foundation is running a brilliant initiative, RevivR, to ensure we are ready if this should happen. RevivR is a fast, free and easy-to-use online training course. In just 15 minutes, you can learn how to save a life and receive your very own CPR certificate. It couldn't be simpler – you just need your mobile phone or tablet and a cushion to practise on.

The training course will:

- teach you how to recognise a cardiac arrest and what to do in an emergency situation
- teach you what to expect with a simulated 999 call
- Help you to practise and perfect your CPR technique
- Teach you how to use a defibrillator

Access the training online now at <https://www.bhf.org.uk/>



Staff News

Sadly, I must inform you of some staffing changes which will be taking place in Year 5 at the end of the Spring term.

Mrs Michelle Evans, Phoenix Class teacher on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday has announced that she will be leaving Monkfield Park at the end of the Spring term.

Mrs Evans is a psychologist by training and she has taken the difficult decision to move out of teaching to pursue a career as an Assistant Psychologist, supporting children. I know that it has been a difficult decision for Mrs Evans and as a valued member of our team she will be missed by us all.

In addition, Mrs Amy Squires who teaches Phoenix Class on Thursday and Friday has informed us that she will also be leaving Monkfield Park at the end of the Spring term. Mrs Squires has been offered an exciting role as a Creative Consultant and although she is leaving Monkfield Park with a heavy heart, having been with us for eight years, she feels that this is the right time to move on for her family.

We wish Mrs Evans and Mrs Squires much luck as they embark on their new and exciting careers.

We are currently advertising for a full time replacement to teach Phoenix Class and will be holding interviews after half term. As soon as we have further information we will update you.

More Staff News

Congratulations to Mr Yates, and his wife, who welcomed a baby boy into the world last week.

We know that this has been an eagerly anticipated event by the children in Lacerta Class and our staff, so we are pleased to be able to share this wonderful news with you.

I am sure that all our families will join us in sending many congratulations and good wishes to Mr and Mrs Yates. Mr Yates is currently on paternity leave but we are looking forward to meeting Baby Yates and welcoming him as the newest member of the Monkfield Park family .

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you what they might find under a log in the woods.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you about Paddington and his family.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you what was the most important message from their production.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain what to do first when comparing measurements.

Ask your Year 4 child to list the most important features of a good newspaper report.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain who Maria Sibylla Merian was and why she is important.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain how to multiply any decimal number by 10, 100 and a 1000.

FORTHCOMING DATES Spring Term 2024

19th to 23rd February—Half Term

26th February—Children return to school

28th February—Headteacher Drop In 9.00 to 10.00am

5th March—Dental checks for Reception and Year 1

5th March—SEND Coffee Morning

8th March—Cygnus Class assembly

8th March—Mid-term reports to parents

12th March—Parent consultations

14th March—Year 1 trip to Church Farm

15th March—Violet Class assembly

18th to 21st March—Book Fayre from 3.40pm

21st March—Parent consultations

22nd March—Green Class assembly

26th March—Year 5 production at 2 pm

27th March—Year 5 production at 6 pm

28th March—Break up for Easter

29th March to 12th April - Easter Holiday

15th April—Children return to school for start of Summer term

22nd April— Height and Weight measurements for Reception and Year 6

26th April—Dorado Class assembly

29th April to 3rd May— Healthy Lifestyles Week

13th to 16th May—End of KS2 SATS for Year 6

20th to 24th May—Walk To School Week

21st May—Reception singing performance at 9.30am

22nd May—Reception singing performance at 2pm

24th May—Break up for Half Term

27th to 31st May—Half term holiday

3rd June—INSET Day (school closed to children)

4th June—Children return to school

19th June—Reception and KS1 Sports Day

26th June—KS2 Sports Day

For general queries regarding the Care and Learning Centre, please contact the school office by e-mail on: clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk or by telephoning 01954 273377.

To speak with a member of the Care and Learning Centre staff please telephone 01954 273301

Pancake Day

On Tuesday, we celebrated Shrove Tuesday and made pancakes at preschool. Everybody helped to read the recipe card and mix up the batter. Then Ms Turner cooked the pancakes and we all had fun watching her flip them up in the air and catch them again! We ate them with sugar and lemon - they were delicious! Later, the children enjoyed re-enacting the experience in the Home Area, pretending to mix up their own batter, reading the recipe card, and flipping up pretend pancakes. It was an exciting morning! I wonder if the children can remember the ingredients we needed to make the pancakes?



Half-Term

Next week is half-term holiday so the pre-school will be closed. We would like to wish you all a restful break and we look forward to seeing you back at pre-school on Monday 26th February.

Parent Consultations

In March, we will be holding our Parent Consultations, giving you the opportunity to come and chat to your child's Key Person about how they are getting on at preschool. There will be an e-mail letter to follow shortly with further details and times.

Happy Half-Term everyone! *JANE TURNER*