

# Newsletter 7

Friday 20th October 2023

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## Good Wishes for a Happy Half Term Break

It was lovely to see so many of you at our parent consultation evenings over the past two weeks and from the conversations I had with many parents and families, I think everyone is ready for a well deserved half-term break.

The Monkfield Park 'family' has been amazing and I must say a big thank you to everyone for making this half term a very successful one. As I have been going around the classrooms this week I have marvelled at the standard of the children's learning. Our amazing staff have worked so very hard to make the learning fun and it is clear that the children feel inspired and want to learn. I must also thank our wonderful admin team who have done so much behind the scenes to keep the school running smoothly, our site officer and cleaners have made sure our buildings are clean and well maintained and our catering team always make sure we are all well fed. I sometimes have to pinch myself because I cannot believe how fortunate I am to be part of this wonderful, vibrant, supportive learning community. Thank you to you all and please have a happy, relaxing and safe break and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 30th October.

Mrs Howell.

## Attendance Monitoring—Further Clarification.

Last week we sent out attendance letters to inform parents and carers if their child's attendance had fallen below 96%. Following receipt of these letters we have been asked to provide some clarification about the attendance monitoring process.

Every month we analyse the attendance data for each child. The percentage attendance figure is calculated for the school year to the end of the previous month i.e. for this year this will be from 4th September 2023. Schools are required to ensure that parents are informed of any attendance concerns at an early stage and therefore you will receive an initial communication from us if your child's attendance falls below 96%.

This initial letter will be to simply make you aware of your child's attendance level. If concerns persist, then the school will contact you again to inform you of their concerns.

Following the initial letter, if your child's attendance level continues to fall we will contact you and can arrange a meeting with you to explore the reasons and discuss what help can be put in place to increase attendance.

The government now classes persistent absenteeism as 10%, which means that any child with an attendance of less than 90% will be classed as a persistent absentee and will be monitored by our Local Authority Attendance Improvement Officer. In these instances the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice.

Please note that we are unable to authorise holidays or extended periods of leave during term time unless

### Year 6 and the SAW Project

This week we have been delighted to welcome the SAW project back to Monkfield Park. SAW or the Science Art and Writing initiative is a cross-disciplinary project that explores scientific themes through practical science activities underpinned by visually striking images. The images and science concepts are used as a creative stimulus for extension activities in art and writing. This innovative and inspirational project demonstrates so wonderfully how Science, art and creative writing overlap and interconnect. The amazing team from the John Innes Institute in Norwich allowed the children in Year 6 to see real, cutting edge science in the classroom, in addition to writing poetry with their resident poet and producing inspirational art with their resident artist. All the work is based on microbes and the incredible, microscopic world which is all around us. The children were able to experience the great beauty and benefits of the intriguing, invisible world that has such an impact on all our lives.





### Salve Romans

Year 4 have been immersing themselves in the Romans this term and celebrated the end of their topic with a WOW Day. As the Roman centurions and our resident Ancient Britons, led by our very own Queen Boudicca, marched through school we saw so much of the children's learning from their history topic coming to life. From making their very own replica shields, to mosaics, reconstructing an edible version of a Roman road, and learning how to read and write Roman numerals, the children were able to visualise what life was like for a Roman soldier living in the various outposts of the Roman empire at this time and what the Ancient Britons would have made of all the amazing new inventions such as heated houses! The children entertained us all in assembly on Friday with their rendition of the song 'Just Like a Roman' which included some amazing signing.



### **Applying for a School Place**



If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, and you live in Cambridgeshire you need to apply for a Reception place for September 2024.

We appreciate that selecting the right school for your child is not an easy decision to make. Each parent and carer is looking for a school that will make the educational experience as motivating and rewarding as possible for their child. To help you make this important decision we would like to welcome parents and carers into school to see at first hand what makes

Monkfield Park such a special place to learn. We are offering a number of parent tours so that you can see the school in action and talk with the Headteacher. In addition we will also be offering an open evening event so that you can meet and chat with the Reception teaching team. Please join us for one of our parent tours which can be booked by contacting the school office. The dates for the tours are:

Thursday 9th November—Open Evening from 6.00pm

Wednesday 13th December at 9.30am

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school.

# Headteacher Roll of Honour

Each week this space will provide a celebration of children who may be especially noticed for demonstrating learning or behaviour that we feel should be recognised and commended. This week I would like to congratulate:

Busra in Cygnus Class: Sometimes you see a piece of writing that really makes you stop and want to read more. Busra's letter, written from the point of view of a Roman soldier was such a piece of writing plus it was written in such beautiful, neat handwriting. Well done Busra.

Jack in Delphinus Class: As a community of life-long learners we always like to keep our teachers on their toes. To keep us busy over the half-term break, Jack has created some amazing algebra problems to challenge us all. Thank you for making sure we don't get bored Jack!

Matilda in Yellow Class: It was wonderful to see the Reception children so joyfully engaged in their dance unit in PE this term. Matilda performed her dance with such expression and showed great use of space.

## Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you which fruits they tasted this week.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you which stamps they made.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you their number bonds to 10.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you what they have discovered about the construction of Stone Henge.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain how to make the best lino print.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain the ending of the book 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce.

Ask your Year 6 child to tell you which part of the SAW project inspired them.

## Poppy Appeal 2023

As in previous years, we will be supporting the Royal British Legion's annual Poppy Appeal in school. The children will be able to buy poppies and associated items e.g. rulers, badges, lanyards, wrist bands and zipper reflectors from 31st October. The items are priced at 50p each and children are able to buy a maximum of two items each. Please can children bring in the exact money in a clearly named envelope

Poppies will be on sale daily in each Key Stage in the week leading up to Remembrance Day on the 11th November.

All money raised will help the Royal British Legion to continue its work supporting injured forces personnel and their families.



**FORTHCOMING DATES Autumn Term 2023**

23rd—27th October—HALF TERM

30th October—Children return to school

30th October to 3rd November—Children's Art Gallery

7th November—9.30am to 10.30am — Headteacher's Drop In

9th November—Open Evening and Tour for prospective parents at 6pm

w/c 13th November—Anti bullying week

17th November—Children in Need Day

22nd November—Flu vaccinations for all children

23rd November—2.30pm to 3.30pm — Headteacher's Drop In

Change of date for Indigo Class Assembly. This will now take place on 24th November at 9.15am

24th November—Tour for prospective parents at 9.30am

30th November—Whole school Tudor WOW Day

4th December —Tour for prospective parents at 2.00pm

5th December—Reception pantomime trip

12th December at 2pm—Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert

13th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

13th December at 6pm—Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert

14th December—9.00am to 10.00am—Headteacher's Drop In

14th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

14th December at 6pm—Year 3 and Year 4 Carol Concert

20th December—LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM

21st December—3rd January 2024—CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

4th & 5th January—INSET Days (school closed for children)

8th January—Children return to school for Spring term

22nd to 26th January—International Week

26th January—Violet Class assembly

2nd February - Columba Class assembly

5th to 9th February—Children's Mental Health Week

8th February—Reception Come and Share

9th February—Blue Class assembly

13th February—Year 2 performance at 2pm

14th February—Year 2 performance at 2pm

For general queries regarding the Care and Learning Centre, please contact the school office by e-mail on: [clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk](mailto: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

### Room News

This week the children have been learning about Autumn. We have noticed that the weather is beginning to get 'chilly' and that we need to start wrapping up warm. Can the children show you the 'magic trick' they have learnt, to 'flip on' their coats all by themselves?!

We have learnt a song about putting on hats, gloves and scarves to keep warm.

We also talked about how some leaves are starting to change colour and fall down from the trees. We collected some different coloured Autumn leaves we found in the garden and began to make a display in our classroom. Perhaps you could go for an Autumn walk over the half-term and collect some more items for our Autumn display?

In our Maths Area this week we have been counting conkers and finding the corresponding numerals to match.



### Half-Term

Next week is half-term break and the preschool is closed. We look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 30th October. Happy Half-Term everyone!

Best wishes

Ms Turner