

# Newsletter 18

**Friday 19th January 2018**

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## **Introducing Mrs Birkert**



We would like to introduce our new Clerical Assistant, Mrs Birkert, to all our families.

Mrs Birkert is joining Mrs Taylor in the school office and we hope you will extend a big Monkfield Park welcome to her.

It is going to take Mrs Birkert a little while to learn all our names and to get used to the school systems and procedures, but we hope you will support her and Mrs Taylor during her first few weeks. Mrs Birkert is delighted to be joining our office team and is looking forward to getting to know all our children and their families.

## **Inclusive Sport**

On Thursday, we were fortunate to have an inspiring assembly run by 'Steel Bones', a charity which focuses on supporting amputees in Cambridgeshire. Year 3 and Year 6 then took part in an inclusive sports event where the children's assumptions about sport and inclusivity were challenged. Working with the volunteers from Steel Bones the children learnt to respect people's differences and explored their understanding of what they can do, whilst experiencing a number of inclusive and fun sporting activities. To enable the children to empathise with a variety of disabilities, they took part in visually impaired football, goalball, seated volleyball and Boccia.



## **Extreme Weather—The Gritter Visits School**

Year 2 have been studying the weather, and extreme weather in particular. As if it had been given advanced warning, the British weather has been giving the children lots of first hand experience, especially of very strong winds. Unfortunately, the children's weather station fell victim to storm Dylan which left it rather decimated. On Monday we were very lucky to have a visit from one of the County Council's gritter machines which work so hard throughout the winter to ensure our roads are safe. The children learnt how spreading salt on the roads lowers the freezing point of water, helping to stop ice from forming. However in very low temperatures (below -8C), salt may have little or no effect. The gritter drivers also let the children into the top secret method used for naming each gritter and what the name of the next gritter is going to be. Perhaps you can persuade children in Year 2 to let you into the secret too!



### Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to estimate an amount at home. E.g. how many Lego bricks will you be able to grab with one hand?

Ask your Year 1 child to sing the song 'In the Groove' in a different style.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you about the properties of 2D & 3D shapes.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain how you divide an odd number by an even number.

Ask your Year 4 child to list the features of a newspaper article and explain their importance.

Ask your Year 5 child to recite the history poem they have been learning to perform.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain what a discursive argument is.

## Head Teacher Roll of Honour

Each week we celebrate the many successes that we see in school. All our children achieve so much every day but we would like to honour the following children for their personal achievements.

Dylan in Green Class—Dylan has been working so hard to improve his handwriting this term and has proved that by persevering and having the right attitude to learning you can achieve great things. Well done.

Sophie in Aquila Class— Sophie has produced some amazing pieces of writing about the Vikings this week because she always listens to her teacher, acts on the advice she is given, and is determined to make her work the best that it can be.

Amelie in Phoenix Class—Amelie is such an incredibly hard worker. She never makes a fuss and has impressed everyone with the way she approaches every task. Her determination to succeed is inspirational. Thank you for making such a difference to our school.

### Forthcoming Dates

2nd February 9am —Dorado Class Assembly

27th March 2pm—Year 5 performance

6th February 10am—Year 2 Spring performance

27th March 4pm—Parent Consultation Evening

7th February 2 pm—Year 2 Spring performance

28th March 6pm—Year 5 performance

8th February 2pm— Reception Come and Share

29th March—last day of Spring Term

9th February—Year 1 'Come and Share afternoon

30th March—EASTER HOLIDAYS begin

w/c 12th February— HALF TERM

16th April—Children Return to school

19th February—All children return

26th February —2nd March—Science Week

w/c 5th March—Book Week

20th March 9.30am—Reception Come and Share

22nd March 5pm—Parent Consultation Evening

23rd March 9am—Cygnus Class assembly

w/c 26th March —International Week

### Please Park Carefully—A Polite Reminder



Access to the staff car park is closely monitored for the purposes of safety and safeguarding. Only members of staff and disabled drivers who have a 'blue badge' are allowed to use the staff car park. Recently a number of staff have been 'tail gated' by drivers trying to gain access to the car park to drop off and collect children. The public car park in Priory Walk has ample parking spaces and is only a short walk from the school.

The yellow zig-zag lines outside the staff car park gates indicate that this is a no parking area. We would appreciate it if parents could avoid parking across the car park gates and the cycle path or on the grass verge to each side of the gates, as this reduces visibility for parents leaving the school premises with children. In addition it is causing damage to the grass verges. Thank you for your support and understanding in this matter.



Each week we will be suggesting some games to help your child remember their spellings. We hope these games will be a fun way to build your child's confidence in spelling and also something that you can enjoy playing together. After all, learning should be fun.

### **Spelling Puzzle**

Make a home-made puzzle by writing each of your child's spelling words in large letters on card. Next cut the words into sections and mix them up. Challenge your child to put the words back together again.

### Mathletics



Each child at Monkfield Park, from Year 1 to Year 6, has their own username for the maths website Mathletics.

This is an award winning interactive site that aims to improve maths skills through fun activities linked to the National Curriculum. The Mathletics website can be accessed from any computer to allow children to engage in a wide range of learning activities which are linked to all areas of maths. Learning is individualised so that children can learn at their own pace and on areas which they need to focus on.

Through Mathletics live, children can improve their mental maths skills by answering questions against the clock, whilst competing against other children from all around the world. Also children can invite their friends at school to compete against them.

Children receive points for each activity they complete for which they are rewarded with certificates.

If your child is having difficulty accessing the Mathletics website please inform the class teacher so that we can issue your child with a new password.

## Friends Planning Meeting

With lots to plan for the rest of the current school year and beyond, Friends of Monkfield Park are having a Planning Meeting next **Wednesday 31st January** at **7.30pm**. If you would like to join us then please email [friendsofmonkfieldpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmonkfieldpark@gmail.com), extra help and fresh ideas are always welcomed so we hope to see you there!



## School Disco

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding our School Disco on **Friday 9th February** in the main hall.

Due to the limited capacity of the hall we need to keep age groups paired together so there will be three discos divided by Year Groups - - **4pm-5pm for Years 1 & 2**, **5.15pm-6.15pm for Years 3 & 4**, **6.30pm-7.30pm for Years 5 & 6**.

Each ticket costs £2.50 and this includes entrance, a drink and a cone of popcorn. We also recommend that you co-ordinate with friends to share drop off and pick up as the collection of children after discos is often chaotic and with fewer adults it is easier to ensure a smooth handover. Forms for tickets have been emailed out and paper copies sent home with the children, but if you have not received these and would like a ticket then please get in touch at [friendsofmonkfieldpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmonkfieldpark@gmail.com).

If you are available and would like to help out at the disco then please email us, all help would be greatly appreciated!



## Ideas

Just like last year our main fundraising aim this year is to raise funds for the Library refurb. We are after fundraising ideas that not only we can do but also that the staff and pupils can do at school. If you have any ideas no matter how BIG or small please let us know. You can either send us a message via our Facebook page or via email to [friendsofmonkfieldpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmonkfieldpark@gmail.com).



## Year 6 leavers Celebrations

We may have just returned from the Christmas break but preparations for this year's leavers celebrations will soon start. If you are interested in helping with the planning and/or at the event then please get in touch. These are run entirely by the Year 6 parents to ensure they have the send off they deserve.

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