

Newsletter 8

Friday 3rd November 2023

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Welcome Back

I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing and restful half term break, despite the inclement weather and the annual turning back of the clocks to signify the end of British Summer Time, it has been lovely to see everyone returning to school looking fully rested, and ready for the exciting term ahead.

It has already been a very busy week in school with the children in Atlantis House enjoying their 'movie and popcorn' treat on Monday morning as the winning House for last term. Well done to all the children in Atlantis for amassing so many dojos by consistently following the Monkfield Way.

We were disappointed to postpone the Children's Art Gallery due to circumstances beyond our control. I am pleased to inform you that we will be able to invite you all to join us at the Art Gallery in the Main Hall next week on Wednesday 8th, Thursday 9th and Friday 10th November. Please do join us after school on those days to enjoy the incredible art work the children have produced. A visitor to school with the SAW project wrote to congratulate the children in Year 6 on the standard and quality of their art work so we are looking forward to seeing the range of printing work from across the school. Mrs Howell.

Attendance Monitoring

This week we will be sending out attendance letters to inform parents and carers if their child's attendance had fallen below 96% in this academic year.

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 there are exceptional circumstances.

Competitive Pumpkins

Our Reception children marked Halloween by holding a competition to design a pumpkin lantern. Mrs Howell had the very difficult job of choosing a winner, but after much deliberation Reuben and Max were declared the winners for their spooky design. The children then enjoyed carving the winning design into a pumpkin and rounded off the day with roasting and tasting the pumpkin.



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 an opportunity to talk to the staff and see the range of learning opportunities available to the children

Wednesday 13th December at 9.30am

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school and hope you will join us for one of the tours.

Welcome to the Stone Age

The children in Year 3 embarked on a prehistoric journey to discover what life was like for people living during the Stone Age. Despite the lack of written records, the children discovered that there are lots of clues to reveal how the people lived at this time. Working as a group of hunter gatherers, the children discovered how to make simple tools, create clay jewellery to adorn their costumes, and paint their own rock art friezes. The tricky Stone Age teachers even challenged the children to recreate Stone Henge — quite a task without cranes and lorries, so they enjoyed reproducing the famous monument in biscuits instead!



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:

Obaidullah in Aquila Class: Obaidullah is keeping us all challenged with his incredible Science knowledge. We have been blown away by his understanding of some very complex scientific concepts and his ability to explain them to us. Great work Obaidullah.

Bilal in Blue Class: It was a real treat to look at Bilal's books this week. Not only is he producing some fantastic sentences with great vocabulary, but he is also writing in a beautifully neat cursive style. I think your writing is neater than mine Bilal. Well done.

Aditi in Orange Class: I am amazed at how quickly Aditi has settled into school life and how determined she is to always do her best. Mrs Sheldon showed me Aditi's amazing writing this week and I was delighted to read some fantastic, descriptive sentences.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you about the pumpkin competition.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you about transport in the past.

Ask your Year 2 child to identify objects made from different materials around your home.

Ask your Year 3 child to name the five food groups.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain how to simulate an earthquake using household items.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain what a multiple is.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain what caused the First World War.

Come and Read

We are thrilled to be able to invite Reception and Key Stage One parents to Come and Read sessions every Tuesday of this half term- starting from next Tuesday 7th November.

From 3.00 pm, the Priory Walk gate will open. At 3.05 pm, external classroom doors will open for parents to come into their child's classroom. The children will be waiting with open arms and a wealth of books to share with you. The doors will be locked once parents are inside. Parents will be asked to leave the classrooms at 3.20 pm to allow time to get the children ready for home and for the end of the day routine to run as normal.

After the Christmas break and every half term thereafter, the day the Come and Read session is held on will change, to give as many parents as possible the opportunity to attend the sessions across the course of the school year.

If you have any questions about the Come and Read sessions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

FORTHCOMING DATES Autumn Term 2023

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

8th to 10th November—Children's Art Gallery

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—this is now full

30th November—Whole school Tudor WOW Day

4th December —Tour for prospective parents at 2.00pm—this is now full

5th December—Reception pantomime trip

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

13th December —Tour for prospective parents at 9.30am—space available still

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

16th February—Break up for half term

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

Room News

This week the children have been transfixed by the story, 'Room on the Broom', by Julia Donaldson. They have dressed up as witches and pretended to mix their own spells in the cauldron, reciting the words from the story, "Iggerty, Ziggerty, Zaggerty Zoom!" One of the children made a spell to turn Mrs Brown into a frog!! We have also been thinking of objects to go into our potion bottles, such as spiders and worms, and having a go at drawing them.

Best wishes

Mrs Turner

