

Newsletter 27

Friday 20th April 2018

In this issue:

- ◇ Bird Feeder Sale
- ◇ Spring Visitors in Year 2
- ◇ Student teachers
- ◇ Stakeholder Questionnaires
- ◇ Sentence starters
- ◇ Head's roll of honour
- ◇ Attendance Celebration
- ◇ Forthcoming dates
- ◇ Friends of Monkfield Park

Bird Feeder Sale

The Eco Club would like to thank all the parents, carers, relatives and friends who very kindly supported their sale of bird feeders on Wednesday evening. The children had decided to make and sell their bird feeders following the visit of the 'Beast from the East' before the Easter break, when the birds were struggling to find food. It was rather a shock to suddenly find that Summer had arrived and they were holding their sale in temperatures of 25 degrees Celsius! However, we are certain that the birds will appreciate them and be flocking to your gardens to try these delicious snacks.



Spring Visitors in Year 2

Violet and Indigo classes have welcomed some very special guests to their classrooms this week. As part of their Science topic the children are studying life cycles so everyone was very intrigued when the lady from the Happy Chick Company arrived to install an incubator and a clutch of eggs. We all watched and waited expectantly as we saw the eggs occasionally wobble and some of us even thought we could hear a distant cheeping sound. Then on Thursday morning our first chick emerged from its shell, just in time for the start of the school day. The children have watched with fascination as one by one the chicks have hatched and we are now very pleased to have nine wonderful, fluffy and active additions to the class. Once the chicks move into their brooder the children will be learning how to feed and care for them. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to observe and learn from these real life visitors and we are sure that they will enrich the curriculum and inspire the children to carry out their own independent learning over the coming week.



Monkfield Welcomes Student Teachers

Parents and carers of children in Year 2 may have noticed some new faces in the classrooms over the past couple of weeks. We are delighted to welcome Miss Dungey and Miss Williams, who are PGCE students from the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge. Miss Dungey and Miss Williams will be working with Mrs Martin and Ms Deegan as they complete their final school placement before they qualify in July. We are very always pleased to be able to help and mentor the next generation of teachers. The trainees are working very closely with our teachers, observing their excellent practice and learning how to plan and teach creative, exciting lessons by working with the children in Year 2.





Annul Parent/Carer Questionnaires

Parent questionnaires are very important to us because they let us know how you, the parents and carers, think we are doing. We think your feedback is a crucial part of your child's education and it is vital that you have the opportunity to tell us what you think we do well and where we can make improvements. The questionnaires for school and the Care & Learning Centre will be available to complete online from Saturday 21st April for

two weeks. All the questionnaires can be accessed using the links below.

School Parent/Carer Questionnaire 2018: <https://goo.gl/forms/yEbr4gaoXr0vtAZN2>

Care and Learning Centre Parent/Carer Questionnaire 2018: <https://goo.gl/forms/VrteGdx3jW7Ua89J2>

Out of School Club Parent/Carer Questionnaire 2018: <https://goo.gl/forms/zf6nrg46G7JpNPz1>

We do hope you will take the time to complete the questionnaires as we value all your feedback.

Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you what they could see from the top of the beanstalk if they were to climb it!

Ask your Year 1 what a lever is and why you would use one in a moving picture.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you what the difference is between reptiles and mammals.

Ask your Year 3 child to retell the story of the Stone Age Boy.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain why and how children were evacuated during World War II.

Ask your Year 5 child to come up with example stories that start at the end and flash back in time (like Street Child).

Ask your Year 6 child what information is needed in the 'lead' of a newspaper.

Head Teacher Roll of Honour

This week we have been thinking about how acts of kindness help to make us a strong and caring community. I would like to thank the following children for their hard work and kindness to others :

Zach in Pegasus Class—Zach is a great person to have in school. Not only is he a Peer Mediator but he is always the first to volunteer to support anyone who needs help in class. Thank you for being a great role model Zach.

Aimee in Cygnus Class— Aimee has really made a difference in Cygnus class this week by seizing every opportunity to help others through kind words and deeds. Thank you Aimee for demonstrating how kindness makes a real difference to everyone.

Matthew in Cygnus Class—Thank you Matthew for stepping up and taking action when you noticed that others were not thinking about those around them. Your kindness in holding the doors for everyone going into lunch was very much appreciated.

Alfie in Indigo Class—Alfie always thinks about others and the environment before himself. He picks up litter on the playground every day and tells me about the kind actions of others so that I can thank them too.

Mae in Orange Class—Mae is always kind and thoughtful and willing to help everyone. She has also shown us how keen she is to learn and do well by producing some amazing writing about Jack and the Beanstalk.



Attendance

In our assembly on Monday we will be presenting special certificates to those children who have managed to achieve 100% attendance. An incredible 62 children will be receiving certificates for achieving 100% attendance for the academic year to date and an amazing 117 children will be receiving their certificates for achieving 100% attendance in the Spring term.

We cannot stress enough how important it is that your child attends school and in September 2015, the Department of Education lowered the amount of absence in which a pupil is classified as being a persistent absentee from 15% to 10%. This means that any child with an attendance of **less than 90%** will be classed as a persistent absentee and will be monitored by the Education Welfare Officer. In these instances the Local Authority may issue parents with a Penalty Notice. Schools need to ensure that parents are informed of any attendance concerns at an early stage and therefore you should expect that you will receive an initial communication from school if your child's attendance **falls under 96%**. The initial letter will be to simply make you aware of your child's attendance level but if concerns persist, then the school will contact you again.

Parents who take a child out of school for term time leave for 6 consecutive sessions (3 days) or more over a 4 week period which are not authorised by the school under the exceptional circumstances rule may receive a Penalty Notice which in the first instance will be £60 per child, per adult in the household. Failure to pay this penalty within 21 school days will result in the charge being doubled to £120. Penalty Notices will be issued for single event absences of at least 3 consecutive school days or more where these absences are unauthorised because they are deemed to be neither exceptional or unavoidable.



Use rhymes or pictures to go with words to help your child remember them e.g.:

1. You hear with your ear.
2. The word separate has "a rat" in it (separate).
3. Villain - A villain is one who lives in a villa.
4. The word here is also in its opposite there.
5. Donkeys, monkeys - There are keys in donkeys and monkeys.

Headteacher Drop In Sessions

The drop in sessions are an opportunity for parents and carers to speak with the Head on an individual basis about any matter of school life without an appointment. Due to the 'drop in' nature of these sessions, you may have to wait if a parent is already being seen. Times and dates for the Summer term are as follows:

27th April 10am—11am

21st June 2pm—3pm 1 9th July 2pm—3pm

9th May 2pm—3pm

5th July 10am—11am

24th May 3pm—4pm

7th June 10am—11am

Is This Your Bike?

A mysterious bike has been locked in our cycle racks for the whole of the Spring Term. It is a bright blue, Apollo Excel bike which appears to be in good condition. If you are the owner of this bike or can shed any light on who it belongs to please can you contact the school office?



Forthcoming Dates

24th April—Green Class visit to Sedgwick Museum

24th April—Locality Team Drop In

25th April—Y1 Multi-skills festival

26th April—Blue Class visit to Sedgwick Museum

27th April—Friends Meet and Greet morning

27th April—Headteacher's Drop In 10 –11am

1st May—Year 2 Tennis festival

3rd May—Year 5 County Maths Challenge

4th May—Columba Class assembly

9th May—Headteacher's Drop In 2 –3pm

11th May—Phoenix Class assembly

14th—17th May—SATs week

21st—25th May—PGL week for Year 6

22nd May—Reception performance

23rd May—Reception performance

23rd May—Year 4 History Wow Day

24th May—Reception Come and Share

24th May—Headteacher's Drop In 3 –4pm

25th May—last day of half term

4th June—INSET Day

5th June—Children return to school

5th and 6th June—Burwell House residential for Year 4

7th June—Headteacher's Drop In 10—11am

11th—15th June—Phonics check week

11th—15th June—Healthy Lifestyles Week

21st June—KS2 Sports Day (Reserve 22nd June)

21st June—Headteacher's Drop In 2 –3pm

28th June—KS1 Sports Day (Reserve 29th June)

3rd July—Year 6 performance

4th July—Year 6 performance

5th July Headteacher's Drop In 10—11am

19th July—Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

19th July—Headteacher's Drop In 2 –3pm



Summer Fete — Planning Meeting—Wednesday 25th April — 7.30pm

We will be holding a **Fete Planning Meeting next Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm**. If you would like to get involved in this year's Fete on Saturday 23rd June, then we would love to see you there as all help will be greatly appreciated! Please email us at friendsofmonkfieldpark@gmail.com for the details of the venue. If you cannot make it to the meeting but would still like to help on the day, then please do get in touch either through our Facebook page or via email.



Bag2School Collection

Bag2School will be collecting on 4th May 2018. Bags will be sent home via book bags shortly.

It's a great chance to have a good Spring Clean now it finally feels like Spring! They accept any of the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE — Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing, Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around), Handbags, Hats, Bags, Scarves and ties, Jewellery, Lingerie, Socks, Belts, Soft toys, Household linen, Curtains, Towels, Bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers).



Friends 'Meet & Greet' Coffee Morning—Friday 27th April— 9am-10am

We will be holding a **'Meet & Greet' Coffee Morning next Friday 27th April** after drop-off from **9am-10am in the Main Hall** and would love to see you there. It is a chance to see what we have planned for the coming months and for you to let us know any ideas you have for future fundraising and if you would like to get involved. Younger children are more than welcome so make a note of the date and if you have time please do pop in!



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