

Newsletter 1

Friday 8th September 2017

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Welcome back

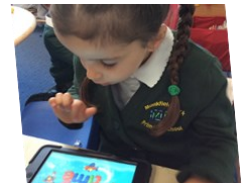
I would like to welcome everyone back to school after what I hope has been an enjoyable and restful Summer break and to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families. It has been wonderful to hear about all your holiday adventures throughout this week and to have the school filled with excited voices once again. The children have all settled back into school life and are already hard at work and eager to learn.

We are very pleased to welcome some new members of staff; Mrs Walker, who has taken over the role of Deputy Headteacher and SENCO whilst I am Acting Headteacher for the duration of Mrs Jarman's maternity leave, and Mr Yates, who is the class teacher for Dorado class. They are enjoying getting to know our children, routines and staff and are eager to work with you to support the children's learning.

We also extend our congratulations to Miss Greaves who got married over the Summer and has become Mrs Martin.

This week, we also welcomed our new Reception children as they began their school careers with us at Monkfield Park. Mrs Sheldon and Miss Ward are enjoying getting to know the newest members of our school community and their families. It has been a real pleasure to spend time with the children and to see how they are thriving in our wonderful Reception classrooms with the many exciting learning opportunities that are available to them.

Mrs Howell



ATTENDANCE NEWS

As from September 2015, the Department of Education lowered the amount of absence in which a student 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 a Penalty Notice. Schools will 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 may 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. Therefore 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.

Each term we analyse how each class is doing and how many children have been able to achieve that sometimes elusive 100% attendance. We know that if your child isn't in school for a very good reason, that we cannot teach them all the curriculum asks them to learn and even small gaps in attendance can make a huge difference to children's understanding. Last term, all of the children did very well in maintaining fantastic attendance which will be rewarded in assembly on Monday. 140 pupils managed to be present for 100% of the time during the Summer term, whilst an amazing 43 children were able to sustain that for the entirety of the last academic year! Well done to all those children.

Checking Medication Held in School

If your child has an asthma inhaler, epi pen, jext-pen or other medication in school please can we ask you to come into the school office to check that their medication is still in date and is stored in a clearly named box or bag. All out of date medication will need to be taken to a pharmacy for safe-disposal. Please note that we will not be able to administer out of date medication to your child.



Updating details

If you have changed contact details over the Summer holiday period, such as change of address, phone number or e-mail, it is vitally important that you advise the school office accordingly so that we are able to update your child's records.

School Meals

The cost of a meal is £2.30. Please find below the school lunch charges for the Autumn Term:

Weekly	£11.50
Monthly	£46.00
Autumn 1 st half term	£78.20
Autumn full term	£161.00

Parent Carer drop ins

Throughout the year there are opportunities to drop in to see the Head Teacher about any aspect of school life. The dates and times are listed below for this half term. Please note, however, that there is no appointment system and that parents will be seen on a first come, first served basis during a 1:1 meeting:

19th September 9-10am

25th September 2-3pm

Meet the Teacher Evening & E-Safety Presentation

We do hope you will join us on Monday 11th September at 5.30 pm for our 'Meet the Teacher' evening and E-Safety presentation. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and to learn about the routines and expectations for their class. In their presentations the teachers will give you important information about the curriculum, new homework arrangements, when PE lessons will take place, and forthcoming events. You will also be able to look around your child's new classroom. If you have children in more than one class it would be advisable for more than one family member to attend so that they are able to listen to all the presentations. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a crèche for this event so it will be necessary to make childcare arrangements for school children and siblings. The evening will finish at approximately 6:45pm.

Pocket Toys

Following the success of the 'pocket toys' initiative last year we are happy for the children to continue to bring small, pocket-sized toys into school. The children can use these toys to explore, play and create their own games during playtimes and lunchtimes. Toys must be pocket sized ie., able to fit into a coat or trouser pocket, must not be dangerous or offensive, and must be returned to children's trays at the end of play and/or break time. Please note that trading cards are not allowed to be brought into school and that we are unable to take responsibility for toys which are lost or damaged.

Are You Ready For The Hula Challenge?

In order to make playtimes more exciting we will be introducing a series of playground crazes throughout the year. This half term, our playground craze will be hula hooping! There are many challenges to explore with a hula hoop from the basic how long can you hula for, to the more difficult, how many hoops can you hula with, and can you hula with a hoop on each arm and one around your waist? We look forward to seeing the children and staff showcasing their skills.



Return of the Monkfield Art Gallery

Following the huge success of the Monkfield Art Gallery last year we are delighted to announce that our budding artists have been hard at work again this week and will be displaying their masterpieces at the Monkfield Art Gallery next week. You will be able to visit the gallery in the Main Hall and purchase children's art work on the following days:

3.45pm—4.15pm on Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th and Friday 15th September

We do hope you will join us for this inspirational event.

Reading books and library books

Please note that reading books, library books and RWI books will be sent home with children from next week.

Homework help drop in

Please don't forget that every Friday between 9.30 am—10.30 am, Mrs Walker will be holding a 'homework help drop in'. This is aimed at parents who may be struggling to motivate their child with learning at home or may need assistance with the best methods in helping children to learn tricky concepts. Don't hesitate to come along and have a chat if this sounds like something that may be of support to you.



Forthcoming dates

13th September - Reception children stay all day
w/c 13th—15th September—Art gallery open (see previous information)
11th September 5.30 pm— Meet the Teacher Evening & E-Safety presentation for parents to attend
18th September 6.00 pm—Read Write curriculum evening for Reception parents
w/c 25th September —Harvest Festival Week
4th October 6.00 pm—Maths evening for Reception parents
6th October 9.00 am—Violet Class assembly
11th October from 5.00 pm—Parent consultation evening (more details to follow)
12th October 1.30 pm—Reception 'come and share' event
13th October 9.00 am—Blue Class assembly
16th October—Individual children's photographs
19th October from 4.00 pm—Parent consultations (more details to follow)
w/c 23rd October—half term (children return on 30th October)
10th November 9.00 am—Aquila Class assembly
24th November at 9.00 am—Indigo Class assembly
6th December—Flu vaccination programme (details to follow)
8th December at 9.00 am—Lacerta Class assembly
12th December 2.00 pm—Year 3/4 carol concert
13th December 1.30 pm—Reception 'come and share' event
13th December 10.00 am—Year 3/4 carol concert
14th December 2.00 pm—Year 1 nativity
14th December 6.00 pm—Year 3/4 carol concert
15th December 10.00 am—Year 1 nativity
19th December—Christmas parties
19th December—Last day of term
19th December—Christmas holidays begin
3rd January—INSET day (school closed to children)
4th January—All children return