

Newsletter 5

Friday 3rd October 2025

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Thank you for your Harvest Gifts

Thank you to everyone who sent in food donations for our Harvest Festival celebrations this week. Your generous contributions provided a wonderful focus for our Harvest assembly in which we reflected on how fortunate we are to have had a good harvest in our country this Summer. Rev Bill from Cambourne Church talked about how Christians have celebrated the gathering in of the harvest for hundreds of years, and helped us to think about all the people who work so hard to produce our food. The children raised the rafters with their rendition of the 'Harvest Samba' and 'Cauliflowers Fluffy' as we reflected on how grateful we are to the farmers who grow an amazing variety of crops so that we have food to eat.

All the food stuffs you donated have been bagged up and will be donated to the Cambourne Food Bank to help those who have been affected by the current economic crisis. Your generosity has ensured that the Food Bank is able to continue to carry out this vital work.

With kindest wishes
Mrs Howell.

Individual and Sibling School Photographs

Make sure you have your best smiles ready as the photographers from Van Cols will be coming to school on Monday 6th October. The photographers will be taking both individual and sibling photographs during the school day. This is always an event which requires a lot of planning and organisation so to ensure the event runs as smoothly as possible, please can you make sure that your child comes to school dressed in their correct school uniform, which includes their green school sweatshirt or cardigan. The backgrounds used by the photographers are white and so the dark green sweatshirt provides the necessary contrast. If

your child has PE on that day, please can they wear their school polo shirt and sweatshirt. Please be aware that we need your consent to take your child's photograph. If you have not given consent to the school office we will not be able to take your child's photograph. The photographers will be available to take photographs with siblings who attend pre-school from 8.30 am in the morning. If you have a pre-school aged child and would like to have their photograph taken with an older sibling, please could you all arrive in school at 8.30 am and enter the Activity Hall via the external hall doors. Please note that there may be a short waiting time if there is a big demand for the family group photographs.



Year 1 Visit to Castle Hedingham

The children in Year 1 had a fantastic time stepping back in history at Castle Hedingham. They met Sam the archer, who showed them how to stay safe and warm, as well as how to shoot an arrow. The children also enjoyed some castle jousting games with the servants and discovered the surprising utensils used by different groups of people, from simple clay for poor servants, to leather for high servants, and even cow horn for lords and ladies! An apothecary shared fascinating herbal remedies, such as rosemary to help memory and mint to soothe poorly tummies. Knight training was another highlight, where the children held pieces of armour, explored tools, and learnt that the most important item a knight could own was... a spoon! The day ended with a tour of Lady Oxford's beautiful castle, bringing all their learning to life. It was a wonderful trip that the children thoroughly enjoyed, full of fun, discovery and history.





In the UK, parents have a legal duty to ensure their child receives an appropriate education and attends school regularly unless there is a justifiable reason, such as illness or a school-approved exceptional circumstance.

Schools have a statutory duty to monitor attendance and 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 to date, this will be from 3rd September 2025. Schools are required to ensure that parents are informed of any attendance concerns at the earliest opportunity, 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 and your child's attendance continues to deteriorate then the school will contact you again to inform you of our concerns and to offer a supportive meeting with Mrs Walsh, our Family Support Worker, to explore the reasons for the absences and discuss what help can be put in place to increase attendance. This is a voluntary and supportive process and Mrs Walsh is on the playground every morning to help if your child is feeling anxious about coming into school. If a child's attendance falls below 90% they will be classified as a persistent absentee. Schools are legally obliged to provide support and intervention for pupils which will take the form of school-based interventions, and the offer of support from outside agencies and professionals.

As a school we are very keen to identify the barriers to attendance that families face and will welcome opportunities to support you and overcome these barriers together. We know that all the evidence shows that even a few days of missed school can have a significant impact on a child's education, their future prospects and their emotional health and wellbeing.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to compare what they did as a baby with what they can do now.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you the most exciting thing that they experienced at Castle Hedingham.

Ask your Year 2 child to ask you a question. Which question word did they use?

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you about the three different types of rock.

Ask your Year 4 child to tell you what they can do to make their friendships grow stronger.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain how to use the column method for subtraction.

Ask your Year 6 child to discuss this week's guided reading text entitled, 'The Final Push' with you.

FORTHCOMING DATES

6th October—Individual photographs

6th to 17th October—Money Fortnight

8th October—Y4 Roman WOW Day

10th October—Reception 2026 parent tour at 9.30am

10th October—Phoenix Class Assembly

13th October—Y5 Astronomer visit

14th October—Parent consultation evening

16th October—Y5 Careers Fair at Cambourne Village College

PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE CHANGED THE DATE OF THE PARENT CONSULTATION EVENING FOR CHILDREN IN Y6 TO WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER DUE TO THE CAMBOURNE VILLAGE COLLEGE OPEN EVENING.

22nd October—Reception 2026 parent tour at 2pm

23rd October—Parent consultation evening

20th October—Online Safety week

24th October—Break up for Half Term

27th to 31st October—HALF TERM

3rd November—Children return to school

4th November—Y6 trip to Great Huts

5th November—Reception Come and Share from 9.30am

12th November—Wellbeing Wednesday for KS1

13th November—Reception tour and open evening for Reception 2026 parents

17th—21st November —Art Week

21st November—Indigo Class Assembly

25th November—Reception 2026 parent tour at 10am

26th to 28th November—Children's Art Gallery

5th December— Reception 2026 parent tour at 2pm

9th December—Y1 and Y2 Christmas production

10th December—Y1 and Y2 Christmas production

16th December—Y4 Christmas Carol Concert

17th December—Y4 Christmas Carol Concert

19th December—School breaks up for Christmas.

5th January—INSET Day (school closed for children)

6th January—Children return for Spring term



If you have a child who will be three in September you can book places for the Autumn term in our pre-school now. Graded Good by Ofsted in June 2024 we can provide 15/30 hours of funded provision with a qualified Early Years teacher and dedicated and supportive Early Years staff, in a caring and nurturing learning environment.

We are open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm during term time and welcome visits from parents and carers. Please contact the school office to arrange a visit and discover the Monkfield Way. Please contact us on: 01954 273377 or by e-mail: clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk

Reception 2026 Tours



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 and staff.

Please join us for one of our parent tours which can be booked by contacting the school office on 01954 273377 or by email :office@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk The tour dates are:

Friday 10th October at 9.30am

Wednesday 22nd October at 2pm

Thursday 13th November at 5pm

Tuesday 25th November at 10am

Friday 5th December at 2pm

Thursday 11th December at 10am

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school and hope you will join us for one of the tours. If you are unable to make any of these dates, please contact the school office and we will be happy to arrange a mutually convenient date for you to visit the school and meet Mrs Howell, the Headteacher.