

Newsletter 26

Friday 27th March 2026

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An Inspiring Visitor

I am sure, like me, you can remember visitors from your school days who made a huge impression on you for many reasons. This week we were thrilled to have a visit from Zara Lachlan, the extraordinary adventurer who holds the record for being the youngest person and first woman to row solo and unsupported from Europe to South America.

The children in Year 5 and Year 6 were captivated as they heard about Zara's incredible 3,600 mile journey across one of the world's most challenging oceans. Rowing alone, she faced enormous waves, the worst weather in the Atlantic for 25 years, and the mental challenge of spending 97 days at sea with only her determination to keep her going. Her achievement demonstrates the power of resilience, courage, and perseverance – values we celebrate every day at Monkfield Park.

Zara recounted how she faced and overcame many obstacles, the moments when things went wrong (such as when her boat capsized resulting in the loss of her phone) and how she problem-solved under unimaginable pressure.

Our children asked brilliant questions about her journey, from what she ate during the voyage to the different animals she saw and how she stayed motivated when the going got tough. Her honest answers about facing fear and pushing through difficult moments really resonated with the children.



Zara's visit reminded us all that with dedication, careful planning and unwavering determination, we can all achieve extraordinary things. Her adventures demonstrate that challenges are opportunities to grow stronger and that setbacks are simply part of the journey to success. We're incredibly grateful to Zara for taking the time to inspire us all. I hope that her story will stay with the children for years to come, reminding them that aspirations are essential and they too can achieve great things.

With best wishes for a Happy Easter.

Mrs Howell



Red Nose Day

Friday 20th March 2026

Monkfield Park
raised an incredible

£500.33

A huge thank you to
everyone



Tag Rugby

A huge well done to the Year 6 children who played in the Tag Rugby tournament last week. The team had a fantastic time at the competition which was organised by the South Cambs School Sports Partnership at Shelford Rugby Club. The children proved to be very talented and competitive coming second overall out of the twenty teams taking part. Mr Frame reported that the children displayed excellent teamwork and played with great enthusiasm and energy. We are very proud of the children and think that they should also be very proud of their achievements.

Reception Roar Into Spring!

Our Reception class delighted their families with a fantastic singing performance all about dinosaurs this week! The children worked incredibly hard to learn their songs and actions, and their enthusiasm was absolutely infectious. The performance showcased the children's wonderful confidence and creativity with each one of them bringing their own special energy as they stomped like a T-Rex, swayed like a Stegosaurus or roared with prehistoric gusto. The dinosaur theme proved to be a huge hit with the children, who have been learning about these fascinating creatures. Their singing performance was the perfect way to celebrate and share their learning.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to find some 3D shapes around your home.

Ask your Year 1 child to describe the fruits from 'Handa's Surprise'.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you what 'Marvellous Medicine' they invented for their story.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you about their ending of James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain the meaning of the Easter story.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain how a viewfinder can be used in art.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain why the British wanted to establish settlements in North America.

A Reminder About School Uniform

Spring is upon us and everything is growing, including the children. Consequently, I know many of you are already thinking about purchasing new uniform for your child/children over the coming weeks. Our uniform is very important to us as it instils a sense of pride and sets the same high level of expectation we ask the children to apply to their work. As a school we aim to make our school uniform as simple and affordable as possible so please can we take this opportunity to remind you of the requirements.

- Knee length grey skirt, grey school trousers or grey school shorts.
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Dark green sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black school shoes—not trainers

Trousers and skirts should be GREY and not black. Black leggings are not acceptable items of school uniform. Children will need sensible black school shoes (not Ugg style boots or shoes) and additionally a spare pair of shoes, boots or wellingtons to change into when playing on the field at lunchtimes. We will be reminding children of our expectations regarding school uniform and would ask you to support us in reinforcing these expectations. FOMP have an excellent stock of nearly new and second hand uniform which can be purchased at very reasonable prices. Please do contact the office and they will be happy to pass on FOMP's contact details to you.



Please can you ensure that all items of school uniform and equipment are clearly named. This does not have to be a sewn in name tape but can simply be your child's name written in pen on the label. It makes it almost impossible to reunite lost/misplaced items with their owners without this. Thank you for your support in this matter.

FORTHCOMING DATES Summer Term 2026

27th March—School breaks up for Easter holiday

30th March to 10th April— Easter Holiday

13th April—Children return to school for Summer term

13th to 24th April— STEM fortnight

15th April— Year 3 School trip to Nene Valley Railway

21st—22nd April—Year 4 Residential to Burwell House

22nd April—Year 1 WOW Day

28th April—Year 2 Nature Reserve visit

1st May—Dorado Class assembly

4th May—May Day Holiday

6th May—KS1 Wellbeing Wednesday

11th to 14th May—Key Stage 2 SATS week

12th May—Reception Come and Share pm

15th May—FOMP Break the Rules Day

20th May—KS2 Wellbeing Wednesday

20th—22nd May—Year 6 PGL residential trip

22nd May—break up for half term

25th to 29th May—Half term holiday

1st June—INSET Day (school closed for children)

2nd June—Children return to school

2nd to 12th June—Year 4 Multiplication Checks

8th to 12th June—Phonic check for Year 1

10th June—New Reception 2026 Come and Play

12th June—Lacerta Class assembly

12th June—Class photographs

15th—19th June—Healthy Lifestyles Week

16th June—New Reception 2026 Come and Play

18th June—Y5 trip to Warner Brothers Studios

19th June—Aquila Class assembly

25th June—Network CB23 Chess Competition

15th July—Reception Summer celebration

17th July—Last day of Summer term

Monkfield Park



Care and Learning Centre

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

Baby Animals

This week, we have been reading the story of 'Dora's Eggs' and talking about some of the baby animals that are born in Spring. I wonder if any of the children can remember the names of the baby animals we have been learning, such as chick, piglet, lamb and calf. We have also learnt the word 'hatch' and looked at some photos of real chicks and birds hatching. The children have enjoyed singing 'Old MacDonald had a farm', but using baby animal names instead of the usual words!

During their play, the children have been exploring toy chicks and eggs in their sensory play, as well as counting chicks in the maths area.

The CLC staff team would like to wish you all a restful and joyful Easter break and look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 13th April.

Best wishes,

Jane Turner

Early Years Teacher & Pre-School Manager