

# Newsletter 12

Friday 1st December 2023

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## December Already!

They do say time goes quicker as you get older, but goodness me where has this term gone? The days are certainly flying by as we move into December and preparations for Christmas are gathering pace across the school. The Christmas tree has arrived and thanks to Mrs Hickmott of FOMP, it is already decorated and gracing the Main Hall.

Our traditional Christmas post stockings will be hanging in the school library from Monday, if children wish to post Christmas cards to their friends in school. To ensure each card reaches the intended recipient as quickly as possible please can we ask that you help your child to write the recipient's first name, last name and their class clearly on the envelope. The final day for posting will be Monday 18th December.

The children are rehearsing for their Christmas productions and we are all really looking forward to sharing a range of festive school events with you in the coming weeks.

Mrs Howell.



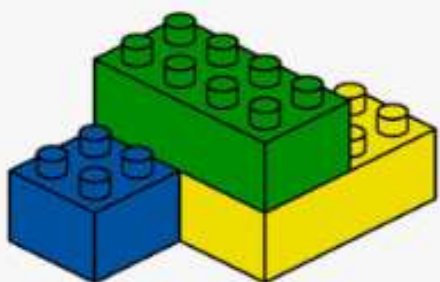
## Pocket Toys Reminder

We have noticed that pocket toys are increasing in size again and children are bringing multiple items to school each day, so we would like to clarify the guidelines regarding what is an acceptable pocket toy.

All pocket toys must be robust and small enough to fit into a child's pocket. Large, soft toys e.g. teddy bears and dolls which do not fit into a pocket are not allowed.

Please do not bring anything which is precious or has great sentimental value. School cannot be responsible for pocket toys which are lost, damaged or broken. Pocket toys must not be shared with other children and are for individual use only. During lessons pocket toys must be kept in children's trays or their bag to avoid becoming a distraction when the children are learning.

**TRADING CARDS (INCLUDING POKEMON CARDS) ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOL.**



They cause so many disagreements and arguments which result in unnecessary conflict during break times and spill into class, distracting children from their learning.

We would be grateful if you could reinforce the messages we are giving the children in school about pocket toys. Many thanks for your support with this issue.

### A Sporting Week

Despite the freezing weather, 32 of our amazing runners from Key Stage 2 travelled to Wimpole Hall on Wednesday to participate in the Sports Partnership's Cross Country Running competition. We are so proud of all the children who competed with great energy and determination and, throughout the event, were fantastic ambassadors for our school. Well done to all the children who competed and a special well done to Brendan who came 5th over all in the Year 6 race for boys.



### Speed Stacking



Children in Key Stage 2 had the opportunity to participate in Speed Stacking this week. Speed Stacking is a very fast and furious sport which requires fitness, agility, concentration, good hand to eye coordination and speed.

The various stacking activities really challenged every child to focus and use their manual dexterity skills. Not only did the children show great concentration and energy throughout the day, everyone showed great team spirit too when competing together against other teams. Well done to all the children.





### Christmas Lunch

This year our annual Christmas lunch will be served on Tuesday 19th December. The menu options are now available on the Dolce/School Grid website so please remember to book lunch for your child on that day.

There will be a traditional turkey or a vegetarian option to choose from. To add to the festivities, if children would like to wear a Christmas jumper on this day, instead of their school sweatshirt or cardigan, we are suggesting that they may make a voluntary donation of £1 which we will donate to our charity of the year, which is the British Heart Foundation. Children should wear their normal school trousers or skirt with their Christmas jumper.



### 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 before the **closing date of 15th January 2024. Applications received after this date will not be considered until the second round of allocations in May.** You can apply online at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/primary-reception-junior-or-middle-school>

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. The next tour dates are:

Friday 15th December at 2pm

Wednesday 10th January at 2pm

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 this date, please contact the school office and we will be happy to arrange a mutually convenient date for you to visit.



# 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:

Florence in Columba Class and Matilda in Yellow Class: Florence and her sister Matilda have really taken the message of the Monkfield Way out into the community, showing everyone that we not only look after each other but we also look after our environment. The girls did a litter pick around Cambourne and really focused on the areas which are adjacent to our school grounds, where sadly lots of rubbish is thrown into our hedgerow by passers by. Thank you girls for your hard work and for showing what a powerful force for good the Monkfield Way is when it is put into action.



## Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you about the Fairy Godmother in the story of Cinderella.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you about the 'Hundred Decker Bus'.

Ask your Year 2 child to explain the different ways materials can change shape, such as bending, stretching and squashing.

Ask your Year 3 child to name the many bones found in the human skeleton.

Ask your Year 4 child to tell you how bullying affects different people in various ways.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain the difference between a mixed number and an improper fraction.

Ask your Year 6 child to re-call the features of a non-chronological report.

## Wellingtons

We would like to open up the field all year round to allow the children to have more room to run and play. However, to allow us to do this, every child will need a pair of wellingtons which stay in school for them to change into at break and lunchtime. This will be in addition to the children's school shoes which they will need to wear inside the school buildings and when the weather is dry. If you have any spare wellingtons which your children have grown out of we will be very happy to take them off your hands if you would like to donate them to school. Any donations of wellingtons can be left at the School Office. We will be opening the field up when we return to school in January and our aim is to have every child with a pair of wellingtons in school by that date. Please speak to us if you are experiencing problems sourcing wellingtons.



### FORTHCOMING DATES Autumn Term 2023

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—this is now full

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

15th December —Tour for prospective parents at 2pm—spaces available

19th December—School Christmas Lunch (wear your Christmas Jumper)

19th December—Choir performance at Cavendish Court

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

10th January—Swimming lessons begin for Year 4

10th January—Tour for prospective parents at 2pm—spaces available

22nd to 26th January—International Week

26th January—Violet Class assembly

2nd February - Columba Class assembly

2nd February—NSPCC Number Day

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

19th to 23rd February—Half Term

26th February—Children return to school

5th March—Dental checks for Reception and Year 1

8th March—Cygnus Class assembly



For general queries regarding the Care and Learning Centre, please contact the school office by e-mail on: [clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk](mailto: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

The children have been really excited to see the first signs of Winter this week. We wrapped up warm and went into the garden to explore the white frost and ice. We discovered that even the sand in our sand pit had frozen hard! We have practised using new vocabulary such as 'frost', 'ice', 'melting', 'frozen' and 'Winter'. Perhaps you could go on a frosty walk with your child and look for signs of Winter too? Can they remember the new words we have learnt?

Best wishes

JANE TURNER

