

Newsletter 21

Friday 5th March 2021

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We Are So Excited!

The count down has begun and we are all so excited! Only three days to go until all the children are back in school again and the building will be full of laughter and the joy they bring to learning. Preparations are complete and you will have received the detailed information about the opening procedures. These are very similar to when we opened in September, but please do read them carefully. I know the last nine weeks have been challenging on so many levels but I want to thank you all for your incredible efforts in supporting the children with their home learning. The learning curve for us all—the children, you the parents and carers, and the staff - has been steep and seemingly insurmountable at times. However, together we have ensured that learning has continued with the minimum of disruption and we are so grateful to you all for all the support you have given the children and the wonderful, kind comments you have sent to school. I do believe that together we have done something remarkable through such challenging times. Thank you again.

Mrs Howell

National Census 2021

If, like me, you are a fan of genealogy programmes, you will be aware of the importance of the census documents for those who are researching family history. The census has been taking place every 10 years since 1801 and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.



The next census will be taking place on **Sunday 21 March 2021**. Every household must complete the census by law on this date, or as soon as possible afterwards, as failure to do so could result in a fine of up to £1,000. It is important that you provide accurate information as your answers to the census questions will help organisations make decisions on planning and funding important public services in our area, including

transport, education and healthcare, for the next ten years.

This year the census will be completed on line. For more information or to complete the census, please go to: www.census.gov.uk

If you would prefer to complete a paper copy of the census questionnaire you may request one via the web site to be sent to you in the post.



World Book Day

There was fun and laughter around the school as the children created their booked potatoes as part of our World Book Day celebrations. What creative children we have at Monkfield Park. I was absolutely astonished by the super ideas and inventiveness. Some of the characters we spotted included; Harry, Super Ted, The Snail and the Whale and **Sunny Baudelaire** from A Series of Unfortunate Events. The children had great fun making their favourite book characters and we read some of the stories that the characters feature in. We hope you had as much fun making them at home as we did in school. We have really enjoyed seeing the wonderful creations sent in on Seesaw.

Booked potatoes!



Knights and Castles

Year 1 have been engrossed in learning about castles this term. As well as reading lots of stories about castles, knights and dragons, this week the children made and evaluated their own castles which they had designed the previous week. Their brief—to make sure that their castles included all of the relevant features such as crenelated battlements, turrets, a drawbridge and a strong, defensive wall. In school, Oskar and Max were super engineers as they found a way to attach the turrets without using glue. They cut slits in the kitchen roll and slid them onto the top of the castle. We were impressed with all of the new words the children had learnt especially when Isaac said, "I have made a portcullis to keep people out!"



Author Visit

As part of book week we were lucky to have children's author and illustrator Gillian McClure lead some remote workshops with children across the school and at home. Children learnt all about how she begins the process of writing and were shown examples of how she edited and changed parts of the books she shared with us. Children were so engaged and could see real life examples of why editing is so important! Years 4,5 and 6 produced some wonderful art work based on the book Selkie. Gillian was so impressed with the questions the children put to her which ranged from 'what was the hardest book to write?' to 'where do you get your inspiration from?'

The children were fascinated by her answers. Gillian also commented on how well behaved and engaged the children were throughout every session she did.



Red Nose Day Is Back

Get ready everyone because Red Nose Day is back on Friday 19th March !

This year it's never felt more important to have some fun and raise money to support those people living incredibly tough lives. We need the power of funny to turn laughs into lasting change so please do support this very worthy cause.

We have purchased boxes of the famous red noses which will be for sale in school from Tuesday 9th March. The noses are 100% plastic free this year and cost £1.50 each. There are 10 woodland creature themed noses to collect, one of which is the rare gold nose! The noses are individually packed in a box, which can be transformed into a tree house for your red nose.

If your child would like to purchase a red nose, please send in £1.50 (correct change only please) with your child, preferably in a sealed envelope. The noses will be available each day in your child's pod.



On Red Nose Day itself, Friday 19th March, we will be having more fun by dressing up to raise money for the charity. This year the theme is 'superheroes', so dig out your cape and dress up as Super Man , Wonder Woman or a super hero of your own invention. We will be asking children to make a small donation of £1 but as this year Friends of Monkfield Park will not be able to hold their usual bucket collection, they have set up a Just Giving Page for you to

make your donation. Either go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/monkfieldpark> or scan QR code below to make your donation.

Please note that the QR code cannot be used for the purchase of red noses.

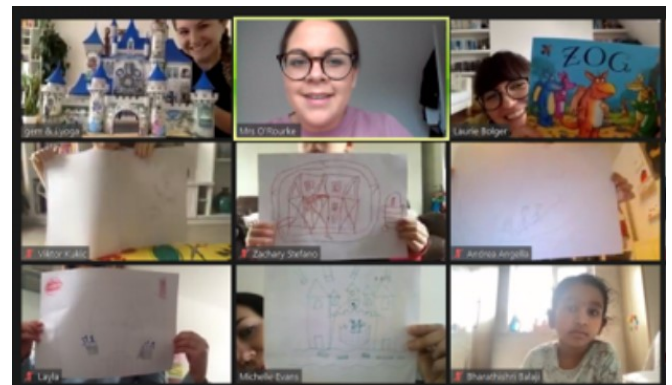




To add to the World Book Week excitement, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had the opportunity to take part in some Stretch and Scribble workshops which involved yoga, meditation and creative drawing and writing, based around a well-known story. The sessions, run by London based Kids Yoga Teacher, Gemma Bolger, and professional writer, Laurie Bolger, were all about wild ideas and having some fun.

The world famous story The Very Hungry Caterpillar was the focus for Reception's and Year 2's sessions. After recreating the story through yoga poses, the children designed their own edible bedrooms through words and pictures.

Year 1's session was based upon the story 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson which was the perfect link to their Castles topic. The children sketched their own castles full of wacky features and then enjoyed listening to Zog be read aloud and learning yoga poses to match the words.



Forthcoming Dates

These dates may be subject to change if there are changes in Government and Local Authority guidance over the coming months.

5th March—Mid-term reports sent to parents

8th March—School opens to all pupils

16th March —Parent Consultation evening via zoom (details to follow)

22nd to 26th March— STEM week

25th March—Parent Consultation evening via zoom (details to follow)

26th March—LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM

12th April - Children return to school.