

# Newsletter 20

Friday 6th February 2026

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## National Story Telling Week

Although it has been cold this week there are signs all around us that Winter is beginning to loosen its grip. I have noticed snow drops appearing everywhere, their intense, perfect white droplets breaking through the sea of early February mud and in my garden slender green stems of daffodils are threatening to bloom as the days begin to lengthen. It gives me so much hope that Spring is on the way and we have much to look forward to.

The first week of February also marks National Story Telling Week. I think we all love a story and the sharing of stories is such an important part of a child's development. Stories teach us about the world; they allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel empathy; they help us to relax and escape and they can help develop essential literacy skills. I was very excited to learn that Julia Donaldson has released a third Gruffalo book about her beloved Gruffalo character this week entitled 'Gruffalo Granny'. I think I might be heading to a bookshop to pick up a copy this weekend so that I can get my story fix by sharing it with some classes next week.

With best wishes,

mrs Howell

## Car Seat Safety

We have been made aware that there are some children arriving at school in cars without any safety restraint, including some who have been standing between the front seats of the car. We know that it can be difficult to get some children to use appropriate car seats as they get older, so with this in mind, I thought it would be a good opportunity to highlight the UK law on the use of car seats.

The use of children's car seats became a legal requirement in 2006. Height based seats are required to be REAR FACING for a minimum of 15 months. A suitable child car seat (a seat that is intended for the child's height, weight and the vehicle it is to be used in) must be used until the child reaches a height of 135cms or 12 years old, whichever is reached first. Only approved height-based child car seats can be used in the UK. Further information on the law regarding car seats and the types of car seats which should be used in the UK can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules>



The purpose of the regulations and the law is to improve levels of safety for children in vehicles. It is our responsibility to ensure our children are protected to the best of our ability.

## Friendship Games

A huge well done to our team of Year 6 children who took part in the Friendship Games at Cambourne Village College this week. Working in teams with children from the other local primary schools, the children took part in some interesting games organised by the Year 10 Sports Leaders. From New Age Curling to archery, Speed Stacks, table tennis and, the children's favourite, Bench ball, the children competed with great enthusiasm and energy. Their achievements were celebrated and everyone received stickers and certificates. Best of all, the children met other children who will also be starting at the Village College in September. With fun games and some new friends, the children declared that they all feel more confident about the transition to secondary school.

## Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you about David Attenborough.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you about absorbent and transparent materials.

Ask your Year 2 child to name the four points of a compass.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you about a type of seed dispersal.

Ask your Year 4 child how to convert distances in kilometres to metres.

Ask your Year 5 child to list the three elements of the fire triangle.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain the plot for their legend story.

## IN SEARCH OF THE VIKINGS

Year 4 had a very surprising day on Thursday which brought their recent learning about the Vikings to life. It all began with a letter from Mrs Howell informing the children about some interesting artefacts which had been discovered on the school site which she believed to be from the Viking period. As the children have become Viking experts, they decided to investigate further by carrying out an archaeological excavation. The children were excited to discover a hoard of artefacts including a bracelet, a necklace and an image of a long-ship. They also found a magic key which transported them back to the Anglo-Saxon period for further adventures. There they met Brother Tranter, from the monastery at Lindisfarne, who asked for their help with his many jobs which needed to be done, including producing illustrated letters and planting seeds for the monastery garden and slicing fruit to eat with oat cakes. In the afternoon, they created Viking longships in teams, sang a Viking rowing song with Chief Viking 'Meredith the Mighty' and created clay rune necklaces. After such an eventful day the children returned tired, but fulfilled, to 2026!

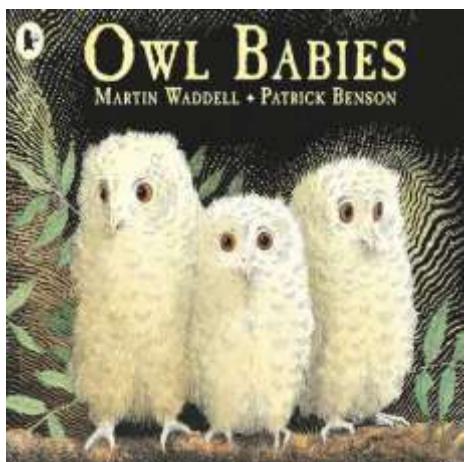


For general queries regarding the Care and Learning Centre, please contact the school office by e-mail on: [clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk) or by telephoning 01954 273377.

To speak with a member of the Care and Learning Centre staff please telephone 01954 273301

### Owl Babies

This week, at Together Time, the children have been listening to the story 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell. They have enjoyed joining in with the refrain the smallest owl Bill says, in a little baby voice, "I want my mummy!". In the classroom, the children have been busy making owls using playdough, feathers and stones, and also building nests for our toy owls using sticks and leaves. We have practised using the vocabulary 'wing', 'feathers', 'beak' and 'claws' and also learnt a new rhyme called the 'Wide-Eyed Owl'.



Best wishes,  
Jane Turner  
Early Years Teacher & Pre-School Manager