

Newsletter 9

Friday 12th November 2021

In this issue:

Thank you

Apply for Reception places

Remembrance

Children in Need Day

Online safety

Headteacher's Roll of Honour

Sentence Starters

Holidays in term time

Forthcoming dates

Displays

Care & Learning Centre



Thank you

I am delighted to be able to write my first newsletter to you as the substantive Headteacher of Monkfield Park. It is a great honour and I consider myself very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to take on the leadership of our wonderful school and build on the success achieved under Mrs Jarman's headship.

Over my many years at the school I have sought to ensure that the children are firmly at the centre of everything we do and I will continue to make sure that the children are safe, happy and able to achieve their full potential. Our children have the right to an excellent education and together with our amazing staff team, I will work to maintain our high academic standards whilst ensuring we nurture and develop every child's unique talents and interests. By providing them with creative and exciting experiences we will work to ignite their enthusiasm for life-long learning and allow everyone to flourish. Crucially, I believe that this is best achieved when we all work together to create a successful, happy school. As your child's primary educators, your views are important to us and I will always endeavour to be approachable and to allocate time to listen to your concerns, worries and thoughts. By building a whole school community which thrives on mutual respect and values positive relationships we will be able to make school a positive and rewarding experience for all our children. Our journey ahead is an exciting one and I thank you for all your kind messages of support as we begin it together.

Mrs Howell

Application for Reception Places in September 2022

Applications for Reception school places for September 2022 can now be made to the Cambridgeshire County Council Admissions Team. You can apply online at: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions or the school office will provide you with a paper copy of the form. The closing date for the first round of applications is 15th January 2022.

We appreciate that selecting the right school for your child is not an easy decision to make. Please can I encourage prospective parents to join one of our 'parent tours' so that you can see the school at first hand and we can have the opportunity to tell you what makes Monkfield Park such a special place to learn. Following advice from the Local Authority we are avoiding large gatherings to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19. However, we are still offering very small tours for two parents at a time and request that visitors wear face masks when in the school building. Please contact the school office to book on to a tour.

Remembrance

On Thursday morning at 11am the school came together on the Key Stage 1 playground to mark the annual Remembrance Day with the traditional two minutes silence. It was a memorable and moving occasion to see the children and staff gathered in silence amidst an array of home made poppies as they reflected on those who have lost their lives in wars around the world. The children had made the poppies in an array of colours— white to symbolise peace, black to remember members of the black, African and Caribbean communities, purple to remember the animals who were victims of war, in addition to the traditional red ones.



DON'T FORGET—Children in Need 2021

Just a reminder that next Friday, 19th November, is BBC Children in Need Day. Following the challenges of the previous eighteen months this is going to be the opportunity to have fun and raise money for children across the United Kingdom who face barriers which prevent them from thriving and flourishing.



We will be holding one of our very popular non-uniform days in school with the theme of 'Wacky Hat and Hair'. I do hope you will join in with the fun to make the wackiest hat or hair possible and raise money for this very worthwhile charity.

The Friends of Monkfield Park will be collecting the money for us on the day. A suggested donation is £1 per child and can be made online via JustGiving using the details below. In addition there will be bucket collections on the playground on the day if you would prefer to make a cash donation. PLEASE NOTE— The Minimum Donation allowed on JustGiving is £2.

Either follow this link to make a donation— www.justgiving.com/Monkfield-Park-Primary-School OR scan the QR Code to take you directly to the page. Thank you for your support.



Online Safety—Squid Games

We have had to speak to the children in school this week as a number of them have been playing their own version of the Netflix TV Show, Squid Games.

The children's games have been very aggressive and violent in nature, as they have been playing a game called 'Red Light, Green Light', recreating the challenges included in the show and simulating injuring others and using punishments and unacceptable language.

The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) has awarded Squid Game a 15 rating in the UK for "sexual violence references, injury detail, sexual images and violence". As such it is unsuitable viewing for children under the age of 15.

We have banned children from playing games based on this TV programme, in school. We urge parents and carers to make sure their children are not viewing this programme and to be wary of Squid Game-related content shared on social media sites such as TikTok.

What should parents do?

- It might be tempting to, but don't directly raise Squid Game with your child – they might be unaware of it, and mentioning it could make them more likely to seek it out.
- Do let your child know they can talk to you about anything they see online that they find upsetting. If you hear them talking about Squid Game or if they mention it to you, talk to them about how the show isn't meant for young children.

For more pointers on talking to your child about online safety, see this page on the **NSPCC website**:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

We would encourage you to take this opportunity to check your Netflix settings for your child's profile. You can set maturity ratings so that your child only sees TV shows and films that have a rating suitable for their age.

To do this:

1. From a web browser, go to your account page
2. Open the 'Profile and Parental Controls' settings for the profile you want to manage
3. Change the 'Viewing Restrictions' setting
4. Enter your Netflix password
5. Set the maturity rating level for the TV shows and films you want to allow in that profile
6. Select 'Save'

You'll need to have set up a profile for your child in your account to do this. See how to do this here:
<https://help.netflix.com/en/node/114275>

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:

Haydn in Delphinus Class: Haydn has really stepped up to the challenge of Year 6 and is demonstrating a thirst for learning. His hard work and dedication are making him a great role model for everyone.

Alice in Green Class: Alice has independently produced some beautiful writing about remembrance this week, which has impressed us all. She always loves to challenge herself as we see each week in the wonderful homework she produces. Well done Alice

Francesca in Yellow Class: Francesca just loves learning. She always puts 100% into everything she does in school and is a wonderful example to all her peers. She completes every single task and activity which Mrs Warne sets for her and is always on the look out for further challenges.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to re-tell you the story of Room on the Broom using words and actions.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you an interesting fact about the bullet train in Japan.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you why certain materials are used for a particular purpose.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain what the term exchange means in maths.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain how a tsunami is caused.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain the purpose of the COP26 conference taking place in Glasgow.

Holidays In Term Time

We have seen a significant increase in applications to take holidays in term time.

If your child is registered at a school, by law they must attend that school regularly and punctually. Your child should only miss school if they are ill or unable to attend for some other unavoidable reason, including self-isolation as a consequence of COVID. The Education regulations state that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. We recognise that the pandemic has had a significant impact on families however, it is vitally important that children are attending school regularly to prevent them falling behind.

If parents take their child on holiday or leave in term time, this will be counted as an unauthorised absence. This is the same as truancy and you may be at risk of a penalty notice fine being issued. There are only 190 statutory school days in one year and 175 days (weekends and school holidays) available to use for holidays or leave.

FORTHCOMING DATES 2021 to 2022

The arrangements for all these events may be subject to change if there are changes in Government and Local Authority guidance. Until further notice, most of the large events will take place virtually via Zoom.

w/c 15th November—Anti bullying week

18th November —Year 2 Production via Zoom

19th November—Children in Need Day

22nd to 26th November—Writing Week

6th December—Y1 visit to Shuttleworth Collection

15th December —Year 1 Nativity Play via Zoom

16th December—Christmas lunch

16th December —Year 4 Carol Concert via Zoom

17th December—LAST DAY OF TERM

20th December—3rd January 2022—CHRISTMAS BREAK

4th January—INSET Day (school closed for children)

5th January—Children return to school

Displays

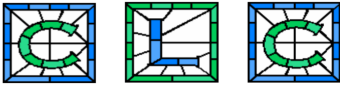
One of the sad things about the current restrictions is that our families are unable to see the beautiful displays of the children's work that make the learning environment in school so vibrant and colourful. I was so inspired by Year 3's display of their natural printing work, I felt I had to share it with you.



The children carried out the printing using a range of grass and natural materials and then added their paintings of the birds they observed in and around the school in Cambourne.

I am sure you will agree these pieces of art are not only very accomplished but are absolutely stunning. A huge thank you to Year 3 for brightening my week with your work.

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

Rabbit Room News

This week we have been talking about the fireworks the children have seen during Bonfire Night and Diwali. We pretended our colourful scarves were fireworks and made fireworks sounds such as 'pop', 'whirr' and 'screech'. We talked about the letter sound each word began with such as 'p,p,p, pop' and this helped us to read the words when Mrs Beresford held them up. We also made some super colourful firework pictures by printing with cut cardboard tubes and straws and sprinkling on glitter.



Shoes

The children in Rabbit Room are now frequently using their wellies to play in the mud kitchen and on the muddy grass area. Children are encouraged to put on their wellies and then put their shoes back on by themselves. Please help your child become independent with this by practising putting on shoes at home. Please also ensure that your child wears shoes to Pre-School which they are able to fasten by themselves. Many thanks.

Packed Lunches

Please could we remind parents that as we encourage healthy eating habits in Pre-School, we ask that you do not include sweets or chocolates in your child's packed lunch. Also a reminder that, in cases of allergies, children should not have any nut products in their lunches. Many thanks for your cooperation with this.