

# Newsletter 12

Friday 3rd December 2021

In this issue:

Your voice

Born to Run

Apply for Reception places

Forthcoming dates

Cross country runners

Christmas post

Advent kindness wreath

Christmas HAF programme

Headteacher's Roll of Honour

Sentence Starters

Poppy appeal

Family worker

Care & Learning Centre



## Your Voice

Last week I asked you to share your views with us about the school and how you feel we can improve. We recognise that the last 18 months have provided huge challenges for our families and the lockdowns have inevitably impacted on the way we have been able to operate. However, I firmly believe that strong relationships are built upon open two-way communication and we would appreciate your feedback to help us to move forward.

The questionnaire consists of a number of multiple choice questions in addition to a section where you can share other ideas or comments. The questionnaire can be accessed via the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14aXQFDqYtGbmTKynKHbPZhidyd4Lr6UhNVwdE3yAdU/edit>

The questionnaire will remain live until Friday 10th December, so please can I encourage you to share your views with us by completing the questionnaire.

We will collate the responses and share them with you via the newsletter following the Christmas break.

Thank you in advance.

Mrs Howell

## Born to Run



On Wednesday, despite the inclement weather, 32 children from across Key Stage 2 competed in the annual Cross Country Running competition in the beautiful grounds of Wimpole Hall. The children were not put off by the plummeting temperatures and the freezing rain as they put their hearts into completing the mile long course in the best possible time. All the children were excellent ambassadors for our school demonstrating impeccable behaviour

and team work throughout the morning, as they encouraged their peers to tackle the challenge of the course.

We are delighted and very proud to announce that Amelia came 3rd in the Year 6 girls' race for the whole of South Cambridgeshire and Harry won the boys' Year 5 race. A huge well done to all the children.

### **Application for Reception Places for 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](http://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.

### **FORTHCOMING DATES 2021 to 2022**

6th December—Y1 visit to Shuttleworth Collection

13th December—Y1 visit to Shuttleworth Collection

15th December —Year 1 Nativity Play via Zoom

16th December—C&LC Christmas Song Time at 10.00am on 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

### **Cross-Country Runners**



### Christmas Post

From next Monday, 6th December, our traditional Christmas post stockings will be available outside the school library for children to post Christmas cards into. Pupil volunteers will be sorting the post and making the daily deliveries to the classes.

Please ensure that each envelope has the recipient's first name, last name and class clearly marked on the envelope so that it reaches the final destination as smoothly as possible. Please note that the final day for posting will be 16th December.



### Advent Kindness Wreath Challenge



This week we have launched our Advent Kindness Wreath Challenge. Mrs Patrick has made a beautiful Advent wreath and each day we will be challenging the children to carry out some simple acts of kindness for their friends, families and those they might not usually play with. We hope that we can bring some Christmas peace, joy and kindness to everyone in the Monkfield Park family as we begin our preparations for the Christmas festivities.

### Christmas Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

During the Christmas holidays, the Christmas HAF Programme is offering eligible children and young people, in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals, a fully funded place of up to 16 hours at a participating holiday scheme and experiences of their choice.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Parents HAF webpage gives further information on how to book a place and includes a video of the Summer HAF programme. This is a valuable opportunity for your child to take part in enriching experiences, physical activity and receive a nutritious meal during the school holidays.

For further information please contact: [HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Or scan the QR code for more information on how to register.





# 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:

George in Green Class: George has been working so hard on extending the vocabulary he uses in his written work. We were amazed by the wide range of scientific vocabulary he has been using in his Science work this week. Well done George.

Will in Dorado Class: Will has been so upset by the impact of litter on our local environment that he has started a one man crusade to collect as much rubbish to recycle as he can. Thank you for being such a thoughtful, upstanding member of our community Will.

Tallulah in Columba Class: Tallulah's love of reading is clear for everyone to see. At the moment she is reading on average ten books each week, which is a very impressive achievement. We are all delighted that you work so hard Tallulah and are proud of your achievements.

## Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to spot and name some 3D shapes in the environment .

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you the story of the Nativity.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you which coins are silver and which coins are round.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain how they made and designed their Stone Age beads.

Ask your Year 4 child to tell you about the most dangerous volcano they have studied.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you about some of the products produced by South American countries.

Ask your Year 6 child to draw a bar model to show what happens when you divide a fraction by a whole number.

### Poppy Appeal

I am delighted to let you know that Monkfield Park has done it again!

As a result of all your effort and generosity you raised an amazing total of



# £262.53

for the poppy appeal this year. The Royal British Legion send their thanks for your generous support which will enable them to carry on supporting ex service men and women who need their help.

# Early Intervention Family Worker Newsletter

## 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### A Message From Me

Hi my name is Sam and I am your Early Intervention family worker.  
I can help support you with any general parenting issue you may be experiencing at home.  
Virtual drop-ins Mon-Wed  
Please find my contact email address below to book a drop in slot.

### Sticky Web Game

You will need

**Masking tape** (must be decorating tape as this is not too sticky, please check first so the tape does not damage paintwork)

**A doorway**

**Old newspaper/paper**

Leave the door open and stick masking tape across the door frame to create a spider web effect.

Screw up paper to make 10 hand size balls per player. The aim of the game is to throw the balls through the holes in the web without the paper getting stuck. If a ball gets stuck in the web the player loses that ball, keep going until the player with the last ball wins.

### Helping your child with their big feelings



Identify typical situations that cause explosive emotions and use this to teach problem solving skills. Once your child is calm and ready to listen ask them.

*"What could you do different next time? Give suggestions if your child is finding this difficult."*



Encourage your child to talk about their feelings.



Talk about your own feelings and remember your child is watching how you manage your emotions.



Acknowledge your child's emotions, feelings and responses. In the moment you could say *"I hear you" ... "I'm listening", "I would like to help you with that big feeling"*.



The HAF programme offers free holiday scheme places to primary and secondary school aged children who are eligible for free school meals due to a low income. During the Christmas holidays, eligible children will be able to access up to 16 hours for free at a holiday scheme. The sessions will include

### Christmas Holiday Activities and Food Programme

a healthy meal, a variety of exciting activities, sports and the opportunity for your child to socialise with other children. For further information please visit the website below.

[Holiday Activities and Food Programme - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

[HAF Christmas Provider Directory \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf)

**Does** your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? Pinpoint ([www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk](http://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk)) have lots of information, advice and tips. For Cambridgeshire's Local Offer go to [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer)

Contact me directly on

 [Samantha.stacey@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Samantha.stacey@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)



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

### **Rabbit and Hedgehog Room News**

Christmas has come to the Care and Learning Centre this week and the children in both rooms have enjoyed making the classrooms look festive. The children helped to decorate the Christmas trees and had great fun dressing up in festive headwear!

Both rooms have a lovely advent calendar to use in which the children take turns to put a decoration on a felt tree each day. They are being really patient whilst waiting for their turns. We have also been practising counting up to number 24 along the advent calendar to help us understand how many days there are left until Father Christmas comes! All the children have been very busy learning Christmas songs to share with you at home. We will be holding a short Zoom Christmas Song Time on Thursday 16th December at 10.00am and would love you to join us virtually for this event. A link will be sent out for the meeting nearer the time.

### **Absences**

Thank you to all those parents who have emailed or phoned to inform us when their children are unwell or unable to attend their pre-school session. Our preferred method of contact is via email to the CLC Office before 8.30am. We ask that you give a short description of your child's symptoms to help keep us informed of any illnesses which are circulating. If it is possible that your child's symptoms could be Covid related, please take them for a PCR test. If your child has vomiting or diarrhoea, please wait 48 hours from the last episode of illness before bringing them back to pre-school.

