

Newsletter 35

Friday 19th June 2026

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We Did It!

On Wednesday our OPAL mentor spent the day with us carrying out our final OPAL assessment. It has been a two year long journey to get to this point and we were extremely nervous. I am delighted to inform you that we achieved the Platinum Award with an amazing score of 97%! The Platinum Award is the highest accolade available. This incredible achievement was a huge team effort and our heartfelt thanks must go to Mrs Hickmott, our Opal Play Lead, Mrs Major and Mrs Ray, our Curriculum Leads for OPAL, and the whole Play Team. The Platinum Award is highly sought after and is only awarded to schools that demonstrate the very highest standard of outdoor play. The OPAL Platinum accreditation now places Monkfield Park in the top 1% of schools nationally, which is an incredible achievement! We should be justifiably proud as the award recognises our dedicated development of the school's outdoor environment, play culture, and whole-school approach to wellbeing. With OPAL now fully embedded into school life I think we can allow ourselves some well deserved celebration and OPAL play time.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Howell



Don't Forget Your Hat!

Last week I was reminding everyone to bring their coat and wellingtons to school as the rain had returned with a vengeance, I am delighted to inform you that the sunshine is set to return next week and the temperatures are predicted to soar. Please can you make sure that your child brings a named, re-fillable water bottle to school each day as it is very important that they keep hydrated. It is particularly important that your child brings a sun hat and sun cream to school each day. We are unable to apply sun cream for your child so please apply some before coming to school in the morning and encourage your child to practise applying it themselves on exposed skin. Sun cream can contain nut oils so please can we ask that you check the ingredients before sending creams into school.



Celebrating OPAL

We are so proud of our OPAL Platinum Award which is an incredible achievement. So what better way to celebrate than with a photo of our grounds plan which shows all the wonderful zones that the children now have access to throughout the week.



We are incredibly grateful to the very talented Mr Chris Smith for building us our amazing mud kitchen and to Lifelong Kitchens in St Neots who provided the wood that Mr Smith used to build it. Thank you for giving us so much of your time Mr Smith and for creating such an amazing resource for us.



Gaming Success

On Tuesday Mr Frame and I accompanied our amazing Digital Leaders to Amazon HQ in London. The children had made it through to the finals of the 2Simple Purple Mash computer game design competition with their sustainability themed entry. Presenting their game to a panel of judges from BAFTA and the games industry, the children impressed everyone with their coding skills, inventiveness and confidence. Although the children didn't win, we are so proud of them as they had competed against 500 teams to reach the final eight, which is an incredible accolade and proof of their talent and team work. The children were very impressed by the visit to Amazon HQ and think they might like to pursue careers in the games industry in the future.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you about the traffic survey they completed this week.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you in order the days of the week.

Ask your Year 2 child what are the three main dangers to the rainforest.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain what acute and obtuse angles are.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain what they think it would have been like to be an evacuee during WWII.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain how J K Rowling builds suspense in her writing.

Ask your Year 6 child to tell you what they think about the government's plans to ban access to social media sites for children under the age of 16.

FORTHCOMING DATES SPRING TERM 2026

22nd June—Y5 Farm Based workshops

23rd June—Y5 Farm Based workshops

24th June—Reception and KS1 Sports Day

24th June - New Reception 2026 Parents' Evening

25th June—New Reception 2026 Come and Play

25th June—Network CB23 chess completion.

26th June—Reserve Reception and KS1 Sports Day

26th June—Primary cricket tournament

30th June—Year 2 Beach Trip

1st July—KS2 Sports Day

2nd July—KS2 Reserve Sports Day

3rd July—FOMP Summer Fete

6th July—Move Up Morning

6th July—End of year reports sent to parents

} Please note the change of date

7th July—Year 6 production at 6pm

9th July—Year 6 production at 6pm

14th July—Reception park trip

15th July—OPAL event

16th July—Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 10am

17th July—Last day of the academic year.

20th July to 31st August—Summer holiday

1st September—INSET Day (school closed for children)

2nd September—INSET Day (school closed for children)

3rd September—Children return to school for Autumn term

8th September—Meet the teacher evening

28th September to 1st October—Year 6 Bikeability



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

Sunflowers

Our sunflower seedlings have been growing taller this week, so the children have taken them home to continue caring for them in a larger pot or out in the garden. Don't forget to keep on checking them regularly to see if they need watering! It would be wonderful if you could send in photos of any successful sunflowers later in the Summer.

The Enormous Turnip

Our story this week has been the traditional tale, 'The Enormous Turnip'. The children have enjoyed joining in with the refrain, "They pulled and they pulled, but the enormous turnip just wouldn't come out!" Towards the end of the week we acted out our own version of the story, in which Ms Turner and the children were the characters trying to pull up the turnip! We laughed a lot when we all fell to the ground together at the end!

Best wishes

Jane Turner

Early Years Teacher and Pre-School Manager