

Newsletter 13

Friday 11th December 2020

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Christmas Story Time



Christmas is really in the air now and the children have been making the most of the beautiful Christmas tree which graces our Main Hall, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Monkfield Park. Each class has taken the opportunity to have a Christmas story time around the tree each afternoon. The scent of pine needles and the twinkling lights have allowed us all to experience a little bit of Christmas wonder and to be transported to a more magical world through stories.

Mrs Howell

Parking Outside School

Sadly, we have received some complaints from concerned neighbours regarding irresponsible parking outside school which is causing safety concerns.

Local residents are concerned that at school drop off and pick up times, cars are being parked on the double yellow lines adjacent to the school on School Lane and on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the car park gates.

Parking is prohibited on double yellow lines and the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school car park gates indicate that this is a no parking area. We would appreciate it if parents could avoid parking on School Lane by using the car park adjacent to the school in Priory Walk. Thank you for your support and understanding in this matter.

Christmas Lunch and Jumpers

The annual Christmas lunch will be served on Thursday **17th December**. If children would like to wear a Christmas jumper on this day we are suggesting that they may make a voluntary donation of £1 to Blue Smile—the local charity we are supporting this year. Blue Smile provides therapy and support in schools across Cambridgeshire to help children to be happier and emotionally healthy following a crisis.



The closing date for applications for primary school places for September 2021 is 15th January 2021.

To help parents with the application process, the Parents' School Preference Adviser has made a You Tube video summary available on the County Council website which covers the main points parents need to be aware of when making an application for a Reception place for September 2021. This supplements the information on the Admissions Team page about applying for a primary school place.

The advice can be accessed through the website: - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/support-with-choosing-a-school>

Or via the You Tube video- <https://tinyurl.com/Applyingforprimaryschool2021>

If you know of any families who would like to find out more about the exciting educational opportunities we offer at Monkfield Park, please do encourage them to contact the school office on 01954 273377 or by e-mail on: office@monkfielpark.cambs.sch.uk to arrange a virtual visit to our school.

Head Lice



We have been informed of some recent cases of head lice in school. We would appreciate your co-operation in managing this by checking your child's hair and treating where necessary. To keep head lice at bay, there is no need to buy expensive treatments, as it is more effective to check hair carefully and regularly, using a lice comb to remove any live lice and eggs. Please don't forget that the whole family needs to be checked and that bedding should be thoroughly washed.

More information and support can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

The Life Bus Visits

This week Year 1 and Year 2 were delighted to welcome the staff from the Life Education Bus to school this week. Unfortunately, the bus is not able to visit schools at the moment but Louise and Harold the Giraffe were able to work with the children in Year 1 and Year 2. Louise has been working with Mrs O'Rourke (our PSHE Lead) and the teachers to support and enhance our PSHE provision.

Each class had a session with Louise and Harold the Giraffe and it was delightful to see how enthusiastic the children were as they learnt about medicines, healthy choices and how to manage their feelings.

Leila from Violet Class

'I loved Harold. He helped me learn about medicines and inspired me.'



Christmas Productions Zoom!

This week saw another first for Monkfield Park—our first remote school productions. We love a challenge at Monkfield Park and were determined that the children should have the opportunity to present their traditional Christmas performances to their families. Social distancing and strict government guidelines on singing and performing seemed set to prevent this but we refused to be daunted by these problems. Staff and children worked together to perform outside in freezing temperatures and in their pods in the Main Hall and Key Stage 2 courtyard, whilst Mrs O'Rourke developed her recording and filming skills. So on Thursday evening parents settled down on their sofas as the Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas concert was zoomed direct to their homes and on Friday evening, Year 1 will present their traditional Nativity play for their families. We are so proud of the children and staff for all their hard work in enabling this to take place and I hope that we were able to send some true Christmas spirit to our families who were able to join us for these wonderful performances.



Headteacher Roll of Honour

Harvey in Pegasus Class—Harvey has shown renewed dedication to his learning and is putting so much effort into his work, especially in Maths and reading. You have impressed us all and have made Mrs Johnson very proud.

James in Lacerta Class—James is such a good learning partner and inspires everyone to work hard and give of their best. Thank you for being such an excellent role model for your class.

Stamatia in Dorado Class—Stamatia is such a kind and considerate person who is always keen to help anyone who needs a hand. She has really impressed with her explanations and reasoning about some tricky Maths problems this week.

Amber in Orange Class—It is clear to everyone that Amber loves a challenge and loves learning. Her work in school and at home shows how much effort she puts in to everything she does. Well done Amber, we are very proud of you.

Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you one less than any number that you give them up to 15.

Ask your Year 1 child to explain how to make a mince pie.

Ask your Year 2 child to explain how they helped Harold's friend, Alex, solve her problem.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain how Christmas is celebrated differently around the world.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain the journey of a river.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you about one of the six areas of research they have undertaken this week on the life of Victorian children.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain how to multiply and divide a fraction by a whole number.

FORTHCOMING DATES 2020 to 2021

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

17th December—Christmas lunch

18th December—LAST DAY OF TERM

19th December—1st January 2021—CHRISTMAS BREAK

4th January INSET Day

5th January - Children return to school.



Help with Self-Isolating

The Local Authority has asked us to share the following information with you on the help and support that is available if you have been instructed to self-isolate. If you have any problems contacting your local support hub please let the school office know and we will contact them for you.



Positive help if you've tested positive (or are a close contact of someone who has)



Need to self-isolate? We can help you! If you've been told to self-isolate, you're not alone.

Help is available to everyone across Cambridgeshire who has been asked to do this to break the chain of infection – and stopping its spread to our most vulnerable people.

This includes financial help, emotional help or practical support to do day-to-day things.

What support can you receive?



The Government's Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme is run by each of the district and city councils across Cambridgeshire and entitles people who meet certain criteria to **a one-off payment of £500 if they lose income because they can't work**. This payment can be made available on multiple occasions if you are a close contact of people who test positive a second or even third time.



If you aren't eligible for the government support, don't worry – there's a local discretionary fund which can **give you financial support so you can pay your essential bills**.



There is also a network of support hubs run by the district and city councils which can **support you with food shopping, collecting medicine, dog walking, befriending services and in many other ways**.



Please get in touch if there are barriers preventing you from self-isolating, as we can help you to remove them.

There really is no reason not to self-isolate.

Details of all the support available can be found on your local council's website or at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk



You can also contact your local support hub via your local council or by calling 0345 045 5219.

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