

Newsletter 30

Friday 21st May 2021

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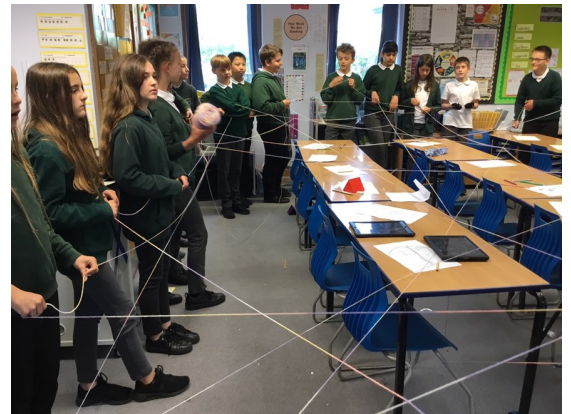
Pod afternoon—Connect and reconnect

Today we substituted our usual 'team afternoons' with a 'pod' afternoon, giving an opportunity for children to 'connect' and 'reconnect' due to the ongoing Covid way of life. Children across pods joined together to take part in activities linked to well-being and which took inspiration from the '5 wells of wellbeing' - connect, keep learning, take notice, give, and be active'. We will be exploring each of these

themes as part of our recovery curriculum during the rest of the Summer term. Over the course of the afternoon, children explored the kinds of positive things that they could say to each other that could help them reconnect with friends again or possibly someone they don't ordinarily mix with. They also used team games to reinforce the importance of 'connecting with others' in an active context.



Chains of Friendship



Term time holidays—attendance matters more than ever

Due to lost learning over the course of the last year, attendance at school is now more important than ever. Lost learning and social opportunities have been missed and children have suffered as a result, no matter how hard we have all tried during the varying lockdown periods.

There is no change to the legislation regarding leave of absence requests from school during term-time. Monkfield Park will continue to follow our Attendance Policy and only authorise absences due to **exceptional circumstances**. Although we are aware of the change of restrictions regarding travel that were brought in on 17 May 2021 at 4am, all requests to remove a child from the school during term time for the purpose of a holiday will not be approved by the Headteacher. Only requests where the reason for absence is due to an exceptional circumstance and evidenced as such will be considered as per the legislation and the school's Attendance Policy (located on the school website at www.monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk).



Reflection Garden

We know how disconnecting the various lockdown periods may have been for children and have therefore been thinking about a worthwhile project that could bring our school and community back together and which all children could benefit from. Before I leave as the Headteacher of Monkfield Park, I would very much like to develop a 'reflection garden' in school where children can take quiet time for contemplation, away from the busy playground. As part of our pod afternoon, children have been asked to think carefully about what this type of space would need and to come up with designs that would lend themselves to a peaceful reflection garden. We are hoping that these ideas may be pulled together into a final plan, with a 'human sundial' as the centrepiece of this area, a bit like the one below.

As you may be aware, last February, we tragically lost Dilni who was one of our Monkfield Park pupils. I would very much like to tie this project in as a lasting tribute and memorial to her and the wonderful attributes that she brought to our school. I feel that this will be such a testament to the kind, responsible and reflective personality who Dilni was. To assist in funding this project, Mrs Horton has kindly set up a 'Rocketfund' donations page that can be found by [clicking here](#), where parents and families are able to make a donation that will help us in achieving this goal. We would like to invite any voluntary contributions to this page, however small. Thank you so much for any donations that have been received so far.



Headteacher Roll of Honour

The following children have really grabbed our attention this week:

Tommy –Lee in Dorado Class—Tommy puts 100% effort into his reading and has become a complete 'bookworm'. Thank you for sharing your book with me recently, it was a pleasure to hear you read.

William in Indigo Class—William gave careful consideration to the phrases and sentences that he put into his writing about the farm this week and even included inverted commas for speech!

Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to use an interesting word when describing their favourite part of the story Cinderella. e.g I liked it when Cinderella danced with the 'charming' prince.

Ask your Year 1 child to name a dinosaur that is a carnivore, omnivore and a herbivore.

Ask your Year 2 child what an apostrophe is and where it would be used.

Ask your Year 3 child how to create a mechanical monster.

Ask your Year 4 child what a conductor and insulator are.

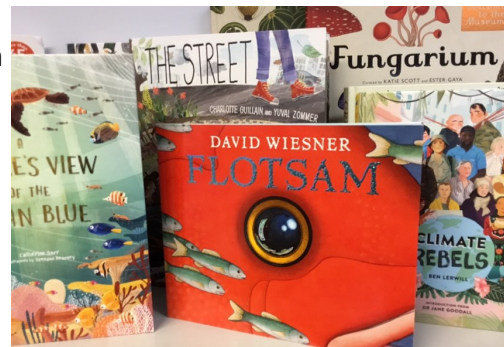
Ask your Year 5 child to list some similarities and differences between the 6 main faiths.

Ask your Year 6 child to use the word prokaryotes to explain how soap can help to keep our hands clean.



Thank You Mr Steers

We were very fortunate to receive an extremely generous donation during lockdown from Mr John Steers. Mr Steers is the father of our Cygnus Class teacher, Mrs Sawford, and he feels as passionate about enabling children to shine academically and achieve their aspirations as much as his daughter. Thanks to Mr Steer's generosity, we have been able to purchase some beautiful books to enhance the children's learning and we hope that Mr Steers will be able to visit us in school soon to see them in use.



Forthcoming Dates

28th May—Aquila Class assembly at 9.15am via Zoom (more details to follow)
28th May—Friends of Monkfield Park 'Break the Rules Day' (more details to follow)
w/c 31st May—Half term
7th June—INSET day (school closed to children)
8th June—INSET day (school closed to children)
9th June—Children return
11th June—Indigo Class assembly at 9.15am (via Zoom, if necessary)
18th June—Lacerta Class assembly at 9.15am (via Zoom, if necessary)
21st June—Reception & Key Stage 1 sports day practise (all children to wear PE kits)
22nd June—Year 4 Mini Olympics (more details to follow)
23rd June—Reception & Key Stage 1 sports day (more details to follow)
24th June—Reserve Reception & Key Stage 1 sports day
28th June—Key Stage 2 sports day practise (all children to wear PE kits)
30th June—Key Stage 2 sports day (more details to follow)
1st July—Reserve Key Stage 2 sports day
1st July—New Reception children come and play at 9.30am
2nd July—Columba Class assembly at 9.15am(via Zoom, if necessary)
7th July—New Reception children come and play at 9.30am
7th July —New Reception parents' evening at 6.00pm (more details to follow)
8th & 9th July—Year 6 new intake days at Cambourne Village College
13th July—New Reception children come and play at 9.30am
14th July—Year 6 production at 2pm (via Zoom, if necessary)
15th July—Year 6 production at 6pm (via Zoom, if necessary)
21st July—Year 6 Leavers' assembly at 10am (via Zoom, if necessary)
22nd July—Last day of Summer term
23rd July—Start of Summer holidays

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

