

Newsletter 4

Friday 26th September 2025

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OPAL Play Date

I would like to say an enormous thank you to all our families who attended our first OPAL stay and play session. The weather was perfect and it was such a joy to see so many of you exploring the equipment and spending some precious time joining your children in their play. OPAL is helping us to fulfil our vision that every child in our school should have an amazing play-time every day and I hope you will agree that OPAL has transformed our lunchtime play. We are still on our OPAL journey and will be continuing to develop the activities and equipment the children can access. Hopefully, we will have a large sandpit and mud kitchen in the near future but we are also looking for lots of small and large upcycled parts that the children can use in their creative play. If you have any items such as: crates, pipes, clean tarpaulins, suitcases, buggies, cones, cable spools, pool noodles, ribbons and fabric please speak to the office and they will ask Helen Hickmott our OPAL play lead to contact you.

With kindest wishes
Mrs Howell.

Harvest Festival

Next Friday, 3rd October, we will be holding our annual Harvest Festival Assembly in school. This traditional festival gives us the opportunity to celebrate the safe gathering in of the harvest and to give thanks for all the good things that we have. As part of our assembly we will be collecting gifts of dried food and other essential items to donate to the Cambourne Food Bank. Our local food banks are a vital lifeline for many families who find themselves in very difficult financial circumstances, providing a balanced and nutritious supply of food to those in need. If you would like to donate items for our Harvest Festival assembly we will be collecting donations of food, dried goods and toiletries throughout next week. We would welcome donations of the following items:

Noodles and rice	Soap, toiletries and nappies	Olive oil
Toilet rolls	Long life juices and cordials	Dried and tinned goods
Stock cubes	Pasta sauces	Tinned tomatoes
Cleaning products	Instant coffee and tea bags	Long life milk
Milk powder	Puddings e.g. rice pudding , custard, Angel Delight, jelly and sponge	

PLEASE DO NOT SEND FRESH OR PERISHABLE GOODS

Bikeability

This week we welcomed the wonderful instructors from Outspoken to deliver the Bikeability training course to some of our Year 6 children. We are very grateful to the Outspoken Instructors who give their time for free to run the training courses in school. Although Cambourne is lucky to have a fantastic network of cycle paths which enable our children to cycle safely to school, as the children get older and become more independent we also need to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills to cycle confidently and safely on the road, in traffic. Confident cycling opens up a world of opportunity for children from travelling to school, enjoying family bike rides, keeping fit or just hanging out with their friends.



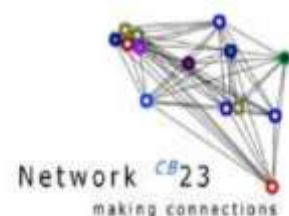
The instructors spent four days teaching the children how to identify and respond to hazards on the roads, tackle tricky junctions and crossroads, and understand what the road signs and markings mean. The instructors were so complimentary about how well mannered and focused the children were throughout the week. Well done to everyone, we are proud of you.

CAN YOU HELP?

Network CB23 has been running a highly successful Careers Convention for Year 5 pupils in all of the local primary schools since 2015. The aim of the day is to introduce the children to a wide range of career options and help them to make connections between learning and “working life”. We hope that by doing so we will inspire them to value learning, open their minds to new possibilities and help them raise their own ambitions. We are always keen to have a wide range of exhibitors from a varied range of careers.

If you would be interested in exhibiting or know of someone who would like to showcase their career, please contact Jill Foster, Network CB23 Coordinator on: networkcb23@catrust.co.uk

For more information please see the CB23 website: www.networkcb23.com/careers





If you have a child who will be three in September you can book places for the Autumn term in our pre-school now. Graded Good by Ofsted in June 2024 we can provide 15/30 hours of funded provision with a qualified Early Years teacher and dedicated and supportive Early Years staff, in a caring and nurturing learning environment. We are open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm during term time and welcome visits from parents and carers. Please contact the school office to arrange a visit and discover the Monkfield Way. Please contact us on: 01954 273377 or by e-mail: clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk



Each day our teaching staff are available to chat with you at the classroom doors at the beginning and end of the school day. Many of you are able to have a brief catch up at these times but we know how important it is to have a more in depth discussion with your child's class teacher about how they have settled in and the progress they are making. The consultation evenings this term will be on Tuesday 14th October and Thursday 23rd October from 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm and both will be face-to-face to allow all parents the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher and to look at their child's work in their

classroom. However, due to a clash with the open evening at Cambourne Village College, the second consultation evening for Year 6 will be on Wednesday 22nd October from 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm. All appointments will last for 10 minutes and we politely ask that you keep strictly to those timings. Bookings can be made using the electronic booking system, details of which have been e-mailed to you by the school office. If you have any problems with booking an appointment please contact Mrs Cox or Mrs Taylor in the school office who will be happy to help.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to point out signs of Autumn when you are out and about together.

Ask your Year 1 child to compare numbers using the words 'greater than' and 'less than'.

Ask your Year 2 child to compare numbers using the words 'greater than' and 'less than'.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you what Stonehenge is.

Ask your Year 4 child to recount a Roman myth to you, for example, 'Jupiter and the Bee'.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain what a square number is and give you some examples.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain what 'Square Number Day' is and when the next one will be.

FORTHCOMING DATES

30th September—Reception 2026 parent tour at 2pm

1st October—Year 1 trip to Castle Headingham

3rd October—Harvest Festival

6th October—Individual photographs

6th to 17th October—Money Fortnight

8th October—Y4 Roman WOW Day

10th October—Reception 2026 parent tour at 9.30am

10th October—Phoenix Class Assembly

13th October—Y5 Astronomer visit

14th October—Parent consultation evening

16th October—Y5 Careers Fair at Cambourne Village College

PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE CHANGED THE DATE OF THE PARENT CONSULTATION EVENING FOR CHILDREN IN Y6 TO WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER DUE TO THE CAMBOURNE VILLAGE COLLEGE OPEN EVENING.

22nd October—Reception 2026 parent tour at 2pm

23rd October—Parent consultation evening

20th October—Online Safety week

24th October—Break up for Half Term

27th to 31st October—HALF TERM

3rd November—Children return to school

4th November—Y6 trip to Great Huts

5th November—Reception Come and Share from 9.30am

12th November—Wellbeing Wednesday for KS1

13th November—Reception tour and open evening for Reception 2026 parents

17th—21st November —Art Week

21st November—Indigo Class Assembly

25th November—Reception 2026 parent tour at 10am

26th to 28th November—Children's Art Gallery

5th December— Reception 2026 parent tour at 2pm

9th December—Y1 and Y2 Christmas production

10th December—Y1 and Y2 Christmas production

16th December—Y4 Christmas Carol Concert

17th December—Y4 Christmas Carol Concert

Beat the Street

I was very impressed to see so many children out with their parents tapping their Beat the Streets card on the various boxes around Cam-bourne this week. One member of staff told me that there was a real 'buzz' in the community and she had seen many families out with their maps looking for the boxes. Not only is this a wonderful way to get out and enjoy some of the fantastic Autumn sunshine we have been experiencing but you are also pushing Monkfield Park up the leaderboard—yes there is a leaderboard and there are great prizes to be won for the school! Monkfield Park is currently number one in the rankings, which is great to see. However, we have to keep the momentum going for a whole four weeks, which I am sure we can. So keep tapping everyone and enjoying all the benefits that this brings.



Reception 2026 Tours



We appreciate that selecting the right school for your child is not an easy decision to make. Each parent and carer is looking for a school that will make the educational experience as motivating and rewarding as possible for their child. To help you make this important decision we would like to welcome parents and carers into school to see at first hand what makes Monkfield Park such a special place to learn. We are offering a number of parent tours so that you can see the school in action and talk with the Headteacher and staff.

Please join us for one of our parent tours which can be booked by contacting the school office on 01954 273377 or by email :office@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk The tour dates are:

Tuesday 30th September at 2pm

Friday 10th October at 9.30am

Wednesday 22nd October at 2pm

Thursday 13th November at 5pm

Tuesday 25th November at 10am

Friday 5th December at 2pm

Thursday 11th December at 10am

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school and hope you will join us for one of the tours. If you are unable to make any of these dates, please contact the school office and we will be happy to arrange a mutually convenient date for you to visit the school and meet Mrs Howell, the Headteacher.

OPAL Stay and Play

I hope you enjoy this photographic record of our first OPAL Stay and Play session. What a wonderful afternoon we all had.



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

Group Time

This week the children have been introduced to 'Group Time'. Each day, we split into two smaller groups and go into our cosy Group Room for some time together and a planned adult led activity. After talking and singing about the day and the weather, the children take part in a variety of learning activities including listening games, early phonics, number games and stories. I wonder if any of the children can sing to you at home the days of the week songs we have learnt?



In Group Time, we have also looked at our new name cards and the different shapes of the capital letters starting each of our names. Many of the children have already begun to recognise their own names on the classroom door when they arrive at preschool each morning.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Jane Turner
Early Years Teacher
Pre-School Manager