

Newsletter 3

Friday 23rd September 2022

In this issue:

Parent Consultation Survey

Harvest Festival

Questions answered

Application for Reception

Places 2023

A safe playground

Headteacher's Roll of Honour

Sentence Starters

Governing Body

Forthcoming dates

Money week

FOMP

Care and Learning Centre

Parent Consultation Evenings Survey

Many thanks to everyone who responded to our survey regarding the format of our parent consultation evenings. In total we had 181 responses, many of which included some very helpful comments. The majority of responses were in favour of retaining online meetings as they eliminate child care issues and do not require a whole evening spent queuing in school. However, a significant number of parents and carers would like a hybrid model as they value the opportunity to get to know their child's teacher in person.

Having discussed the responses as a staff, we will be offering a hybrid model for the coming parent consultations evenings. For the first evening on Tuesday 13th October, the appointments will be virtual via zoom. The following week, on Thursday 21st October, the appointments will be held face-to-face in the Main Hall. Booking for appointments on both weeks will be via the electronic booking system. We will review the effectiveness of this model prior to the Spring term meetings.

Mrs Howell

Harvest Festival

Next week we will be celebrating our annual Harvest Festival 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 things that we have in these challenging times. As part of our assembly on Friday 30th October we will be collecting gifts of dried food and other essential items throughout the week to donate to the Cambridge and Cambourne Food Banks. 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 families in need. If you would like to donate items for our harvest festival assembly we would welcome:

Noodles and rice	Soap and toiletries
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	
Puddings e.g. rice pudding , custard, Angel Delight, jelly and sponge	
Long life milk or milk powder	Nappies

PLEASE DO NOT SEND FRESH OR PERISHABLE GOODS



Your Questions about Parent Consultation Evening Answered

In the survey many of you asked why we have conducted parent consultation evenings in a particular way to date. I thought this would be a good opportunity to offer some clarification here.

Q. The appointments are not long enough. We need more than 10 minutes to talk to the teacher about our child's progress and attainment. Why can't we have longer meetings?

A. Currently most classes have between 30 and 32 children therefore, it is not feasible to have longer appointments. The consultations are to provide parents/carers with a brief overview of how your child has settled into the year and to discuss how you can further support them at home. If you have concerns or would like a longer meeting staff are always happy to meet with you at other times which are mutually convenient.

Q. Why do we always have to have consultation evenings on a Tuesday or Thursday?

A. Following the school day, staff have a number of meetings and responsibilities which take place as part of their directed time each week. Tuesdays and Thursdays are evenings where we have more scope to re-arrange those other meetings.

Q. Why don't we get written feedback?

A. Staff produce mid-year reports prior to the consultation meetings in the Spring term and a full report in the Summer term. This meeting is to let you know how your child is settling in to their new year group and how you can support them.

Q. The meetings in the Main Hall are very noisy and it is often difficult to hear what the teacher is saying. Could they take place in the classrooms instead?

A. The meetings take place in the Main Hall to safeguard staff and allow parents to look at their children's work and books in the classroom whilst they are waiting. It also allows the cleaning staff time to clean the classrooms and toilets in preparation for the following day.

Q. Some teachers always over-run with the result that some parent are left queuing for long periods of time. Can we have a time signal or a bell to indicate when the allotted appointment time has finished?

A. We are aware how difficult it can be if appointments do not run to time, especially if parents and carers need to meet with a number of teachers. Some of you have suggested that a visible timer on the teacher's desk would be helpful for both the teacher and the parents and carers. We are happy to trial this to see if it will help to improve timings.

Application for Reception Places for September 2023

The application window for Reception school places for September 2023 is now open. Applications can now be made to the Cambridgeshire County Council Admissions Team.

The Local Authority produces a useful 'first-steps' booklet which contains much information about the schools across Cambridgeshire. This is available via the following link: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/first-steps-2023-2024.pdf>

You can apply online at: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/primary-reception-junior-or-middle-school>

The closing date for the first round of applications is before midnight on 15th January 2023.

We appreciate that selecting the right school for your child is not an easy decision to make and we would be delighted to welcome you into school so that you can see at first hand what makes Monkfield Park such a special place to learn. Please can I encourage all prospective parents to join us for one of our parent tours which can be booked by contacting the school office.



Apply Now

for a Reception school place for September 2023



If your child will be aged 4 by **31st August 2023**

You need to apply **NOW** for a school place

Apply by 15th January 2023

For further information please visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions or contact your local school

Contact the Admissions Team by telephone 0345 045 1370
Post: Box - ALC2605, New Shire Hall, Emery Crescent,
Enterprise Campus, Alconbury Weald, PE28 4YE
or email admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

A Safe Playground

Our playgrounds are extremely busy at morning drop off and again when collecting children at the end of the school day. It is very important that for their safety, all children stay with their accompanying adult and do not wander off.

Please can we request that parents and carers do not allow their child to use the outdoor play equipment such as the gym equipment, tractor slide or trim trail. This equipment can only be used under the direct supervision of school staff for safety reasons. Some of the equipment is currently awaiting the replacement of damaged sections and so must not be used.

We would politely remind adults and children that they should dismount from scooters and cycles when they enter the school grounds, to avoid the possibility of collisions with pedestrians and ensure the safety of all those who access the site with small children at these busy times. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.



Headteacher Roll of Honour

Each week this space will provide a celebration of those 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:

Tommy-Lee in Lacerta Class: We have been delighted to see how focused Tommy-Lee has been on his learning. Mrs Varey was so impressed with how much you have been reading in school Tommy-Lee and how engaged you were with the texts. Keep up the good work.

Nina in Blue Class: Nina always demonstrates the Monkfield Way in everything she does. I have noticed how kind she is to everyone, how she always sets an example for others and how hard she works in class. Thank you for quietly making your class a great place to learn.

Hamza in Dorado Class: Hamza has an excellent attitude to his work and just loves reading. He astonished us all last week by reading 63,000 words in one weekend! What a great start to the term and a fantastic achievement Hamza.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you about the job they would like to do when they grow up.

Ask your Year 1 child to name the different parts of a dog.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you what amenities you can find in Cambourne.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you about the three types of rock.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain what a dilemma is.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain the features of a formal letter.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain what figurative language is and give you an example.

A Message From the Governing Body



Do you have a passion for education and a desire to improve the life chances of children? If you do, have you ever considered becoming a school governor? We are currently searching for committed individuals who would be interested in serving as school governors. You do not need to be an expert in education or to have previous experience in the education sector. As a governing body, we require a wide range of skills and expertise to enable us to constructively support the Headteacher and the school at a strategic level, in maintaining high standards and achieving its vision. The roles are voluntary but are very rewarding and offer the opportunity to have a positive and lasting impact on the lives of children in our community. If you are interested in our children's future, have energy and enthusiasm and would like to find out more about this important role, please contact the school office on 01954 273377 or by e-mail at office@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk and we will be happy to arrange for Mrs Howell or one of the governors to meet with you.

FORTHCOMING DATES Autumn Term 2022

w/c 26th September—Harvest Festival week

30th September—Harvest Festival Assembly

w/c 26th September—Year 6 Bikeability

30th September—Year 4 Bikeability

30th September—FOMP AGM at 3.30pm

3rd October—Reception Read Write Inc evening at 5.30pm

10th October—Individual school photographs

11th October 5pm -7.30pm—Parent consultation evening

14th October at 9:15am— Violet Class Assembly

17th October—Art Week

20th October 4pm —7pm—Parent consultation evening

24th—28th October—HALF TERM

31st October—Children return to school

2nd to 4th November—Children's Art Gallery

8th November—Flu vaccinations

w/c 14th November—Anti bullying week

15th November at 2pm—Year 2 Production

17th November at 2pm—Year 2 Production

18th November at 9:15am—Columba Class assembly

18th November—Children in Need Day

25th November—Flu vaccinations

13th December at 2pm—Year 4 Carol Concert

14th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

15th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

15th December at 6pm—Year 4 Carol Concert

16th December—FOMP Christmas event

21st December—LAST DAY OF TERM

22nd December—3rd January 2023—CHRISTMAS BREAK

4th January—INSET Day (school closed for children)

5th January—Children return to school



Money Fortnight

I am sure that many of you are aware that it is 'Money Fortnight' in school. The children are becoming budding entrepreneurs for the next two weeks and are learning about financial matters and how to make money grow! Each class has been given a starter budget of £10 to invest in their business and to see how much profit they can make. This week the children have been busily formulating their plans for their enterprises, which will be launched next week. The children are so excited about their money making ventures which remain Top Secret at the moment. We look forward to telling you all about their creative money making ventures next week.

FOMP—Cash for Clothes

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Cash for Clothes collection organised by FOMP. We managed to raise a fantastic £246.50, which is a great start to our fundraising for this year.

Please do join us for the FOMP AGM on 30th September at 3.30 pm. The money FOMP raises is vital to helping the school to run trips for the children and fund large projects such as the refurbishment of the library. Their contribution is going to be even more important this year as prices for coaches and school trips have increased hugely.

Parent Carer Drop Ins

This half term, we are able to offer parents and carers the opportunity to drop in to see the Head Teacher (Mrs Howell) about any aspect of school life. The dates and times are listed below for this half term.

Please note, however, that there is no appointment system and that parents will be seen on a first come, first served basis during a 1:1 meeting:

29th September 8.30 am to 9.30 am

5th October 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm



BOOK YOUR LUNCH

Please could we remind you to book your child's school lunches for this half term now.

Booking in advance avoids a lot of distress for the children as they may not be able to have the full choice of meals if you haven't pre-booked. The kitchen staff always try to accommodate everyone's preferences but ordering in advance will ensure this. The children often tell me how much they enjoy being able to choose what they will be having for lunch by looking at the menu with their parents and carers, so please do encourage your child to consider the choices with you. Don't forget that the website has so much nutritional information about the meals and you can update any information regarding dietary needs and allergies easily.

Meals can be booked by accessing, <https://www.live-kitchen.co.uk/> using your login details.

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

Room News

This week the children in Rabbit Group have been introduced to 'Group Time'. Each day, we split into 2 smaller groups and go into our cosy Group Room for a planned adult led activity. After talking 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.

This week, we played 'Pass the Teddy'. The children were really brave in saying their names out loud to the group as we passed the teddy bear around the circle. Well done everyone for being such super listeners.

