Monkfield Park Primary School

Newsletter 1

Friday 6th September 2019

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Welcome back

It has been a very positive start to a new academic year at Monkfield Park and it has been a pleasure to hear about all of the exciting holiday activities that the children and families have been involved in. We have talked in assembly about how each and every one of us can contribute to a happy school environment and ways in which we can achieve this. The children's contributions have been extremely reflective and have ranged from demonstrating good listening skills to offering the hand of friendship to those who may be playing alone at break times.

There are, of course, a few reminders that I would like to pass on. We welcome the children bringing in **one small pocket sized toy** to play with during lunch and break times. However, this should not be something that is precious. The school will not take responsibility for items that become lost or broken. It is also important that parents do not permit children to use any of the outdoor play equipment that is located in the grounds of the school such as the gym equipment, tractor slide or trim trail. For the safety of the children, only staff supervision enables such activities to take place. Additionally, we would appreciate adults and children dismounting from wheeled vehicles such as scooters and cycles when they enter the school grounds. There are also no ball games permitted before or after school, to ensure the safety of all who access the site at these busy times.

In terms of staff news, we have welcomed Mrs Giddings into Year 1 (covering maternity leave for Mrs Martin), Mrs Tranter in Year 3 (covering maternity leave for Miss Simpson) and Miss Bailey who has joined us as a permanent teacher in Year 3. Miss Simpson is due to take her maternity leave in mid October. We also welcome Mrs Beresford as our new pre-school teacher.

Next week we welcome our Reception intake as many new, eager faces appear in Yellow and Orange classes under the careful guidance of the Reception staff team. We look forward to making their first year at school enjoyable and memorable. We also welcome the children who have joined us from other settings into other year groups. We hope that you experience a good start with us.

We are all looking forward to another productive year and in working with the children and families in achieving the best outcomes for children, through our ethos of high expectations for all.

Mrs Jarman

Naming items

Please ensure that all of the equipment your child needs for school is named. It makes re-uniting lost/misplaced items with their owner much easier. Thank you.

Checking Medication Held in School

If your child has an asthma inhaler, epi pen, jext-pen or other medication in school please can we ask you to come into the school office to check that their medication is still in date and is stored in a clearly named box or bag. All out of date medication will need to be taken to a pharmacy for safe-disposal. Please note that we will not be able to administer out of date medication to your child.

Meet the Teacher Evening

We do hope you will join us on Monday 16th September at 5.30pm for our 'Meet The Teacher Evening'. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and to learn about the routines and expectations for their class. In their presentations, the teachers will give you important information about the curriculum, new homework arrangements, when PE lessons will take place, and forthcoming events. You will also be able to look around your child's new classroom. If you have children in more than one class it would be advisable for more than one family member to attend so that they are able to listen to all the presentations. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a crèche for this event so it will be necessary to make childcare arrangements for school children and siblings. The evening will finish at approximately 6.30 pm.

Monkfield Park Art Gallery

Our annual art gallery will take place once again this year for our families to come along and enjoy. The theme for this year will be 'Celebrations' in light of our 20 year anniversary this year. All children will be producing art work that will be displayed in the Main Hall between 3.45 pm and 4.15 pm on Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th and Friday 13th September where we will be selling your child's art work for £1 per piece, with a 20p admission charge. If you are unable to make the art gallery, but would still like to purchase your child's work, then please let us know and send a £1 coin into school in a named, sealed envelope marked 'art gallery'. All pieces of sold work will be available for collection on Friday 13th September at 4.15pm.

The art gallery event always proves popular so we hope that you are able to come and appreciate the children's artistic talents and interpretations.

Headteacher Roll of Honour

Over the course of the year, children may be especially noticed by the Headteacher for demonstrating learning or behaviour that she feels ought to be recognised and commended. Each week this space will provide a celebration of such children, alongside which, a special Headteacher postcard is sent home. Please look out next week as this may be your child.

Attendance Matters

At Monkfield Park, we know that good attendance at school leads to good academic progress. Please be reminded that persistent absenteeism is recognised at 10%, which means that a child with an attendance of less than 90% will be classed as a persistent absentee and will be monitored by the Education Welfare Officer. In these instances the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice. Schools will need to ensure that parents are informed of any attendance concerns at an early stage and therefore you should expect that you will receive an initial communication from school if your child's attendance falls under 96%. The initial letter will be to simply make you aware of your child's attendance level but if concerns persist, then the school may contact you again.

Parents who take a child out of school for term time leave for 6 consecutive sessions (3 days) or more over a 4 week period which are not authorised by the school under the exceptional circumstances rule may receive a Penalty Notice. Therefore Penalty Notices will be issued for single event absences of at least 3 consecutive school days or more where these absences are unauthorised because they are deemed to be neither exceptional or unavoidable.

Each term we analyse how each class is doing and how many children have been able to achieve that sometimes elusive 100% attendance. We know that if your child isn't in school for a very good reason, we cannot teach them all the curriculum asks them to learn and even small gaps in attendance can make a huge difference to children's understanding.

At the end of each term we celebrate those children who were able to make it in on time and every day to school. For the Summer term, the number of children who were able to achieve this stood at 153, with the total number of children who attended not just for that term but also the ENTIRE ACADEMIC YEAR was 35 children. All of those who had managed this received a special certificate from us.

As always, our expectations for children and families are high and we look forward to a well attended year in 2019—20 so that we are supported in doing the very best for your child/ren. Please, please adhere to the school holiday dates when visiting relatives, planning family events, appointments or holidays and don't be tempted to book when children should be learning in school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Stepping Stones

Starting Tuesday 1st October 9.30am – 12 midday

Running for 9 weeks (except half-term)

For parents of children with additional needs aged 2 – 11 years

Call 01954 286 012 to book your place

At Cambourne Blue School, CB23 6DZ

Parking available, limited crèche – please enquire for further details.

Run by family workers from South Cambridgeshire District team

Weeks 1 – 6 and 9 will be group sessions at the Blue School. Weeks 7 & 8 are by phone

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/child-and-family-centres

Cambridgeshire County Council

Cambridgeshire Child and Family Centres

Parent Carer drop ins

Each half term we offer parents/carers the opportunity to drop in to see the Head Teacher 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:

12th September at 3.30pm 27th September at 11am

17th September at 8.30am 1st October at 8.30am

Making it quicker and easier to apply for free school meals

As part of our work to support families in poverty we have redesigned our online form for families wishing to check their free school meal (FSM) and Pupil Premium eligibility. Significant improvements made to the online application process enable parents/carers (in most cases) to get an **instant result** of the outcome of their application.

We respectfully ask all schools to promote this to existing families (who have not applied or qualified in the past) and to new families starting in September or indeed at any point during the school year - www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

It is not necessary for parents of children who currently receive FSM to reapply as this entitlement is protected until the end of March 2022. However, applications do need to be made for younger siblings who are starting school.

With recent changes to the benefit system due to the phased roll-out of Universal Credit, families may not necessarily realise that they qualify. Therefore, this is an optimum time for promotion.

The form is quick and simple to complete. Once an application has been submitted for a child, if the family do not qualify at that point, we will continue to check for future entitlement throughout that child's school life, informing parents if they become eligible. It is vital, therefore, that schools/families inform us of any changes to their name or address.

Families can access the online application at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

The Education Welfare Benefits Team are happy to answer any queries and can be contacted on 01223 703200 or ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Monkfield's Got Talent

As you may be aware, this week we invited the children to showcase their skills and talents as part of an audition process. The children will have the opportunity to do this on Tuesday (KS2) and Thursday (KS1) of next week. Myself and Mrs O'Rourke will have the tough decision of selecting a group of children to take through to the final. The finalists will then be invited to perform once again in a 'Monkfield's Got Talent' show. The children have a choice of categories to choose from when auditioning and can perform solo, as a pair or as part of a group.

Monkfield's Got Talent will take place after school on Wednesday 2nd October for KS1 (3:30pm-4:45pm) and on Thursday 3rd October for KS2 (3:45pm-5:15pm). The finalists will perform and then the audience will vote for their favourite. Votes will be counted during a short interval where refreshments will be served and a winner will then be announced. Tickets for the show will be issued on a first come, first served basis and will be priced at £3 per adult and £2 per child. Children will need to be accompanied by an adult if they wish to watch either the KS1 or KS2 talent show. Please visit the school office to purchase tickets.

Monkfield's Got Talent was an idea proposed by the school council team at the end of last term, after the 2017 show was such a success. The money raised will be used to purchase resources for the school so that children can continue to be creative and imaginative, such as a stage for the playground. We there greatly appreciate your support in attending this event. We look forward to two afternoons of singing, dancing, comedy and special skills and hope to see you there.

FORTHCOMING DATES

4th September—Key Stage 1 and 2 children return

9th September—Reception children stay until 12 noon

11th—13th September—School art gallery

12th & 13th September—Reception children stay for the morning + lunch

w/c 16th September—E-safety week

16th September—Reception children start full time

16th September 5.30pm—Meet the teacher evening

20th September—Autumn fete after school

w/c 23rd September—Monkfield Park 20 year celebrations (more details to follow)

24th September at 6pm—ReadWrite Inc. information evening for Reception & Year 1 parents

w/c 30th September—Harvest Festival week

30th September Year 2 visit Woolsthorpe Manor

1st October Year 2 visit Woolsthorpe Manor

w/c 30th September—Year 6 Bikeability

2nd October—KS1 Talent show

3rd October—KS2 Talent show

4th October at 9am—Lacerta Class assembly

10th October 5-7.30pm—Parent consultation evening

10th October—Individual school photographs

11th October at 9am—Green Class assembly

21st—25th October—HALF TERM

28th October—Children return to school

8th November at 9am—Indigo Class assembly

w/c 11th November—Anti bullying week

14th November—Year 3 visit the Saatchi Gallery

14th November at 4.30pm—Reception Maths evening

9th December—Flu vaccinations

10th December at 2pm—Year 3 & 4 Carol Concert

11th December at 10am—Year 3 & 4 Carol Concert

12th December at 2pm—Year 2 Nativity

12th December at 6pm—Year 3 & 4 Carol Concert

13th December at 10am—Year 1 Nativity

16th December—Christmas Crafternoon

17th December—Christmas lunch

18th December—LAST DAY OF TERM

19th December—2nd January 2020—CHRISTMAS BREAK

3rd January 2020—INSET day (SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN)

6th January 2020—Children return