

Newsletter 17

Friday 15th January 2026

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Time to Get Reading

Last week I mentioned that 2026 has been designated The Year of Reading by the Secretary of State for Education. The campaign aims to address the steep decline in reading amongst children, young people and adults. On my way to school I was listening to the radio and heard a very moving account from a lady who had missed much of her primary education and consequently was unable to read. She had spent her adult life developing strategies to hide the fact that she couldn't carry out many daily tasks such as reading a utility bill, writing a shopping list or reading labels on food packaging. The arrival of her grandchildren was the inspiration for the lady to learn to read so that she could bond with them by reading bedtime stories. I was struck by this story as most of us take reading for granted. Every year we are able to watch our Reception children begin their reading journey as they tackle their initial phonic sessions and then witness the incredible standard our children in Year 6 achieve in their Reading SATS papers. Throughout the school we watch the children's fluency and comprehension skills grow and see how they become confident readers. Books open up the whole world for children so I hope you will enjoy spending time helping them to enjoy reading for pleasure by sharing a book or a story with them this week.

With best wishes

mrs Howell



National Year of
Reading 2026

Threadworms

This week we have been alerted to a few cases of threadworm, also known as pinworm, in school.

Threadworms are small parasitic worms that affect the intestines. They are a very common problem, particularly in children and are generally harmless and easily treatable. Typically symptoms include itching around the bottom, particularly at night, irritability, and sometimes disturbed sleep. Of course it does not always mean that children have "caught" threadworms from someone else at school but as you can imagine when children are working closely together it does not take long for the problem to spread from the infected child to others.

Please can I ask you to be very watchful for any signs that your child may have a problem of this kind, to report any outbreak to school and to seek advice and treatment immediately. A pharmacist can recommend a simple course of medication to treat threadworm or for further information please visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/threadworms.

Please can you also remind your child of the importance of regular handwashing, especially after each visit to the toilet and before eating or handling food.

Balanceability

This term our Reception children have started their Balanceability sessions. Balanceability combines unique ergonomic balance bikes with a schedule of fun activities that build confidence, spatial-awareness and dynamic balance skills, enabling young children to cycle without ever needing stabilisers. Balance bikes promote symmetry, particularly with the upper body being encouraged to hold the handlebars steady whilst the lower part of the body is able to move freely and evenly. Balance, postural control and symmetry all help children develop the basic skills for any future physical activity. Everyone listened carefully and within a few minutes all the children were zipping around the Main Hall.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you about nocturnal animals.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you about the different materials that are used to make things.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you about the different methods of recycling and why it is important.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain what photosynthesis is.

Ask your Year 4 child to retell the story of 'How to be a Viking'.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain the steps in the column multiplication method.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain how climate change is impacting on our weather systems.



Second Hand School Uniform
SALE

25th January 2026

**At the Holiday Inn
Cambourne**

10am until 4pm



FORTHCOMING DATES Spring Term 2026

23rd January—Columba Class assembly

23rd January—Girls' football tournament at Swavesey Village College

26th January— Greater Cambridge Local Plan workshops for Years 5 and 6

28th January—Reception and Y6 height and weight checks

28th January—Reception Come and Share

28th January—Y6 English Challenge

4th February—Y4 WOW Day

5th February—Network CB23 Maths Challenge for Y3 and Y4

6th February—NSPCC Number Day

6th February—FOMP School Discos

9th to 13th February—Children's Mental Health Week

10th February—Reception vision screening

11th February—Y3 WOW Day

13th February—School breaks up for half term

16th to 20th February—Half Term

23rd February—Children return to school

26th February—Y5 WOW Day

2nd to 6th March—International week

6th March—Mid term reports to parents

6th March—Cygnus Class assembly

13th March—Violet Class assembly

16th March—Y2 WOW Day

17th March—Parent Consultation Evening

19th March—Year 5 and Year 6 Rugby tournament

19th to 24th March— Book Fair in Main Hall

20th March—Green Class assembly

26th March—Parent Consultation evening

27th March—School breaks up for Easter holiday

13th April—Children return to school for Summer term

13th to 17th April— STEM week

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

Rhyming Fun

One of our learning themes this half-term is rhyming words. This week, at Together Time, we have been reading the funny rhyming story 'Oi Frog' by Kes Gray. The children have had lots of fun saying the rhyming words for each animal in the story together. We have also been learning a funny new rhyming song and playing a rhyme matching game. There will be lots more rhyming stories for the children to enjoy over the coming few weeks.

Rhymes are a great way to develop early language and literacy skills, so it really helps your child if you sing and say rhymes with them regularly at home. You could also help them by reading rhyming stories together or just have fun making up silly rhyming strings, such as 'cat, mat, wat, lat'! All of these activities will help your child develop an awareness and understanding of rhyme.

Happy rhyming

Best wishes

Jane Turner

Early Years Teacher & Pre-School Manager