

# Newsletter 22

Friday 11th March 2021

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## A Wonderful Week

I think it is fair to say that everyone was feeling a little anxious on Monday morning, but seeing so many eager, smiling faces waiting at the school gates dispelled all our worries. What a joy it has been to hear the building and play-grounds reverberating with the sound of children's laughter again and to feel their energy and enthusiasm bringing learning to life.

However, we have been mindful that the lockdown has had a significant impact on the children's emotional wellbeing and so there has been an emphasis on helping the children to settle back into school this week, giving them opportunities to talk about their experiences and to re-build their sense of belonging to the school community. It is difficult for the children to resume learning if these things are not fully established so we will continue to focus on helping them to rebuild their relationships, enjoy being back in the routines of the classroom and to re-develop their learning behaviours.

Mrs Howell



## Turn on the Subtitles

Did you know that turning on the subtitles while children are watching television can double the chances of them becoming good at reading?

Research has shown that this brilliant, simple and FREE, small change to children's TV viewing can have an incredible impact on their reading skills. The campaign is being supported by a number of celebrities who like us believe that the gift of reading is one of the greatest skills we can give our children. If children struggle to read the world is a closed and often confusing place for them, but when they master this key skill their lives are transformed as there is no limit to what they can achieve.

Based on an academic study of 2,350 children, 34% became good readers with reading at school alone. However, when exposed to 30 minutes a week of subtitled TV, films and songs, that proportion more than doubled to 70% as the children were reading without even realising it.

You can listen to Stephen Fry explaining the benefits of turning on the subtitles in more detail or find out more information by going to: [www.turnonthesubtitles.org/parents](http://www.turnonthesubtitles.org/parents)



## School Uniform

We do want children to come to school in the correct uniform as it creates a sense of pride, togetherness and belonging. However, we recognise that children have grown and not all shops are open so please do remember that uniform can also be purchased online via <https://myclothing.com/ueslink/8223.school?t=1587554845171>. Alternatively, the Friends of Monkfield Park have a good stock of second hand uniform which is available to purchase. Please contact the school office for further information. Children should wear:

- A school sweatshirt/cardigan or a plain dark green sweatshirt/cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Plain grey (not black) trousers or skirt. Skirts must be knee length. Leggings should only be worn on PE days
- Sensible, black school shoes —not trainers.

To avoid the need to change in school, children are asked to come to school in their PE kits on their allocated PE day. They will need:

- A plain white T shirt
- Sensible and supportive training shoes
- Track suit or jogging bottoms and a sweat shirt if the weather is cold
- Blue shorts

## Polite Parking



Although we always advocate walking, cycling or scootering to school for health reasons and to protect the environment, we are very fortunate to have the convenience of the Priory Walk car park adjacent to our school for those days when the weather is less clement.

We would like to remind parents that although the car park on Priory Walk is a public car park the areas adjoining the Vet's surgery and Sunflower Nursery are allocated specifically for the use of clients accessing these establishments. There is clear signage and traffic cones indicating where areas are not for use by the general public.

This week we have been dismayed to hear that some parents from our school have been using the area allocated to the Sunflower Nursery and have prevented parents with disabled children from accessing the nursery. If you could support our school values of care for others, tolerance and respect when using the car park we would be most grateful.

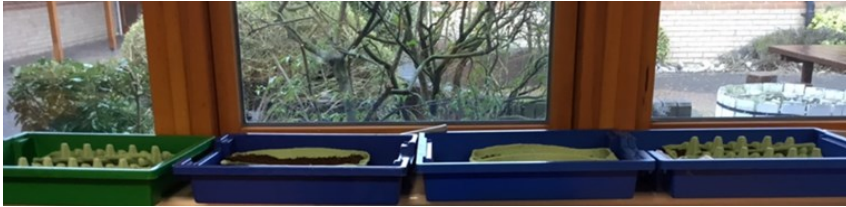




## Year 5 are Growing Mad!

If you were out for your daily exercise during the school day over the past few weeks you may have noticed a flurry of activity in the school's allotment area. Under the careful direction of Miss Kinder and her very enthusiastic 'green fingers', the children in Year 5 have been clearing the raised beds, turning the soil over and digging in compost.

Meanwhile in the Year 5 classes, every window sill and surface is covered by a vast array of egg boxes containing an impressive range of tiny seedlings.



Last year the children planted a range of vegetables but unfortunately we were plunged into the first lockdown and sadly, they did not get to see the rewards of their hard work and their plants growing. However, we don't give in easily and the children are determined that this year we will have a vegetable garden to be proud of with an array of wonderful produce to eat, as well as some beautiful flowers to add colour and attract the all important pollinators. A big thank you must go to Morrisons Supermarket who have very kindly donated the seeds and compost to help with our project.



## Red Nose Day Is Back

**Get ready everyone because Red Nose Day is back on Friday 19th March !**

Don't forget you can buy your 100% plastic-free, plant-based Red Nose in school this year. Red Noses cost £1.50 each and there is now very limited stock available in school. There are 10 woodland creature themed noses to collect, one of which is the rare gold nose!

On Red Nose Day itself, Friday 19th March, we will be having more fun by dressing up to raise money for the charity. This year the theme is 'superheroes', so dig out your cape and dress up as your favourite superhero. We will be asking children to make a small donation via the Friends of Monkfield Park Just Giving Page. Either go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/monkfieldpark> or scan QR code below to make your donation.



## Don't Forget—National Census 2021



The next census will be taking place on **Sunday 21 March 2021**. Every household must complete the census by law on this date, or as soon as possible afterwards, as failure to do so could result in a fine of up to £1,000.

It is important that you provide accurate information as your answers to the census questions will help organisations make decisions on planning and funding important public services in our area, including transport, education and healthcare, for the next ten years.

This year the census will be completed on line. For more information or to complete the census, please go to: [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

If you would prefer to complete a paper copy, of the census questionnaire, you may request one via the web site to be sent to you in the post.





# Headteacher Roll of Honour

The Headteacher's roll of honour is back! It has been so rewarding to see so much amazing learning going on across the school this week. The following children have really grabbed our attention.

Erin in Delphinus Class— Erin has returned to school with her signature determination to be the best that she can be. Her volcano poem has impressed us all with the maturity of the language she used to build some powerful images.

Harry S in Aquila Class—Harry has refused to let the lockdown dampen his enthusiasm for learning. He always tries so hard and has transferred the outstanding efforts he put into his home learning into his work in the classroom this week.

Ojas in Green Class—Ojas has really persevered and worked so hard on his reading. He has overwhelmed us with his amazing fluency, expression and comprehension skills. Well done Ojas.

Layla in Orange Class—Layla's growing confidence in manipulating numbers has been such a delight to see. It has been wonderful watch her demonstrating her ability to apply her excellent maths skills in class this week.

## Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you the number they would telephone in an emergency.

Ask your Year 1 child to explain how the artist Paul Klee used shapes and colours to show emotions.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you how to make the best chocolate lolly stick.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you all about their colour monster.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain what shapes and colours they used to draw their emotions.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you what they identified as their best qualities.

Ask your Year 6 child to tell you what they included in their tree of strength.

## Forthcoming Dates

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

16th March —Parent Consultation evening via zoom - meeting details have been sent out

22nd to 26th March— STEM week

25th March—Parent Consultation evening via zoom (details to follow next Friday)

26th March—LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM

12th April - Children return to school.



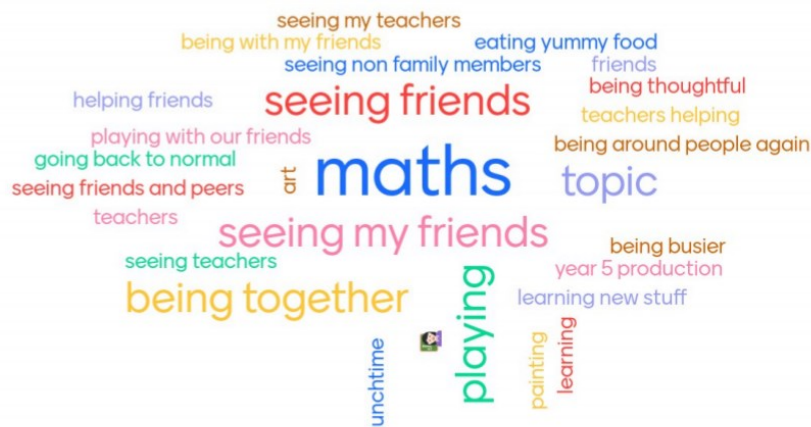
## How Are the Children Feeling?

We know how anxious you have been about the children returning to school so we just wanted to share with you some of the children's thoughts and feelings. This piece of work was carried out as part of our Friday Wellbeing Assembly.

## Describe the first week back at school



## What have you enjoyed most about being back at school?





# Rapid Covid-19 Home Testing Kits for households with children

**Help us keep coronavirus out of school**

**Take part in twice weekly rapid Covid-19 home testing**

Households with school-age children can now test themselves twice a week from home using rapid Covid-19 home testing kits.

With up to one in three individuals with coronavirus showing no symptoms, it means some can potentially spread Covid-19 without knowing it. Regular testing of people who are unable to stay at home and don't have symptoms means that people with Covid-19 can be detected early and can self-isolate.

As children and young people return to the classroom, we need to be sure that potential Covid-19 cases are found as quickly as possible and that measures are put in place to prevent them from spreading throughout the school community. Although cases are declining generally, we all need to continue to play our part to keep the virus under control and ensure children and young people can remain in education.

Rapid Covid-19 home testing kits will be available for asymptomatic:

- adults living in households with primary and secondary-age pupils, including their childcare and support bubbles;
- school staff and adults working in the wider school community, including bus drivers and after school club leaders, as well as members of their households.

Testing is for adults only. Secondary school and college pupils will also undertake regular testing which will be provided via their school or college. Primary school pupils are not being offered rapid testing at this time but parents and carers should access a PCR Covid-19 lab test for them via the national booking system if they develop symptoms.

To find out where you can **collect** home test kits, visit:

<https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

If you are unable to collect, you can order online to be **delivered to your home**:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or by calling 119.

You do not need to book an appointment or provide ID to collect your home testing kits. Each test kit contains seven lateral flow tests and instructions. You can get up to 28 tests at a time depending on the size of your household. The test usually involves taking a sample from your throat and from your nose, using a swab. You can get a result in 30 minutes.

Rapid tests don't identify all cases of Covid-19, so if your home rapid Covid-19 test is negative, it's vital you continue to follow government guidelines of social distancing, wearing face coverings and sanitising hands. If the test is positive, you should inform your child's school or college and self-isolate immediately with the rest of your household. You will be required to take a lab PCR Covid-19 test to confirm the result – you can book this at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test-or-call-119>. If you have coronavirus symptoms get a lab PCR Covid-19 test.



Help us **stop the spread** of coronavirus



**We must  
keep on protecting  
each other.**



**HANDS**



**FACE**



**SPACE**

