

Newsletter 37

Friday 11th July 2025

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Summer Reading Challenge

For me, the Summer holidays mean lots of time to read the huge pile of novels which has been steadily growing on my table since Christmas, as most of my reading in term time is related to education and school!

This week the government announced that 2026 will be the National Year of Reading, so we were delighted to welcome staff from the Cambridgeshire Libraries to tell us more about this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Anyone can join the challenge and a library (for free!). To participate, children need to pick up and read six, or more, books over the Summer holidays. This year's theme is the 'Story Garden' where children can discover enchanting worlds full of magical creatures, outdoor adventures and fascinating facts.

Although our library in Cambourne is currently closed for refurbishment, the [Comberton Library](#) and [Papworth Library](#) are both available and there will also be a mobile library at the Hub's car park on Saturdays 12th and 26th July from 10.00 am-4.00 pm and on Monday 28th July 9.30 am-12.30 pm. Follow the link here for more information on the [Summer Reading Challenge](#) and let's get reading!

With best wishes
Mrs Howell

Street Tag

If you haven't already done so, please can I urge you to download the Street Tag app and start gathering points for Monkfield Park.

The Street Tag app is free to download and you earn points by collecting virtual tags when you walk, run, cycle, roll or scoot past them. Street Tag encourages us to become more physically active which boosts our mental health. When you sign up to the Schools Leader board, the points you collect will be added to the total score for our school, and the schools with the most points win prizes of sports and play equipment for their school. Currently, we are 11th on the leader board so we really need everyone to start collecting tags. There are virtual tags all-around Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, including parks, adventure playgrounds and libraries. Once you are within a 40-metre radius of any virtual tag, your app will automatically collect the points, steps can also be synced and converted into Street Tag points. Please watch the short videos below which will give you more information about Street Tag

Street Tag video :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcH7hAuZEDQ>

How to join a school team:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/gKGtlls4cel>

How to add a child account:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/hrJeACF4kA8>



Key Stage 2 Sports Day

On Monday we were delighted to welcome families to celebrate the annual Key Stage 2 Sports Day with us. The weather conditions were perfect after the heat of the previous week and the event was a great success, with the children participating enthusiastically in various activities and races. It was wonderful to see such a strong sense of sportsmanship and teamwork displayed by the children as they cheered each other on and celebrated everyone's achievements. The day was hugely enjoyable with great participation and a healthy dose of competition.



Let the Games Begin

We always look forward to the Year 6 production each year as it is always such a joyous and momentous occasion. This year our talented children took us deep into the world of gaming where we saw our technology obsessed heroes transported to the land of Lady Fortune where they became pawns in her games. Forced to win their freedom by playing old favourites such as Monopoly and Cluedo our heroes had to use all their skills and the magical seven sided dice to defeat the cheating Lady Fortune. This action packed adventure brimming with lots of catchy, show-stopping songs, gave us all an evening to remember. Thank you Year 6, you were brilliant.



Year 4 WOW Day

Year 4 enjoyed an exciting World War II Wow day this week! The children began the day by taking part in some 1940's style lessons. However, the lessons were interrupted by the dreaded air raid siren and the children had to flee to the air raid shelter (outdoor classroom). All was not doom and gloom though, as they sang some Vera Lynn songs to keep their spirits up! After hearing the all clear, the children returned to the classroom and completed a carousel of war time activities: building a model Anderson Shelter, creating a WWII timeline, cracking a Morse Code challenge and making bread and butter pudding. In the afternoon they created WWII tanks and propaganda posters. The children have thoroughly enjoyed studying WWII this half term and this was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate their learning!





BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

September will be with us before we know it, so now is the time to book your pre-school place for the Autumn term. 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

Ice Lolly Sale

A huge thank you to everyone who supported School Council's ice lolly sales this week. The hot weather certainly helped as the children had lots of grateful customers over the three days of their sales.

The money has now been counted up and Mrs O'Rourke has asked me to let you know that we raised an amazing **£147.50**

A huge well done to all the School Councillors for their hard work and organisation. All the money raised will be going to HOPE Against Poverty, our local charity here in Cambourne which does so much incredible work to support those families who need help when they face challenging circumstances.

A big thank you to the Year 6 parents for contributing to the collections at the end of the Year 6 performances. All money raised will also go to support the work of HOPE Against Poverty.



Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you about the sun and ice experiment they did this week.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you what changes take place in Summer.

Ask your Year 2 child to explain why their family is important to them.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain what baking powder does when mixed into a cake mixture.

Ask your Year 4 child to tell you how to make a bread and butter pudding.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you three things they discovered about Year 6 that they are excited about.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain the phrase, 'different families, same love'.

FORTHCOMING DATES SPRING TERM 2025

14th to 18th July—Year 6 PGL residential trip

15th July—Year 2 Beach WOW Day

16th July—Reception Summer celebration

22nd July—Year 6 Leavers' assembly at 10am

23rd July— Last day of term

24th July to 2nd September—Summer holiday

1st September—Staff INSET day

2nd September—Staff INSET day

3rd September—Children return to school for the Autumn Term

8th September—New Reception children start school until 12.00 noon

8th September—Meet the teacher evening

11th September—New Reception children in school until 1.00pm

15th September—New Reception children in full time until 3.30pm

22nd September—OPAL presentation for parents

25th September—Flu vaccinations

26th September—Friends of Monkfield Park (FOMP) AGM at 3.30pm

10th October—Phoenix Class Assembly

14th October—Parent consultation evening

23rd October—Parent consultation evening

20th October—Online Safety week

24th October—Break up for Half Term

Make sure your child has all their childhood vaccinations

The local NHS is urging parents and carers of children under five to ensure their children are fully vaccinated, especially those children who are starting primary school this September. Before starting primary school, it's recommended that children have their measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) and four-in-one pre-school booster vaccine, which protects against diphtheria, polio, tetanus, and whooping cough. Many of these diseases have self-isolating periods of at least a week, which means not only will the child miss school, but parents/carers will have to stay off work too until the self-isolation period ends.



Parents and carers are urged to contact their GP practice directly to book vaccinations, or they can contact Herts Community Trust who can help arrange any missed vaccinations for them by calling 0300 555 5055 option 4. There are walk-in vaccinations clinics taking place across the county, and you can find details on these online at www.cpics.org.uk/the-vaccinators

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

We Are All Different

One of the wonderful things about Monkfield Park Care and Learning Centre, is that we are such a diverse setting, with children and families from many different ethnic backgrounds. This week we have been celebrating our differences. At Group Time, we looked at a book called 'We Are All Different' and talked about each of our various hair, eye and skin colourings. We then looked in a mirror and tried to describe ourselves to our friends. We have learnt lots of new vocabulary such as, 'blonde', 'eyebrow', 'eyelash', 'pupil' and 'nostril'. We have also learnt a new song on this theme called, 'Every Colour Under The Sun'. Next, we will be having a go at drawing self-portraits, thinking about the colours and features we have talked about together this week.



End of Term Events

On Monday 21st July we will be holding an after school Picnic and Play at the park across the road, opposite C&LC, from 3.30-4.30 pm. All children and their families are invited to come along and join together to socialise, play and celebrate the end of the school year. Bring a blanket and a picnic!

On Wednesday 23rd July at 2.15 pm, we will be holding a Leavers' Celebration event for all Rabbit Group children and their parents and carers. If your child does not usually attend preschool on Wednesday afternoons, please do bring them along for the event, as we would love all of our leavers to be there to be presented with their Learning Books.

Jane Turner, Early Years Teacher and Pre-School Manager