

Newsletter 27

Friday 21st April 2023

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Welcome Back

I do hope you have been able to enjoy some wonderful family time together over the Easter break. I really appreciated spending time with my family and being able to make the most of the sunshine and the lighter evenings. It really does help wellbeing to be able to spend time in the fresh air marvelling at the changes that take place in nature every day at this time of year.

As always we have a very busy Summer term ahead of us with many events already planned. Please continue to check the diary dates for information about events which will be taking place across the term as we will be adding further events when they are confirmed and, at times, it may be necessary to make changes to planned events due to circumstances beyond our control.

Finally, I would like to send good wishes to all our families who will be marking the end of Ramadan by celebrating Eid al-Fitr this weekend.

'Eid Mubarak!' to you all.

Mrs Howell

UK Emergency Alerts Service

On Sunday 23rd April at 3pm the government will be carrying out a national test of the UK Emergency Alerts System. At this time your mobile phone and/or tablet will make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent or vibrate. The sound and vibration will last for about 10 seconds and you will receive the following message:

This is a test of Emergency Alerts, a new UK government service that will warn you if there's a life-threatening emergency nearby.

In an actual emergency, follow the instructions in the alert to keep yourself and others safe.

Visit gov.uk/alerts for more information.

This is a test. You do not need to take any action.

Disabling Alerts

We have been informed that it is possible to disable the alerts on your phone or mobile device if you need to. To do this:

- Open settings and then select notifications.
- Scroll down to the bottom until you find emergency alerts.
- Turn off both extreme alerts and severe alerts.

NEU Strike Action

Unfortunately, the National Education Union has been unable to reach an agreement with the government regarding a fully-funded, above inflation pay rise for teaching staff. Consequently, members of the NEU will be taking further strike action on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. In addition the NEU executive will make a further announcements in May if they will be holding three days of strike action in June and July.

Legally, members of the NEU do not have to inform their Headteacher if they are taking strike action, so it is difficult to determine the extent of the disruption the strikes will cause. We will endeavour to give parents and carers as much notice as possible if some classes do have to close and apologise in advance for the disruption this will inevitably cause.

All decisions regarding the closure of classes will be made on Health and Safety grounds as the safety and wellbeing of all our children remains our priority.

School Uniform

We have always felt hugely proud that our children look smart and well turned out in the correct school uniform. However, recently I have noticed that some of the rules around school uniform are being 'stretched' - to include a range of sports and fashion sweatshirts, leggings and training shoes. I am very aware of the financial pressures many families are experiencing at the moment, but we have always endeavoured to ensure that items of our school uniform are available at very reasonable prices from local supermarkets and online retailers and it is no longer necessary to purchase items with the school logo embroidered on them. The Friends of Monkfield Park (FOMP) have an excellent selection of second hand uniform which can be purchased for a very reasonable sum from the School Office.

Please can we remind you that our school uniform consists of:

- A bottle green school sweatshirt or school cardigan - plain or with the school logo
- A white polo shirt
- Plain grey trousers or skirt (jogging bottoms for Reception children only) - not black trousers/skirts.
- For Summer a green and white check dress or grey shorts may also be worn.
- Skirt and dress lengths should be at least knee length.
- Black school shoes—not trainers, that are suitable for safe, active play.
- PE kit should consist of plain blue shorts, a plain white T shirt, plain jogging bottoms and a plain sweatshirt. Logos, slogans and decorations e.g. sequins and embroidery are not suitable for PE activities. Trainers should only be worn on the timetabled PE day.



I will be asking class teachers to check that correct uniform is being worn and will contact parents and carers if the problem persists. Please can I urge you to contact me, Mrs Major or Mrs Ray, in confidence, if you are experiencing any problems purchasing school uniform .

Headteacher Drop Ins

Mrs Howell, the Headteacher, will be offering parent drop ins for anyone who wishes to discuss any aspect of school life throughout the Summer term. The dates can be found below, but please remember that these are offered on a first come, first served basis and you may therefore have to wait to be seen if there are a number of people waiting to meet with Mrs Howell.

Friday 5th May 2.30—3.30pm

Wednesday 5th July 4.30—5.30pm

Wednesday 17th May 8.30—9.30am

Monday 17th July 2.00—3.00pm

Thursday 8th June 4.00—5.00pm

Tuesday 20th June 9.30—10.30am



Real Life Reporting

Over the Spring term our Year 5 children have been working with staff from Cambridge United's Community Trust on a journalism project. Tim from Cambridge United has been teaching the children about how to write the perfect match report. The children were amazed to learn about real time reporting and how Tim has to have his match report completed and uploaded within 1 minute of a match finishing! The children have also had the opportunity to speak to Keith, the photographer from the Cambridge Independent about how he takes the action shots to accompany the reports.

Over the Easter break, many of the children took up the offer from Cambridge United to attend the match against Fleetwood Town.

The children made notes throughout the match as Tim had taught them to and will now be writing up the report with Tim back in school this week.

All the children were delighted to have the opportunity to attend the match and were very excited to report that the final score (2:1) was a win for Cambridge.

One of our reporters, Anna told me, "It was very tense to watch, but it was so exciting to be able to see a real match which will really help our report writing because we can really visualise it."



FORTHCOMING DATES SUMMER TERM 2023

24th to 28th April	STEM Week
27th April	NEU strike action—further information to follow
28th April	Lacerta Class Assembly
1st May	May Bank Holiday
2nd May	NEU strike action—further information to follow
2nd to 3rd May	Year 4 residential trip to Burwell House
5th May	Celebrations in school to mark the King's coronation
8th May	Bank Holiday to celebrate the King's coronation
9th to 12th May	Key Stage 2 SATS week
17th May	Year 5 performance at 2pm
18th May	Year 5 performance at 6pm
19th May	Blue Class Assembly
22nd to 26th May	PGL week for Year 6
24th May	Reception Summer Singing Performance at 9.30 am
25th May	Reception Summer Singing Performance at 2.00 pm
26th May	Break up for Half Term
5th June	INSET Day
15th June	Whole School Tudor WOW Day
16th June	Class photographs
20th June	Year 3 performance at 2.00 pm
21st June	Reception and KS1 Sports Day (Reserve Sports day on 23rd June)
22nd June	Year 3 performance at 2.00 pm
23rd June	Phoenix Class Assembly
28th June	Key Stage 2 Sports Day (Reserve Sports Day on 4th July)
30th June	Cygnus Class assembly
6th July	New Reception parent evening
7th July	Reports sent out to parents and carers
11th July	Year 6 performance at 6.00 pm
13th July	Year 6 performance at 6.00 pm
18th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly at 10.00 am
19th July	Last day of the Summer term and school year

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:

Emilia in Green Class: Emilia is such a polite kind person. She always puts the needs of others before herself and is kind and supportive to everyone at school and at Breakfast Club. Thank you Emilia for being a great example to us all.

Allegra in Orange Class: Allegra came to interview me this week about what headteachers do all day! I was so impressed by her precise questions and how professional she was. Well done Allegra, I think you have a great career as a journalist ahead of you.

Viktor in Columba Class: Viktor was so welcoming to a new family who had come to look at our school. You were so clear in explaining how we all help each other at Monkfield Park and really demonstrated the Monkfield Way in action. Thank you.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to sing the song '10 in the bed' and to count back on their fingers.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you what they found in the courtyard!

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you which farms different foods might come from.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you where the name 'tarmac' or 'tarmacadam' came from.

Ask your Year 4 child to tell you some facts they have already learnt about India.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain how to add decimal numbers.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain how to make the perfect camp fire.

Remember to Book Your School Lunch

Please can we politely remind you to book your child's school lunches, if you haven't already done so.

The full menu for the Summer term is available on School Grid with a wide range of delicious options for everyone. Booking in advance helps to avoid children becoming upset when they may not be able to have the full choice of meals if you haven't pre-booked. The kitchen staff will always try to accommodate everyone but ordering in advance helps to prevent food wastage as the staff know how much of each dish to prepare each day.

If you have any problems accessing your account please speak to the office staff who will be able to help you.





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

Welcome back everyone, and a particularly warm welcome to the 4 new children and families who have joined us in Hedgehog Room this week. The new children enjoyed their starter sessions so much, that they didn't want to go home! We hope that they continue to have lots of fun playing and learning at our pre-school.



We have had a wonderful first week back, seeing some great creativity, imaginative play and of course, enjoying the lovely sunny weather. The children in the Rabbit Room have particularly enjoyed building dens in the garden this week. Next week, we will be beginning our 'Minibeasts' topic and are expecting a very special delivery in the form of 5 tiny, baby caterpillars! The children will then be able to watch them grow and change into butterflies over this next half term. Of course, our special story next week will be the classic children's favourite, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.

As Ramadan draws to an end, some of our families will be celebrating Eid al-Fitr this weekend. We would like to wish you all 'Eid Mubarak!' and hope you have a wonderful time!