

Newsletter 1

Friday 9th September 2016

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Welcome back

It was wonderful to see so many eager faces and smart uniforms waiting to be greeted on Monday morning this week. The children have all settled back into school life very well, following what seems to have been a very busy but enjoyable Summer break for our families.

We began our term by holding our very first 'Art Week' during which the children were able to study various artists, interrogate their work and re-create their own interpretations of it. We hope that you'll be able to come along to see this and to purchase the children's work at our special Art Gallery which will be open next week.

Of course we welcomed (and in some cases welcomed back) several teaching staff. They were Mrs N Johnson, who has returned from her maternity leave and who now has a job share with another Mrs J Johnson, Miss Tauwhare, Ms Deegan, Mr Frame, Miss Simpson and Mrs Wellings. They have all settled in well and have enjoyed getting to know our children, routines and staff. Some of you will have noticed that Miss Jack has left us over the Summer holiday period and we will be recruiting for this post. In the meantime, Mrs Parker will be helping Mrs Taylor out for part of the week. Miss Bundy also got married over the Summer and has become Mrs Molloy.

This week, we welcomed our new Reception cohort, who have begun their very first school year with us. Mrs Sheldon and Miss Ward have been having great fun getting to know our new recruits and their families. We are sure that they'll be very happy with us and it was lovely to see them engrossed in the many exciting learning opportunities that are always on offer in our Reception classrooms.

Below you are able to see some of the children completing or preparing to complete their finished artwork pieces.



Attendance news and information

As from September 2015, the Department of Education lowered the amount of absence in which a student is classified as being a persistent absentee from 15% to 10%. This means that any child with an attendance of less than 90% will be classed as persistent absence and will be monitored by the Education Welfare Officer. 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 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. At Monkfield Park we pride ourselves on good attendance. Inevitable illness can prevent children from attending school, which is why the threshold is not set at a lower percentage.

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, that 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. Last term, all of the children did very well in maintaining fantastic attendance which was rewarded in assembly on Monday. 128 pupils managed to be present for 100% of the time during the Summer term, whilst 34 children were able to sustain that for the entirety of the last academic year! The best class attendance for last term was achieved by Aquila Class (now Lacerta) with 97.9%, followed by the old Delphinus Class (now Year 7) with 97.5% and in third place the old Cygnus Class (now Phoenix) with 97.4%. What a sweep for current Year 5 children—great work!

As always, our expectations for children and families are high and we look forward to a well attended year in 2016-17. 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.

Jewellery and cultural adornments during PE

Following the latest Local Authority advice from the Cambridgeshire County Council PE department, we would like to draw your attention to new information about the removal of jewellery and cultural adornments during PE which now exists in our school prospectus and forms part of our expectations. Such items must be removed during lessons involving physical exercise. If such items cannot be removed, the individual is not prepared in an acceptably safe way and cannot continue as is, so must take part in modified activity. The school will not accept responsibility for removing or storing studs.

Updating details

Please be reminded if you have changed contact details over the Summer holiday period, such as change of address, phone number or e-mail that you will need to advise the school office accordingly so that we are able to update your child's records.

School Meals

The cost of a meal is £2.25. Please find below the school lunch charges for the Autumn Term:

Weekly	£11.25
Autumn 1 st half term	£78.75
Autumn 2 nd half term	£83.25

Head Teacher Parent Carer drop ins

Throughout the year there are opportunities 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:

16th September 9-10am

19th September 2-3pm

27th September 9-10am

4th October 3-4pm

Meet the Teacher Evening

On Tuesday 13th September at 5.00pm, all parents are warmly invited to join us for the annual 'Meet the Teacher' event. This year we are starting the event slightly earlier so that we can gather in the main hall first and discuss with you our e-safety curriculum and guidelines, which will last for roughly 40 minutes. After that, there is a chance to see a presentation from your child's teacher about the routines and expectations of their class. This will include such things as when PE happens, what your child will need in their new class and how homework is set. You will also be able to look around your child's classroom. If you have children in more than one class then it is advisable for more than one family member to attend so that you are able to visit all of the presentations that you need to. It is also advisable to make childcare arrangements for school children and siblings as we are unable to provide a crèche on this occasion. We look forward to seeing you and the evening will finish at 6.45pm.

Outdoor school equipment/supervision

Please note that the outdoor equipment that is situated in the school grounds should not be used before or after school hours and must be supervised by a member of school staff. Please do not allow children to play on equipment such as the gymnasium at the front of the school, the tractor and the climbing wall or any other equipment that belongs to school. We would also request that children (including siblings) remain the responsibility of their parent/carers whilst waiting in the playground and that they are supervised adequately in order to avoid accidents and incidents. Please be reminded that scooters and cycles are not permitted to be ridden on the school playground.

Race for Life

Don't forget that next week all of the children in the school will be taking part in the 'Race for Life' 2k run. Please remember that PE kits need to be in school and that sponsorship money will be collected on Friday 23rd September in the Key Stage 1 and 2 playgrounds by two of our parents at the beginning and end of the day. All proceeds will go to Cancer Research UK.



Art Gallery

Following our communication in the Summer term, please be reminded that you are able to visit and purchase children's art work from the very first Monkfield Art Gallery on the following days:

3.45pm—4.15pm on Tuesday 13th September

8.55am—9.25am on Wednesday 14th September

3.45pm—4.15pm on Thursday 15th September

Reading books and library books

Please note that reading books and library books and RWI books will be sent home with children from next week.

Homework help drop in



Please don't forget that every Friday between 9.30am—10.30am, Mrs Howell holds her 'homework help drop in'. This is aimed at parents who may be struggling to motivate their child with learning at home or may need assistance with the best methods in helping children to learn tricky concepts. Don't hesitate to come along and have a chat if this sounds like something that may be of support to you. Parents who were able to attend last year spoke very positively of the help that Mrs Howell was able to provide.

Forthcoming dates

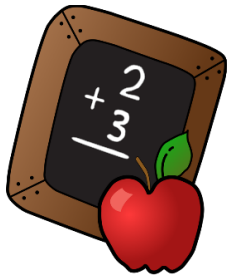
12th September - Reception children stay all day
w/c 12th September—Art gallery open (see previous information)
w/c 12th September— 'Race for Life' 2k run
13th September 5pm— E-safety evening and meet the teacher evening for parents to attend
19th September 6pm—Read Write curriculum evening for Reception parents
w/c 3rd October—Harvest Festival Week
5th October 6pm—Maths evening for Reception parents
12th October from 5pm—Parent consultation evening (more details to follow)
13th October 1.30pm—Reception 'come and share' event
14th October 9am—Blue Class assembly
17th October—Individual children's photographs
18th October—Flu vaccinations for Years 1, 2 and 3 children (more details to follow)
20th October from 4pm—Parent consultations (more details to follow)
w/c 24th October—half term (children return on 31st October)
11th November 9am—Phoenix Class assembly
18th November at 9am—Indigo Class assembly
13th December 10am—Year 3/4 carol concert
14th December 9.30am—Reception 'come and share' event
14th December 2pm—Year 3/4 carol concert
15th December 2pm—Year 1 nativity
15th December 6pm—Year 3/4 carol concert
16th December 10am—Year 1 nativity
19th December—Christmas lunch
20th December—Christmas parties
20th December—Last day of term
21st December—Christmas holidays begin
4th January—INSET day (school closed to children)
5th January—All children return

Friends of Monkfield Park



THANK YOU

Thank you so much for all your help and support for our Summer fundraiser, we made an amazing £3568.54 profit which will shortly have added to it a £1000 matched fund award. **That's a staggering £4,500!!!** Well done to everyone.



WELCOME BACK

A hearty welcome back to you all! Lovely to see our new Reception families and other families new to our school community. Please do contact us if we can help you settle in any way.



PHOTOGRAPHY FUNDRAISER

Lucy Thompson Photography is conducting a limited edition photoshoot to celebrate the beginning of the 2016/17 school year. Sessions are £100 and includes a 20 minute photoshoot, 5 digital images and one 8"x10" print. **All proceeds will be donated to the Friends of Monkfield Park.**

To book your session or for further information please contact lucy@lucythompsonphoto.com



CONTACT US

Via email friendsofmonkfieldpark@gmail.com ,via our Facebook page or via the school office.

Extra curricular clubs

This term we will once again be running a wide variety of clubs which will take place either before school, during the school day or after school. These range from Art Club to multiskills, Mad Science, cookery, football, boxercise and many more. To find out about when our clubs run, please take a look at our dedicated website page at <http://www.monkfieldpark.eschools.co.uk>. Here you will find details of the clubs on offer. Over the next couple of weeks, our clubs providers will be writing to you so that you can sign up for the club/s which your child/ren may be interested in.

