

Newsletter 21

Friday 13th February 2026

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Wishing You All a 'Boring' Half Term

Despite everything we hear in the media about health and wellbeing we very rarely take the time to stop and rest. Our lives are so busy and with social media we are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I was discussing boredom with a friend at the weekend and he was lamenting the fact that there is so much pressure on us all each and every day that we never have the time to be bored anymore. We were reminiscing about our childhoods (like me he is of a certain age) when Sunday was a very boring day as all we had to do was rest! No shops were open, pubs and restaurants had limited opening hours, in fact it was illegal to sell fish and chips on a Sunday back then! I now have very happy memories of long Sunday afternoon walks with my father across the moors near our home in Yorkshire, just listening to the bird song, disturbing clouds of butterflies as we brushed through the heather and gorse, with only the odd deer or rabbit to disturb the peace. At the time it could be quite boring but little did I know that I would be an adult in a society that never slept, where I could go to a supermarket at 3.00 am, and that I would never be parted from my smart phone. Science has proved that our brains need periods of boredom to re-charge, to boost our creativity and improve our problem solving abilities. So as we approach half term, please take some time to rest and relax, lock your phone in the cupboard and enjoy being bored with the children for a couple of hours.

With best wishes,
Mrs Howell



A big thank you to the hardworking members of the Friends of Monkfield Park (affectionately known as FOMP) for arranging the amazing discos last week. Everyone had a fantastic time dancing the night away whilst raising money for FOMP. The three discos raised a massive **£1,056.**

FOMP would like to thank everyone for their support as the money raised will help to build the large sand-pit and mud kitchen for the children to play with during lunchtime OPAL sessions.

NSPCC Number Day

On Friday we went number crazy to raise money for the NSPCC. From playing Bingo to tackling some very tricky code breaking maths problems which were posted around the school, we all celebrated the wonder of numbers and maths. It was wonderful to see how excited the children were by number from their wonderful costumes. Thank you to everyone who helped the children with their costumes and contributed cakes for the bake sale. Mr Frame is delighted to announce that we raised a grand total of **£260** for the work of the NSPCC.

Back to Ancient Egypt with History off the Page

Year 3 travelled back to the 14th century BC, the 8th year of the Pharaoh Akhenaten's reign, courtesy of History off the Page on Wednesday. The children were tasked with helping to construct a new utopian city to honour the god Aten. The children completed important tasks to help the Pharaoh including embalming, tomb painting and amulet making, among others. The day culminated with a banquet in which the Pharaoh named the new high priest, the Mery-Ra. With lots of drama and celebrating the children had a truly wonderful, immersive experience.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to describe their favourite sea creature they painted.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you the story of 'Chinese New Year'.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you what level of Times Table Rocks Stars they are on and how it helps them.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you what perimeter is and how we calculate it.

Ask your Year 4 child to tell you what the word sacred means and what is sacred to them.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you how to make a bath bomb.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain what changes we can make to achieve net zero emissions.

FORTHCOMING DATES Spring Term 2026

16th to 20th February—Half Term

23rd February—Children return to school

26th February—Y5 WOW Day

2nd to 6th March—International week

5th March—World Book Day

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

20th March—Red Nose Day

25th March—FOMP Easter egg hunt

26th March—Parent Consultation evening

27th March—School breaks up for Easter holiday

30th March to 10th April— Easter Holiday

13th April—Children return to school for Summer term

13th to 17th April— STEM week

15th April— Year 3 School trip

21st—22nd April—Year 4 Residential to Burwell House

22nd April—Year 1 WOW Day

28th April—Year 2 Nature Reserve visit

1st May—Dorado Class assembly

4th May—May Day Holiday

6th May—KS1 Wellbeing Wednesday

11th to 14th May—Key Stage 2 SATS week

12th May—Reception Come and Share pm

15th May—FOMP Break the Rules Day

20th May—KS2 Wellbeing Wednesday

20th—22nd May—Year 6 PGL residential trip

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

Birdwatching

This week, following on from our story 'Owl Babies', the children have been learning more about birds. We looked at pictures of different types of bird and learnt some of their names. We talked about the different coloured feathers, beaks and eyes as well as listening to some different bird songs, which the children were captivated by. Later in the week, the children enjoyed using binoculars to go bird watching in the garden. We used a record sheet to tick and record the birds that we saw. Maybe you could do some bird watching with your child over half term, either at the park, in the garden or even through your window!

Half Term Holiday

Next week is half term and the Care and Learning Centre is closed. The staff team wish you all a restful break and look forward to seeing the children back on Monday 23rd February.

Best wishes,

Jane Turner

Early Years Teacher & Pre-School Manager

What did you see?

How many birds of the same kind did you count at the same time?



Name _____

<p>Female Male</p> <p>House Sparrow</p> <p>I saw</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>											<p>Female Male</p> <p>Blackbird</p> <p>I saw</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>										
<p>Blue Tit</p> <p>I saw</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>											<p>Robin</p> <p>I saw</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>										
<p>Starling</p> <p>I saw</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>											<p>Woodpigeon</p> <p>I saw</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>										
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For more information, scan the code or visit: rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch

Images: Mike Langman (rspb-images.com) 371 795771
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity, registered in England, no. 263816, Scotland no. SC037054

