

Newsletter 25

Friday 16th April 2021

In this issue:

An eggstraordinary start

Message from Mrs Jarman

Headteacher Roll of Honour

Events throughout the Summer term

Sentence starters

Forthcoming dates



An Eggstraordinary Start to the Term

Strange things have been happening as the children returned to school this week and it all seems to be about EGGS!

Year 1 were amazed to find that an enormous dinosaur egg had mysteriously appeared in their outdoor learning area!



The children were very concerned that there was no sign of the mother dinosaur who seemed to have misplaced her egg at Monkfield Park. Following much speculation about what type of dinosaur could be growing inside such an enormous egg, everyone agreed that they hoped it was a plant eating dinosaur that could safely be adopted. The kind and caring children in Year 1 rushed to write letters to Mrs Howell entreating her to let them keep the baby dinosaur when it hatches as they are eager to care for it and, through their studies, are feeling that they will have the

expertise to do this. Watch this space!

In Year 2 a whole clutch of eggs—20 in total—have arrived in some very swish looking incubators. These eggs are much smaller in size but just as exciting for the children. We are all waiting expectantly to see if the chicks will begin to hatch out in the next few days as Year 2 are desperately looking forward to following their development and helping to care for them as they change and grow. This is always such a wonderful project for the children and we are so fortunate that we are able to provide them with such memorable learning experiences. We look forward to sharing news of the chicks with you over the coming weeks.



Message from Mrs Jarman

Well, it is good to be back at Monkfield Park and to see all of our wonderful children, families and staff again. I certainly had not anticipated the year that has passed, however I guess that none of us could have predicted the events of the previous twelve months.

During my time supporting in another school, Mrs Howell has been keeping me well informed about how Monkfield Park has been continuing to thrive and I have certainly seen some incredible work on my walks around the school this week. The children have certainly been working hard and, despite the challenges, have been trying their utmost to continue excellent progress. It has been an absolute pleasure to catch up with the children and to hear about their news and experiences. Of course, this has been the first opportunity for me to have met our Reception children, who seem very settled and are making a great start to school life.

I am confident that during my time away, Mrs Howell has continued to lead the school in an excellent capacity and we will continue to be working together throughout this term to ensure that the children are provided with the best opportunities and experiences available, within the current restrictions. Having been on the playground in the mornings and afternoons, there has been a calm and orderly feel, with our families co-operating well with what has been put in place. I would therefore like to extend thanks to each and every one of you for your continuing efforts in helping to keep us all safe, this is very much appreciated.

As previously informed, Mrs Wallace will be working at the school in the capacity of SENDCo all day on a Monday and on a Thursday afternoon. I am sure that some of you will get to know her whilst she is at the school this half term.

I look forward to seeing more of you in the coming weeks and months and re-uniting further.

Headteacher Roll of Honour

The following children have really grabbed our attention this week.

Amelia from Phoenix Class—Amelia has returned to school with the most positive learning attitude and shown us her readiness for learning in all that she does.

Neil in Yellow Class—Neil loves writing and has shown us that he is able to recall and re-write the story of Goldilocks and the three bears, to include many different features of punctuation. Excellent!

Sophia in Cygnus Class—Sophia has been turning her mind to fractions this week and has been using her previous knowledge to build up new skills in this tricky area. She has been fully focussed upon the learning so that she can really push her own boundaries.



Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to use some different words to describe things that are either big or small e.g. gigantic or tiny.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you about the animals they found around the school on our hunt.

Ask your Year 2 child about the chicks in the classroom and to give three words to describe them.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you what menu they would provide Iron Man.

Ask your Year 4 child to name 3 subjects the artist Leonardo da Vinci liked to sketch.

Ask your Year 5 child to recall some of the key events from the history of space travel.

Ask your Year 6 child how to measure angles accurately using a protractor.

Events throughout the Summer term

As you will see from the section that is titled 'forthcoming dates', it has been necessary for us to adapt some of our usual Summer term activities and events in line with government guidelines and COVID restrictions. As the government road map is reviewed, it is hard to say at this point how each of these will look, but we will keep you informed as the term progresses, so do read all forthcoming correspondence carefully.

The Summer term is always a busy time and for this year we are keen to continue to offer a wide variety of enrichment and fun activities, but with COVID safety at the forefront of our minds. We are hopeful that if restrictions are lifted then it MAY be possible for us to offer more face to face opportunities for parents to visit the school but we have to accept that this might not be the case. In the event that it is not possible, we will continue to be offering parents the chance to join our events by Zoom or by sending a recording of things such as performances. Please bear with us, as we continue to share as much as possible with you, but in the safest way we can manage, so that the children are able to share their many achievements with you.

Since our Reception children have had so much disruption to their early educational start this year, we have decided that they will perform celebration songs to the parents rather than a full performance as in previous years. We have also decided that Year 2 will have their Spring term performance postponed until they reach Year 3 in the Autumn term so that they are able to make the most of having their teaching staff back in school, supporting them with their learning and the need to 'catch up'. This means that next academic year, it will be Year 4 who lead the Christmas carol concert, rather than Years 3 and 4.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.



Forthcoming Dates

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

w/c 26th April—International Week

3rd May—Bank holiday (school closed to children)

7th May—Phoenix Class assembly at 9.15am via Zoom (more details to follow)

14th May—Violet Class assembly at 9.15am via Zoom (more details to follow)

19th May—Reception celebration at 10am via Zoom (more details to follow)

21st May—Dorado Class assembly at 9.15am via Zoom (more details to follow)

21st May—Team pod afternoon

21st May—STEM Week

21st May—Class photos

28th May—Aquila Class assembly at 9.15am via Zoom (more details to follow)

w/c 31st May—Half term

6th June—INSET day (school closed to children)

7th June—INSET day (school closed to children)

8th June—Children return

11th June—Indigo Class assembly at 9.15am (via Zoom, if necessary)

18th June—Lacerta Class assembly at 9.15am (via Zoom, if necessary)

21st June—Reception & Key Stage 1 sports day practise (all children to wear PE kits)

22nd June—New Reception children come and play at 9.30am

23rd June—Reception & Key Stage 1 sports day (more details to follow)

24th June—Reserve Reception & Key Stage 1 sports day

24th June—New Reception parents' evening at 5.30pm (more details to follow)

28th June—Key Stage 2 sports day practise (all children to wear PE kits)

30th June—Key Stage 2 sports day (more details to follow)

1st July—Reserve Key Stage 2 sports day

1st July—New Reception children come and play at 9.30am

2nd July—Columba Class assembly at 9.15am(via Zoom, if necessary)

8th & 9th July—Year 6 new intake days at Cambourne Village College

14th July—Year 6 production at 2pm (via Zoom, if necessary)

15th July—Year 6 production at 6pm (via Zoom, if necessary)

15th July—New Reception children come and play at 9.30am

21st July—Year 6 Leavers' assembly at 10am (via Zoom, if necessary)

22nd July—Last day of Summer term

23rd July—Start of Summer holidays

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



Early Intervention Family Worker Newsletter

12th April 2021

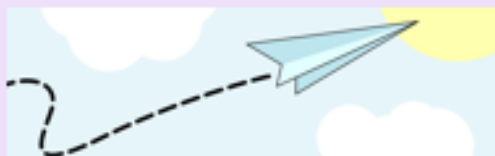
A Message From Me

Hi my name is Sam and I am your Early Intervention family worker. I can help support you with any general parenting issue you may be experiencing at home.

Please find my contact email address below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Activity Idea

Flight school! This activity is suitable for all ages. Get your children to design and create their own paper plane. Next, cut 3-4 large holes in a big piece of card and assign points to each hole. Prop up the piece of card and let your children have fun trying to fly their paper plane through the holes, counting up the points as they go. You can even go back to the drawing board and encourage them to improve their design using different folds or pieces of paper. This activity can help with counting, fine motor skills and critical thinking, but most importantly, it's fun!



Parenting Top Tip

It can be really difficult to hear your child talking negatively about themselves. Often a parent's natural instinct is to come back with 'don't be silly' or 'no you're not'. However as adults, we know that doesn't always help. Here are some things you can try if your child is talking negatively about themselves that will support them over time:

1. Empathise with them. Let them know that you appreciate they are having a hard time and that you understand it is difficult.
2. Share your own experiences. Talk with them about similar situations you have been in, either as an adult or a child. This may lead to them asking questions about how you dealt with it.
3. Role modelling. Show your child what positive self-talk looks like. You are their biggest role models.

Another Resource

Gingerbread is a charity run service offering support and advice to single parent families. The website offers lots of information and advice around things such as being off work, mental health, childcare and contact arrangements. Here is their website:

<https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/>

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? Pinpoint (www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk) have lots of information, advice and tips. For Cambridgeshire's Local Offer go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer



Cambridgeshire
County Council



samantha.stacey@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Contact me directly on

