

Newsletter 14

Friday 18th December 2020

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Gifts from FOMP

The Friends of Monkfield Park (FOMP) work so hard throughout the year to give the children many fun experiences and wonderful resources. Traditionally they have always provided Christmas crackers for the Christmas lunch. However, as we are very mindful of the impact on the environment, this year FOMP gave each child a beautifully packaged activity book and pencils with their lunch. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of FOMP for their hard work and ongoing generosity.

Season's Greetings from Everyone at Monkfield Park

As we prepare to begin a very well deserved Christmas break I would like to thank all our families for their unending support throughout what has proved to be a most interesting term. It has certainly been challenging at times but I am so immensely proud of the determination of everyone to keep the school open and delivering the best education for our children. I am so grateful to you all for your ongoing commitment and for continuing to place your trust in us. This is what makes our school a very special place to work and learn.

The children have been truly remarkable in adapting to the changes in school and they have inspired us all with their resilience and resolve. We would like to say a huge thank you to them all for the joy they bring to the classrooms each day.

A huge thank you must go to all the staff for their hard work and dedication to ensure our children have great teaching, a wonderful creative curriculum and lots of fun. They have all worked so very hard to keep the children safe and to support their mental health and wellbeing. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful, dedicated team who always go that extra mile to ensure our children have every opportunity to succeed and thrive. I am sure January will bring further disruptions but I am certain that we will face them with the same fortitude we have seen throughout this year.

In the meantime thank you from all the staff for your very kind gifts, cards and good wishes—you are extremely generous and they are much appreciated. So it just remains for me to I wish you all a safe, happy and peaceful holiday.

Mrs Howell



Christmas Lunch

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful catering team, courtesy of Dolce, who cook nutritious and delicious meals for us each day. This week they excelled by producing a superb Christmas lunch with succulent roast turkey, roast potatoes and all the trimmings, which was served to the children in their pods.



There was much anticipation as the evocative scents of roasting turkey wafted through the school and there was very little left on the children's trays, which was further proof that Mrs Tucker and her team had pulled it off again—another excellent lunch served in unusual circumstances. Many thanks to everyone in the kitchen for keeping us all fed each day.

The picture shows some of our Year 1 children tucking into their festive lunch.

Christmas Jumper Day

Many thanks to everyone who wore their Christmas jumpers and helped us to raise funds for our charity of the year—Blue Smile. Thanks to your generosity, we raised an amazing **£166.34** to support Blue Smile and the important counselling work they do in school.

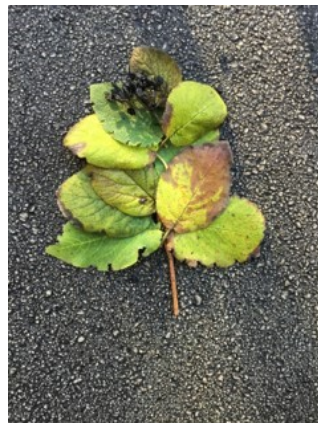


Winning House Morning

With the end of another half term comes the excitement of calculating the rocket fuel scores for each house team. Discovery team were the winners this time round and as a reward they enjoyed a creative challenge—how to create the best model Christmas tree using only natural resources. The children had enormous fun making their own mini Christmas trees and rounded off the session with a warming hot chocolate. Here are just a couple of the children's designs.



Lizzie and Sophie (Y6)



Amelia (Y1)

It's fair to say that Discovery team, Mrs O'Rourke and Mrs Horton were feeling rather festive by the end of this very enjoyable morning.



Photographic Competition Winners

When Mrs Sawford told me she would like to organise a photography competition I could not have anticipated the high standard of the entries we received. It is clear that we have some seriously talented young photographers who have an innate ability to capture a moment that reveals how rich and wonderful our natural world is.

The winning photographs are below. I do hope you will find these images as breath taking and emotive as we did and that they will urge you to discover the natural beauty of Cambourne for yourselves. We have been so inspired by the winning photographs, we now hope to create some wonderful descriptive writing and poetry to accompany our winning entries.

Many congratulations and very well done to all our winners.



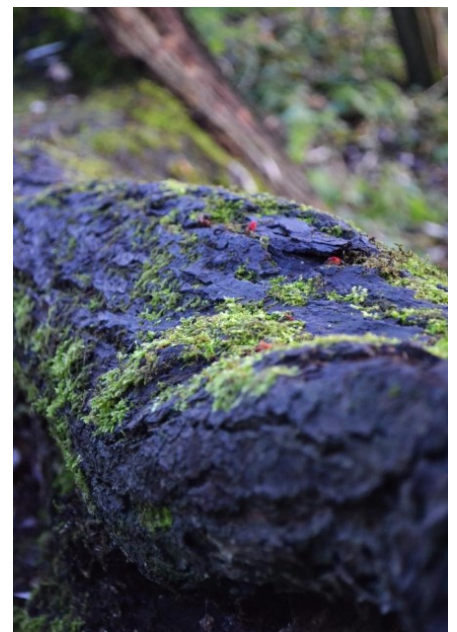
Jack (Y4) Lower Key Stage 2 winner



Neil Reception Winner



Ola (Y6) Upper Key Stage 2 winner



Elliot (Y2) Key Stage 1 winner

Headteacher Roll of Honour

Michaela in Aquila Class—since joining Monkfield Park, Michaela has stood out as someone who loves books and reading. We rarely see Michaela without a book and her love of reading shines through in all her written work. It is a pleasure to see Michaela so actively engaged in promoting a love of reading.

Amelia R in Lacerta Class—Amelia is such a calm and positive presence in her class and in school. Her manners are impeccable and she never fails to step up to help anyone in need. The world definitely needs more people like Amelia. Thank you for making school a better place.

Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to sing you the Christmas version of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you which ingredients they used to make their reindeer food.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you which adjectives and adverbs they used to describe the polar express .

Ask your Year 3 child to explain how the film James and the Giant Peach was similar or different to the book.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain how to play the Christmas maths game.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you what their favourite fact is about the Victorians.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain how to plot coordinates in all four quadrants.

FORTHCOMING DATES 2021

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

4th January—INSET Day (school closed for children)

1st to 5th March—Book week

5th January - Children return to school.

5th March—Green Class assembly

8th January—Year 4 swimming lessons begin

5th March—Mid year reports sent home

18th to 22nd January—Eco week

10th March—Year 5 production

19th January at 6pm —Year 6 SATS meeting for parents of children in year 6 only

11th March—Year 5 production

12th March—Dorado Class assembly

25th January—Speed Stacks day

16th March—Parents' Evening

29th January—Violet Class assembly

22nd to 26th March—STEM week

5th February—Columba Class assembly

25th March—Parents' Evening

9th February—Year 2 production

26th March—Last day of Spring term

10th February—Year 2 production

29th March to 9th April—Easter Holiday

15th to 19th February— Half Term

12th April - Children return to school



Help with Self-Isolating

The Local Authority has asked us to share the following information with you on the help and support that is available if you have been instructed to self-isolate. If you have any problems contacting your local support hub please let the school office know and we will contact them for you.



Positive help if you've tested positive (or are a close contact of someone who has)



Need to self-isolate? We can help you! If you've been told to self-isolate, you're not alone.

Help is available to everyone across Cambridgeshire who has been asked to do this to break the chain of infection – and stopping its spread to our most vulnerable people.

This includes financial help, emotional help or practical support to do day-to-day things.

What support can you receive?



The Government's Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme is run by each of the district and city councils across Cambridgeshire and entitles people who meet certain criteria to **a one-off payment of £500 if they lose income because they can't work**. This payment can be made available on multiple occasions if you are a close contact of people who test positive a second or even third time.



If you aren't eligible for the government support, don't worry – there's a local discretionary fund which can **give you financial support so you can pay your essential bills**.



There is also a network of support hubs run by the district and city councils which can **support you with food shopping, collecting medicine, dog walking, befriending services and in many other ways**.



Please get in touch if there are barriers preventing you from self-isolating, as we can help you to remove them.

There really is no reason not to self-isolate.

Details of all the support available can be found on your local council's website or at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk



You can also contact your local support hub via your local council or by calling 0345 045 5219.

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