

# Newsletter 11

Friday 26th November 2021

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## Your Voice

I firmly believe that strong relationships are built upon open two-way communication. As part of the commitment I made when I was appointed as your Headteacher, I feel it is very important that you now have the opportunity to share your views about the school with us and how you feel we can improve our provision. To this end, I will be seeking feedback from you, the children and staff through online questionnaires which will be going live today.

The questionnaire consists of a number of multiple choice questions in addition to a section where you can share other ideas or comments. The questionnaire can be accessed via the link below from Monday.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14aXQFDqYtGbmTKynKHbPZhidydx4Lr6UhnVwdE3yAdU/edit>

I firmly believe that we grow stronger when we all work together and are willing to listen, so please can I encourage everyone to share their views with us by completing the questionnaire. The questionnaire will remain live until Friday 10th December, following which, we will collate the responses and share them with you via the newsletter. Thank you in advance.

Mrs Howell



## Attendance—A Letter From the Secretary of State for Education

This week schools received a letter from the Secretary of State for Education, Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP, regarding school attendance. We have been asked to make maximising school attendance a top priority by communicating clear and consistent expectations to parents and carers around attendance.

The government classifies any child with an attendance of less than 90% as a persistent absentee and as a result they will be monitored by the Attendance Officer. In these instances we will work with you to reach a resolution and to increase your child's attendance. The Local Authority may also issue parents with a Penalty Notice if attendance does not improve.

Schools have a legal duty to ensure that parents are informed of any attendance concerns at an early stage and therefore the expectation is that we will send you an initial letter if your child's attendance falls below 96%. This 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. Where children have been requested to isolate following a positive PCR test, this will not trigger an initial letter.

We are not allowed to authorise absences from school during term time other than in exceptional circumstances. Parents who take a child out of school for term time for 6 consecutive sessions (3 days) or more over a 4 week period, which are not authorised by the school under the exceptional circumstances rule, may receive a Penalty Notice.

### **Application for Reception Places for September 2022**

Applications for Reception school places for September 2022 can now be made to the Cambridgeshire County Council Admissions Team. You can apply online at: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions) or the school office will provide you with a paper copy of the form. The closing date for the first round of applications is 15th January 2022.

We appreciate that selecting the right school for your child is not an easy decision to make. Please can I encourage prospective parents to join one of our 'parent tours' so that you can see the school at first hand and we can have the opportunity to tell you what makes Monkfield Park such a special place to learn. Following advice from the Local Authority we are avoiding large gatherings to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19. However, we are still offering very small tours for two parents at a time and request that visitors wear face masks when in the school building. Please contact the school office to book on to a tour.

### **FORTHCOMING DATES 2021 to 2022**

Until further notice, most of the large events will take place virtually via Zoom.

6th December—Y1 visit to Shuttleworth Collection

13th December—Y1 visit to Shuttleworth Collection

15th December —Year 1 Nativity Play via Zoom

16th December—Christmas lunch

16th December —Year 4 Carol Concert via Zoom

17th December—LAST DAY OF TERM

20th December—3rd January 2022—CHRISTMAS BREAK

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

5th January—Children return to school

### **Digital Leaders**

This week, following an interview process with Mrs Sheldon, Monkfield Park's first Digital Leaders were appointed. Digital Leaders are children with a passion for technology who want to share their knowledge with others and promote the use of all things digital throughout the school.



The children will be hosting a Code Club each week after school with Mrs Sheldon and will be holding drop-in sessions to offer support for children who have requested it. The Digital Leaders will also be available to support teachers by distributing laptops and ipads and solving problems with some of the apps used in school.

### Year 4 Go Green

As part of their learning this term, the children in Year 4 have been studying the impact humans have on their environment, and the planet. They have looked at ways in which we have both a positive and negative impact and in particular how the things we discard and throw away can have a very damaging effect on the environment.

The children decided to carry out a litter survey within our school grounds. They were very diligent and thorough in their approach to the survey and I have to admit, we were all absolutely horrified



at the amount of waste the children recovered from the school site, in particular the

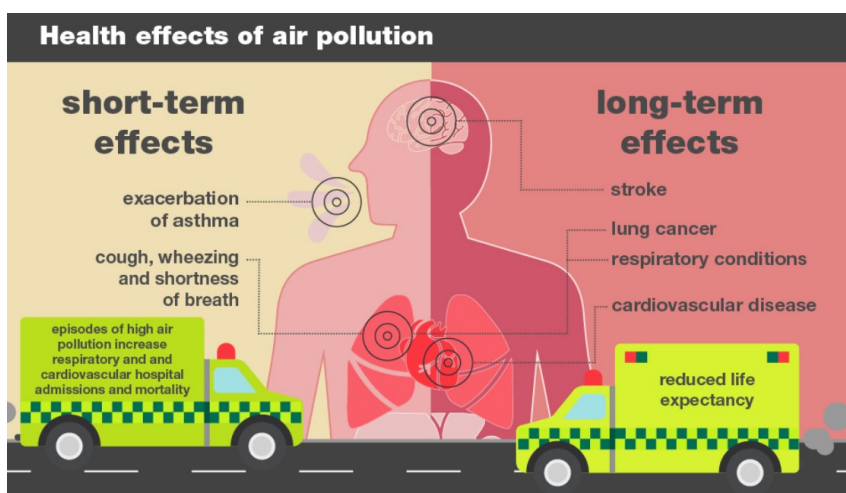


bushes around the perimeter. The strangest finds were a spatula and a very ancient school jumper! I am sure you will agree that the litter haul is pretty disgusting and we were so upset to find the bushes concealed a multitude of secret litter. We are very grateful to the children for making the school grounds cleaner and safer and bringing

the problem of litter to our attention.

### Air Quality Monitor

A few months ago, thanks to the efforts of Mr Frame, the District Council installed an air quality monitor on the school site as part of their drive to improve the quality of the air we breath in Cambourne. Research by Public Health England has found that exposure to both NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions can cause and exacerbate a number of serious health problems, particularly for children. Eco Club has been working hard to improve our school environment and so they were delighted to receive the first set of data which shows that Nitrous Dioxide levels are very low in Cambourne. If you would like to study the data from the monitor please go to the Earth Sense web site using the following link: <https://portal-preprod.earthsense.co.uk/SouthCambsCouncilPublic/#HealthEffects>.



We are very fortunate that we are able to enjoy relatively clean air in Cambourne as so many people chose to walk or cycle to school instead of using their cars for short journeys within Cambourne.



# Headteacher Roll of Honour

Each week this space will provide a celebration of 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:

Julia in Aquila Class: Julia has really impressed us this term with the effort she is putting into her writing. She always has such wonderful, imaginative ideas which, together with her expansive vocabulary, bring her writing to life.

Maisy in Cygnus Class: Maisy has been using her creative powers this week to produce some wonderful, descriptive writing based around the book, 'Journey'. I particularly loved your character descriptions Maisy.

Bethany in Columba Class: Bethany truly embodies the Monkfield Way. She is always compassionate and caring to others and tries her hardest at everything she does. Thank you for being such a gentle member of the Monkfield Park family Bethany and for showing us all how important kindness is.

## Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child how many ways they can make 5 e.g 4 and 1 or 2 and 3.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you what an adjective is and to use one in a sentence.

Ask your Year 2 child to describe the new place they created, that the girl might visit in the book 'Journey'.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain what a 2 pairs sentence is and how we use them.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain which litter they found can be harmful to animals, and why.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain some of the ways plants disperse their seeds.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain what a PC sentence is and how you would include them in a piece of writing.

### Children in Need Day



I am delighted to let you know that Monkfield Park has done it again! As a result of all your effort and generosity we smashed last year's total amount raising an

**£500.37**

amazing total of

for Children In Need!

This is such a brilliant result and will support many children who face enormous barriers in their lives.

Many thanks to everyone who made donations and entered into the spirit of the occasion by getting up extra early to ensure everyone had a suitably wacky hairdo or hat.



For general queries regarding the Care and Learning Centre, please contact the school office by e-mail on: [clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk](mailto: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

### **Rabbit Room News**

Over the last few weeks the children in Rabbit Room have begun taking part in a short Read Write Inc. phonics session each day. This helps to provide them with the foundation skills they need before they start with more formal phonics teaching in Reception Class. Most of the activities are aural and focus on listening skills and tuning in to the sounds in words. One of our aims this term is to learn the Read Write Inc. pictures which correspond to each letter. I wonder if your child can remember the names of the pictures in the photograph? (tower, boot, girl, insect, mountain, net)

At the moment, we are just focusing on learning the pictures, not the stand alone letters, although some children may naturally begin to remember the letter sounds as well. Talking about the letters themselves will come later on in the Summer Term and will then be repeated in Reception Class. Please do not worry if your child is not ready to learn and remember letters yet. As you know, children all develop at different rates and there is plenty of time for this learning to take place over the next year or so.

### **Hedgehog Room News**

Mrs Longford reports that the children in Hedgehog Room have been introduced to scarf disco this week.

### **Children In Need Day**

Last Friday the children helped to raise money for Children in Need. Lots of children and staff came to school with wacky hair and hats and we also made



our own Pudsey Bear headbands. We talked about how the money would be used to help other children such as those who are poorly or those who don't have toys to play with. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed and helped us to raise money.

