

Newsletter 18

Friday 23rd January 2026

In this issue:

Navigating a digital world

Public speaking

School Disco

Sentence starters

Uniform sale

Cambridge United

Forthcoming dates

Care and Learning Centre



Navigating the Digital World

I am sure you are all aware of the current debate raging across the world about the damage exposure to social media can do to children. Our government is also considering new legislation to ban smart phones in schools and to prevent children accessing social media. Whatever decision the government makes, it is important that we help our children to navigate the digital world that they live in. We recognise that this can be a huge challenge for parents and carers as you have to manage the challenges of rapidly changing technology while fostering healthy habits, but help is on hand. The Early Years alliance is running an online session on parenting in a digital world on Thursday 26th February between 6.30 and 7.30 pm. This session will cover how technology can be used in a purposeful way to support good early childhood development, as well as some of the risks of using digital technologies and how to mitigate these. Please use the link here to book your place

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-connect-parenting-in-a-digital-world-tickets-1977374985812?aff=ebdsshcopurl>

With best wishes,

Mrs Howell

The Art of Public Speaking

On Monday afternoon I was delighted to attend Peterhouse College in Cambridge to support our finalists as they competed in the annual Network CB23 Public Speaking competition. Our incredibly brave children relished the opportunity to take to the stage to present their speeches to a panel of judges from Peterhouse and an audience of parents and teachers and other competitors. I was so impressed as the children gave extremely accomplished and confident performances on their given topics, with no sign of nerves. Asiya (Year 3) and Emilia (Year 4) discussed 'Rules or freedom: which is more important?' while Viraj (Year 5) and Viktor (Year 6) tackled the subject of 'Taking risks or being cautious: which is more important?'. The competition was incredibly strong so I was delighted that the children were awarded overall second place. The children should be justifiably proud of this amazing achievement. A huge well done to all the children.

Are You Ready For the SCHOOL DISCO?

If you haven't bought your tickets for the school disco, there are only two weeks to go! It is time to dust off your dancing shoes and don your sequins for the first and most eagerly anticipated FOMP event of 2026. There will be three discos for each key stage at the following times:

Years 1 & 2—3.30 to 4.30 pm (children will attend straight from their classes. Please send your child to school with their disco clothes in a separate bag)

Years 3 & 4 - 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Years 5 & 6—6.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Please purchase your tickets and provide all of the relevant pick-up/allergy information required using the QR code below.

Please note that children must be collected by a parent or nominated adult. Children will not be allowed to walk home by themselves. All money raised from this event will go towards purchasing items to support the children in school and towards the coach costs for school trips across all years.

Any questions, please email friends of monkfield park@gmail.com



Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you what they might see on a safari in Africa.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you what happens in the story 'Dogger'.

Ask your Year 2 child to name some main features of a Mosque.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you about their version of the Egyptian Cinderella.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain which materials they think would make the best ear defenders.

Ask your Year 5 child to list all the countries that the Himalayan mountains span.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain what punishments were used during the Anglo Saxon period to deter criminals.



Second Hand School Uniform **SALE**

25th January 2026
At the Holiday Inn
Cambourne



10am until 4pm



Cambridge United Football Club is delighted to share a special schools ticket offer with you as part of its ongoing work in the local community.

With the season heading towards a thrilling finale — and Cambridge United right in the promotion fight — there's never been a better time for pupils and their families to go along to the Cledara Abbey and experience the buzz of match day.

Attached to this newsletter is a Schools Voucher PDF, which entitles pupils and their families to:

One adult and one U18 ticket for just £12.

Valid for any of the selected five upcoming home fixtures.

This initiative is all about opening the doors to football, making match days more accessible for families, and inspiring the next generation of supporters. To encourage this CUFC has introduced a number of family attractions to the Mead South Family Stand which will be sure to entertain everyone!

Cambridge United hope to see lots of our school community cheering the U's on at the Cledara Abbey as the season reaches its exciting conclusion.

FORTHCOMING DATES Spring Term 2026

25th January—FOMP second hand uniform sale at the Holiday Inn

26th January— Greater Cambridge Local Plan workshops for Years 5 and 6

28th January—Reception and Y6 height and weight checks

28th January—Reception Come and Share

28th January—Y6 English Challenge

4th February—Y4 WOW Day

5th February—Network CB23 Maths Challenge for Y3 and Y4

6th February—NSPCC Number Day

6th February—FOMP School Discos

9th to 13th February—Children's Mental Health Week

10th February—Reception vision screening

11th February—Y3 WOW Day

13th February—School breaks up for half term

16th to 20th February—Half Term

23rd February—Children return to school

26th February—Y5 WOW Day

2nd to 6th March—International week

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

25th March—FOMP Easter egg hunt

26th March—Parent Consultation evening

27th March—School breaks up for Easter holiday

13th April—Children return to school for Summer term

13th to 17th April— STEM week

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

22nd April—Year 1 WOW Day

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

Read, Write, Inc Phonics

This week, during Group Time, the children in the Rabbit Group have begun learning the pictures from the Read Write Inc phonics scheme. We have learnt the pictures: mountain, apple, snake, dinosaur and tower. We have also talked about the corresponding sound for each of the pictures, for example, a,a,a apple, ssssss snake. Look for a video on Evidence Me to help you practise this at home and to demonstrate how we pronounce each of the sounds correctly.

Hedgehog Together Time

Our new children in the Hedgehog Group, have started taking part in their own Together Time each morning with Miss Dunlop this week. They have done a great job at sitting on the carpet together and listening to the story 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?' They have also been singing the nursery rhyme, 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'. It would be great if you could practise singing this nursery rhyme at home too!

Best wishes,
Jane Turner
Early Years Teacher & Pre-School Manager