

# Newsletter 1

Friday 11th September 2020

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## Welcome back

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to Monkfield Park for the new academic year, after so much planning and preparation. The whole school has been filled with the joyful sound of children's voices for the first time in many months and there has been a real buzz of positivity and excitement in the air. However, staff have been mindful that some of the children may have felt anxious or a little worried about coming back to school and I would like to reassure you that the children's emotional wellbeing and mental health are at the forefront of everything we are doing in school at the moment. We are setting aside time for the children to talk and to support them so that they feel happy and safe in school and ready to learn. The children's contributions have been extremely reflective and have demonstrated how resilient they are.

I would like to extend a special welcome to all our new families who are joining the Monkfield Park community this week. I hope your journey with us is an exciting, fulfilling and memorable one.

It is so good to be back and we are all looking forward to working with you all to achieve the very best outcomes for the children in the coming months.

Mrs Howell

## Naming items

Please ensure that all items of your child's school uniform are clearly named. It makes re-uniting lost/misplaced items with their owner much easier. Thank you.

## Dropping Off and Collecting Children



Following the government's latest guidance restricting social gatherings, please can we ask all parents and carers to ensure that they are maintaining social distancing of 2m, or 1m if wearing a face covering, when dropping off and collecting children from the school gates.

It is imperative that adults do not congregate at the gates so please arrive promptly for your drop off and pick up time and leave as swiftly as possible. Arriving early leads to pods mixing and causes pinch points for others trying to use the public footpaths.

## BEFORE LEAVING HOME

Please check your child's temperature before they leave for school each day. If your child has a temperature above 38 degrees Celsius, a new, continuous cough or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell they must remain at home and not come to school. These are the most important symptoms of the coronavirus (Covid 19). You will need to get your child tested by calling 119 or via the Gov.uk website.



## Meet the Teacher Evening



We do hope you will join us on Monday 14th September for our 'Meet The Teacher Evening'. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's new teacher, albeit virtually this year, and to learn about the routines and expectations for their class. In their presentations, the teachers will give you important information about the curriculum, homework arrangements, new classroom routines and forthcoming events. You are invited to join a virtual meeting at 17:30-18:10 or 18:20-19:00. A link with instructions of how to join the meeting via Zoom will be sent on Friday 11th September.

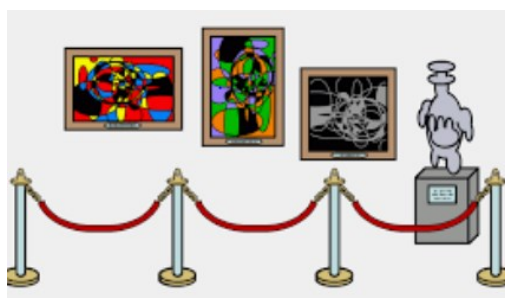
### Monkfield Park Art Gallery

It is so exciting to be back in school and to celebrate this we will be holding our annual Art Week. The theme for our Art Gallery this year is 'A new beginning, all together'. We hope focusing on Art this week will allow all children to settle in to school in a gentle way, and will support their sense of well-being.

The Art Gallery will be online for the first time and you will be able to access all of the children's Art work from our School Website. The work will be uploaded in groups and your child's Art work will be identified by first name only. The Art work from your child's class will also be shared with you on Seesaw.

There will be no purchase price for Art work this year. As we normally raise funds for the school from the Art Gallery, we would be very grateful if you would like to make a donation, and all money raised will be used to buy new reading books for the children to enjoy. Please contact the office via email if you would like to have your child's Art work and it will be sent home with them.

**The Gallery will be available on the school website for one week only, from Monday 21st September 2020.**



### Attendance Matters

With the return to school, attendance is mandatory from the start of the Autumn term unless there are circumstances where pupils cannot attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19) such as if they are required to self-isolate. At Monkfield Park, we know that good attendance at school leads to good academic progress. Please be reminded that a child with an attendance of less than 90% will be classed as a persistent absentee and will be monitored by the Education Welfare Officer. In these instances the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice. Schools must ensure that parents are informed of any attendance concerns at an early stage and therefore you should expect that you will receive an initial communication from school if your child's attendance falls below 96%. The initial 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.

Parents who take a child out of school for term time leave 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. Therefore Penalty Notices will be issued for single event absences of at least 3 consecutive school days or more where these absences are unauthorised because they are deemed to be neither exceptional or unavoidable.

Each term we analyse how each class is doing and how many children have been able to achieve that sometimes elusive 100% attendance. We know that if your child isn't in school for a very good reason, we cannot teach them all the curriculum asks them to learn and even small gaps in attendance can make a huge difference to children's understanding.

At the end of each term we celebrate those children who were able to make it in on time and every day to school. As always, our expectations for children and families are high and we look forward to a well attended year so that we are supported in doing the very best for your child/ren. Please, please adhere to the school holiday dates when visiting relatives, planning family events, appointments or holidays and don't be tempted to book when children should be learning in school. Thank you for your co-operation.



# Headteacher Roll of Honour

Over the course of the year, children may be especially noticed by the Headteacher for demonstrating learning or behaviour that we feel ought to be recognised and commended. Each week this space will provide a celebration of these children's achievements, and a special Headteacher postcard is sent home. Please look out next week as this may be your child.

## Covid –19 Myth Buster

We have been made aware of a rumour circulating on social media that suggests children in school who begin to display COVID symptoms will be taken to a government testing centre, and parents will be denied access to their child. The rumour suggests any parent arriving at the school may face being removed by the police.

THIS INFORMATION IS ENTIRELY UNTRUE.

If a child in a Cambridgeshire or Peterborough school begins to display COVID symptoms, parents will be contacted and they will be asked to take the child home and to arrange a test. This is to protect the welfare of the child and those within his/her social bubble. Ensuring the safety, welfare and protection of our children is the number one priority of each and every school in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Our school has a clear and agreed Test and Trace process in place, backed by the Local Authority and Public Health England. This involves supporting any child who may require testing, and offering clear next steps for the family involved.

## Checking Medication Held in School

If your child has an asthma inhaler, epi pen, jext-pen or other medication in school please can we ask you to contact the school office to check that their medication is still in date and is stored in a clearly named box or bag. All out of date medication will need to be taken to a pharmacy for safe disposal. Please note that we will not be able to administer out of date medication to your child.



## Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you what their favourite thing about school is.

Ask your Year 1 child how many varieties of animal they can name.

Ask your Year 2 child what they have learnt about the artist Henri Rousseau.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain what makes the artwork of Pablo Picasso so special.

Ask your Year 4 child what artistic skills they have been practising for their art work in the style of Mark Rothko .

Ask your Year 5 child to describe the work of Brazilian artist Beatriz Milhazes.

Ask your Year 6 child to describe the artist Roberts Silvers and his photo mosaic artistic style.

### FORTHCOMING DATES 2020 to 2021

These dates may be subject to change if there are changes in Government and Local Authority guidance over the coming months. We hope to be able to produce a more extensive list as the term progresses. Currently it is planned to hold meetings and events via zoom.

14th & 15th September—Reception children stay for the morning + lunch

16th September—Reception children start full time

14th September 5.30pm and 6:20 pm—Meet the teacher evening via Zoom.

21st—25th September—School art gallery online

21st September at 6pm—ReadWrite Inc. information evening for Reception & Year 1 parents

w/c 21st September—Harvest Festival week

w/c 28th September—Healthy Lifestyles Week

w/c 28th September—Year 6 Bikeability

9th October at 9am—Cygnus Class assembly

12th October—Individual school photographs

13th October 5-7.30pm—Parent consultation evening

22nd October 4—6. 30 pm—Parent consultation evening

26th—30th October—HALF TERM

2nd November—Children return to school

13th November at 9am—Indigo Class assembly

w/c 16th November—Anti bullying week

16th November—Flu vaccinations

8th December at 10am—Year 3 & 4 Carol Concert

9th December at 2pm—Year 3 & 4 Carol Concert

10th December at 2pm—Year 2 Nativity

10th December at 6pm—Year 3 & 4 Carol Concert

11th December at 10am—Year 1 Nativity

18th December—LAST DAY OF TERM

19th December—1st January 2021—CHRISTMAS BREAK

4th January Children return to school