

Newsletter 4

Friday 1st October 2021

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Autumn Arrives

Goodness, what a change we have seen and felt in the weather this week. We had all been lulled by the warmth of the Indian Summer over the last few weeks until we were lashed by the unwelcome wind and rain storms. I think it was Zadie Smith who described Autumn so evocatively when she said: 'Summer left abruptly and slammed the door on the way out. The shudder sent leaves to the ground all at once.' I think that really sums up the arrival of Autumn over the past few days.

As always, the children remain undeterred by changes in the weather and have continued with all their activities. Their robustness never fails to amaze me. As we adults run for cover or hunt for a rain coat the children just carry on as if nothing has happened. Therefore, please could I ask you to check that your child brings a coat to school every day through the coming months. For some of the older children there seems to be a strange aversion to wearing something that will keep them warm and dry, so please do check that they have a coat with them, including on PE days as they will be having outdoor games lessons throughout the Winter.

Mrs Howell

Harvest Festival

Unfortunately, the weather was against us this week and the heavy rain prevented us from holding our annual Harvest Festival celebration outside as we had planned. However, undeterred we continued our assembly with the aid of modern technology, sharing our thanks for all the good things we are so fortunate to have via Microsoft Teams.

Yet again, we were humbled by the incredible generosity of the Monkfield Park community. Our families have donated so many food stuffs, cleaning products and essential items for those who are less fortunate. Your gifts have been donated to the Cambourne Foodbank which does such wonderful work supporting local families who are finding things particularly difficult at this time.

The photographs show only a fraction of the donated goods! The Cambourne Foodbank will collect the food parcels next week and will deliver to families in need on our behalf. A huge thank you to everyone for your generous contributions to this very worthwhile cause.



Bikeability

As we all queue for the last drops of petrol and diesel, our minds frequently turn to alternative modes of transport which don't rely on fossil fuels. Cycling has seen a huge resurgence in popularity through the periods of lockdown and has become a very popular alternative to the car for many. With so many more cyclists now on the roads, it is imperative that they are confident and have the skills to ride a bike safely. With this in mind, our Year 6 children have been taking part in the Bikeability Level 2 course this week. Run by the incredibly patient instructors from Outspoken, the children spent three days



learning how to identify and respond to hazards on the roads, tackle tricky junctions and crossroads and understand what the road signs and markings mean, before taking their test on the fourth day. The instructors were so complimentary about how well mannered and attentive the children were, which made us doubly proud of them all.

Well done Year 6.

School Uniform

We place great importance on our school uniform at Monkfield Park as it plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence and a feeling of belonging. Our expectation is that the children at our school should be smart and take pride in their appearance. We are mindful of cost and have ensured that our uniform requirements are kept to a minimum and avoid the need for expensive fashion items. I have already noted that there are a number of brightly coloured sweatshirts emblazoned with logos about the school and many children are wearing black leggings on non-PE days. Please can we politely request that the school uniform list below is adhered to. I have asked staff to speak to children who are not wearing the correct uniform and would appreciate your support in this matter.

- ◆ **School sweatshirt or school cardigan**
- ◆ **White polo shirt**
- ◆ **Plain grey trousers or skirt—not black leggings**
- ◆ **We request that skirt lengths should be at least knee length.**
- ◆ **Outdoor shoes that are suitable for safe, active play. Black shoes and not trainers should be worn. Trainers should only be worn on the timetabled PE day.**

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:

Olivia in Phoenix Class: I was so impressed by Olivia's maturity and kindness this week. Olivia gave us a valuable life lesson by demonstrating how to ignore hurtful words and offer the hand of friendship instead. You are amazing Olivia.

Hugo in Dorado Class: Hugo would never describe himself as an artist, but I was utterly captivated by his watercolour painting of a bird. The detail and wonderful use of shading gave your painting great depth and movement.

Bethany in Pegasus Class: Thank you for being a great ambassador for our school when out on the roads this week. You impressed all your instructors with your politeness, willingness to tackle anything, support for the group and your amazing cycling skills. You should be proud of yourself Bethany.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to find two items that are the same e.g. two shapes, two buttons, two socks.

Ask your Year 1 child to explain the differences between animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

Ask your Year 2 child to

Ask your Year 3 child to describe their favourite character from 'Voices in the Park'.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain how to order 4 digit numbers.

Ask your Year 5 child to make comparisons about the planets in our solar system.

Ask your Year 6 child to tell you how to make the perfect sushi.

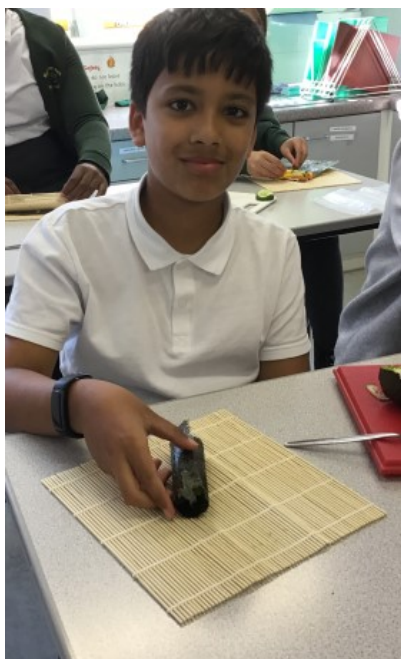
Creative Homework

We know children are inspired by the topics we plan for them in school and the staff always work so hard to ensure everyone has the opportunity to build on their skills and prior knowledge. However, we understand that homework isn't everyone's favourite pass time even though we have tried very hard to make the activities more motivating. This week I was stunned to see that Mia in Year 5 had produced the most wonderful set of biscuits to illustrate her understanding of the features of each of the planets in our solar system. I am sure you will agree that these creative cookies look delicious.



Roll Models!

Year 6 have been studying Japan as part of their Geography topic this term as this links to their key text in English, 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. The children have done map work, learnt about the impact that earthquakes have in Japan, and studied the physical and human geography of the country by comparing the life of a child in Japan and the UK. Continuing with this theme they couldn't omit the cuisine of Japan and so this week they have been learning how to make sushi. After a few tentative attempts they have all mastered the techniques and have proved themselves to be very proficient at producing the most delicious sushi rolls.



FORTHCOMING DATES 2021 to 2022

The arrangements for all these events may be subject to change if there are changes in Government and Local Authority guidance. Until further notice, most of the large events will take place virtually via Zoom.

6th October 2pm to 3pm—Parent/carers drop in

11th October—Individual school photographs

12th October 5pm -7.30pm—Parent consultation evening

15th October at 9:15am— Indigo Class Assembly

18th October 10 am to 11 am—Parent/Carer drop in

21st October 4pm —7pm—Parent consultation evening

25th—29th October—HALF TERM

1st November—Children return to school

12th November at 9:15am—Blue Class assembly

w/c 15th November—Anti bullying week

16th November at 2pm—Year 2 Production

18th November at 2pm—Year 2 Production

19th November—Children in Need Day

14th December at 2pm—Year 4 Carol Concert

15th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

16th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

16th December at 6pm—Year 4 Carol Concert

17th December—LAST DAY OF TERM

20th December—3rd January 2022—CHRISTMAS BREAK

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

A Message From Anthony Brown, MP for South Cambridgeshire

Dear Pupils,

I am writing to you to invite you to participate in my annual Christmas Card design competition. You have the chance to design the Christmas card that I am going to send out to my constituents this year, as well as family, friends, and colleagues – including the Prime Minister! This year, the chosen design will also win a teddy bear from the House of Commons, and the Prime Minister will take a picture holding the card you designed.

Here are a few conditions which I'm sure your parents can help you with to ensure your entry is received correctly:

Your design must relate to the place we all call home – South Cambridgeshire!

You must submit your design via email, with your name, age, and school before Friday 22nd October

Your email subject must be 'Christmas Card Competition Entry'.

I am so looking forward to seeing all your wonderful designs and choosing one to send out. Good luck! Anthony

Anthony Browne MP Christmas Card Competition

Ages
4 - 11



Design something about our home - South Cambridgeshire!
Then send it to anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk with your
name, age, and school by Friday 22nd October.