

# Newsletter 1

Friday 9th September 2022

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## A Sad Beginning

As I write to welcome you all back to school and celebrate the start of the new academic year, full of our hopes and expectations for the coming months, I find that the country has been rocked by the profound news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

It is only right that as a school we should mark this sad, historic event by expressing our grateful thanks to Her Majesty the Queen for her 70 years of service and unstinting dedication to us all. She embodied everything that we hold fast to as a school and steadfastly upheld the values we instil in our children through the Monkfield Way.

We will be commemorating the Queen's life with compassion and sensitivity in school and will be reassuring the children, whilst allowing them time to reflect and record their feelings at this time.

I am sure there will be much information to be shared with you over the coming days as there are protocols which must be followed around such momentous events and as the country enters a period of national mourning.

Mrs Howell



We do hope you will join us on **Monday 12th September** for our 'Meet the Teacher' event.

This is a great opportunity for you to meet your child's new teacher 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, and forthcoming events. You will also be able to look around your child's new classroom for the first time in three years!

We are aware that many of you have children in more than one year group and so each presentation will take place twice. The first presentation will take place immediately after school at 4pm and the second, slightly later, at 5.30 pm.

We are able to provide a limited crèche in the Main Hall for this event, for those parents who are unable to make childcare arrangements for school age children and siblings. Please e-mail the school office if you require a place in the crèche for your child. The last presentation will finish at approximately 6.30 pm. If you are unable to attend, we will upload the power-point presentations to our website and Seesaw so that you can enjoy them at your leisure.

### A Few Changes

For some time we have been adopting a positive, therapeutic approach to our management of behaviour in school, placing the child 'at the centre of everything we do'. Following some recent training and discussions with the children, we have reviewed some of our current practices and have decided to make some changes as we begin the new academic year.

Consequently we have removed the 'balloons' from the classrooms. Children will still receive warnings from the teacher if they are not following expectations and rules, but these will take the form of discreet conversations to ascertain the reasons for their behaviour. Where disruptive behaviour persists, the children will still receive a consequence and the class teacher will contact parents and carers to discuss the possible reasons for the behaviour. In addition, we have decided that children will not be penalised with the loss of Golden Time. We want to motivate the children to make good choices and feel that ending the week on a negative note does not help the children to do this. All children will have 30 minutes of Golden Time on Friday afternoon to enable them to take part in enrichment activities. We hope that a positive end to the learning week will help the children to return on Monday, eager to learn and follow the Monkfield Way. The children are aware that we will be reviewing these changes and are keen to bring about improvements.

### 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 removed and taken to a pharmacy for safe disposal. Please note that we will not be able to administer out of date medication to your child.

### Name That Uniform!

Please can you ensure that all items of school uniform and equipment that your child needs for school are clearly named. This does not have to be a sewn in name tape and can simply be your child's name written in pen on the label. It makes it almost impossible to reunite lost/misplaced items with their owners without this. We already have a growing pile of lost property for which we cannot identify the owners. Thank you in anticipation.



### Staff News

It is always wonderful to have some good news to share.

We are delighted to announce that Miss Simpson is now Mrs McCarthy following her marriage in August. We send Mrs McCarthy and her husband many congratulations from everyone at Monkfield Park.

### Expectations for Attendance

**EVERY  
SCHOOL DAY  
COUNTS**

We are receiving an increasing numbers of requests from families who wish to take holidays or travel abroad in term time. Whilst we understand that holidays taken during the school holiday periods are becoming increasingly expensive, the governing body is unable to authorise absences in term time other than in exceptional circumstances.

If your child is registered at a school they must by law attend that school regularly and punctually. Your child should only miss school if he/she is ill or unable to attend for some other unavoidable reason, including self-isolation as a consequence of COVID 19. 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 and development. Consequently, the government now classes persistent absenteeism as 10%, which means that any 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 are required to ensure that parents are informed of any attendance concerns at an early stage and therefore you will receive an initial communication from us if your child's attendance falls below 96%. This initial letter will be to simply make you aware of your child's attendance level. If concerns persist, then the school will contact you again.

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 in 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. 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 100% attendance. As always, our expectations for children and families are high and we look forward to a well-attended year following the disruptions to education over the last few years.

The term dates are available on the school's website and we would ask you to adhere to the school holiday dates when planning holidays and family events. Thank you for your co-operation.

# Headteacher Roll of Honour

Each week this space will provide a celebration of those classes 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:

The children in Columba Class: The children have really taken on board my message about good manners and have been greeting me so politely all week and stopping to hold doors open for others. Thank you Columba Class for being such good role models.

The Year 6 lunch monitors from Pegasus Class: The children have taken on their duties with great enthusiasm and have been helping to make lunchtimes run very smoothly on our first week back. We are very grateful for your hard work and dedication.

The Year 5 Play Leaders: Thank you for being such great ambassadors for our school. Miss McDonald from the Sports Partnership was so impressed with you all and told me what great Play Leaders you are going to be.

## Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you what they have enjoyed most about their first week in school.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you what animal they were sent by 'Dear Zoo'.

Ask your Year 2 child to explain what an autobiography is.

Ask your Year 3 child to re-tell the story of 'Stone Age Boy' in their own words.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain how 'Alan Peat sentences' help to improve their writing.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain what an expanded noun phrase is and how you use them.

Ask your Year 6 child to give you some reasons why Michael and his family should sail around the world.

## Earrings and Jewellery

Please can we politely remind parents and carers that jewellery should not be worn to school. The only exceptions are watches, cultural or religious adornments and studs for pierced ears, all of which **MUST BE REMOVED** during school PE lessons, for health and safety reasons. PE is a statutory part of the curriculum and children must be able to participate safely in these lessons. The school cannot accept responsibility for removing or storing studs and items that are removed cannot be stored communally to avoid contagion/infections. The Local Authority PE advisor has informed us that silicone studs, such as the ones pictured here, can be worn safely in PE lessons. These can be purchased online from Amazon or Claire's Accessories.



**FORTHCOMING DATES Autumn Term 2022**

12th September—Meet the Teacher Event at 4.00pm and 5.30pm

19th September—RWInc evening for new Reception children at 5.30pm

w/c 26th September—Harvest Festival week

w/c 26th September—Year 6 Bikeability

30th September—Year 4 Bikeability

30th September—FOMP AGM at 3.30pm

10th October—Individual school photographs

11th October 5pm -7.30pm—Parent consultation evening

14th October at 9:15am— Violet Class Assembly

17th October—Art Week

20th October 4pm —7pm—Parent consultation evening

24th—28th October—HALF TERM

31st October—Children return to school

2nd to 4th November—Children's Art Gallery

8th November—Flu vaccinations

w/c 14th November—Anti bullying week

15th November at 2pm—Year 2 Production

17th November at 2pm—Year 2 Production

18th November at 9:15am—Columba Class assembly

18th November—Children in Need Day

25th November—Flu vaccinations

13th December at 2pm—Year 4 Christmas Production

14th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

15th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

15th December at 6pm—Year 4 Carol Concert

16th December—FOMP Christmas event

21st December—LAST DAY OF TERM

22nd December—3rd January 2023—CHRISTMAS BREAK

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

5th January—Children return to school

### Parent Consultation Evenings



We will be holding Parent Consultations for the Autumn Term prior to the half term break in October. Throughout the pandemic we were able to hold these meetings via Zoom so that you were able to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher.

We have found holding these meetings via Zoom to have many advantages—parents and carers do not have the problem of finding child care, there is no protracted waiting in the school foyer and corridors and teachers are able to keep to time. However, we appreciate that not all parents and carers may share our enthusiasm for virtual meetings. As such, we will be sending out a short

survey next week to ascertain your views. If the majority decision is to continue with consultations via Zoom, we would also hold a 'come and share' event prior to the consultation evenings to allow parents and carers the opportunity to look at their children's books and work.

Please do complete the survey so that we can make an informed decision.

### Come and Read Sessions ar Back

We are thrilled to be able to invite Reception and Key Stage One parents to Come and Read sessions every Friday of this half term - starting from next Friday 16th September.

From 3.05 pm, external classroom doors will open for parents to come into their child's classroom. The children will be waiting with open arms and a wealth of books to share with you. The doors will be locked once parents are inside.

Parents will be asked to leave the classrooms at 3.20 pm to allow time to get the children ready for home and for the end of the day routine to run as normal.

After the October half term and every half term thereafter, the day on which the Come and Read session is held on, will change, to give all parents the opportunity to attend the sessions across the course of the school year.

If you have any questions about the Come and Read sessions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

We look forward to welcoming you .



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

Welcome Back Everyone!

It has been wonderful to see the children back at preschool again after the Summer Holidays. They have all settled back so well and have been very busy exploring their new environments and getting to know their new routines. A special welcome to our new children and families who are starting with us over the next week.

### Staff News

At the end of the Summer Term, Mrs Longford sadly decided to leave the Care and Learning Centre. We wish Mrs Longford all the best in the future and thank her for all of her hard work and dedication.

Miss Tobin has now begun her maternity leave, with Mrs Brown taking over her role while she is away. We will keep you posted when we hear any news of Miss Tobin's new arrival!

The current staff team is as follows.....

Mrs Beresford - Pre-School Manager

Miss Blackwell and Mrs Brown - Pre-School Deputy Managers and Out of School Club Managers

Mrs Gordon-Allard, Miss Varey and Mrs Kitt.

We are all looking forward to a fun filled, exciting term of playing and learning....

