

Newsletter 12

Friday 4th December 2020

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Christmas is Coming

Thanks to FOMP, and in particular Mrs Hickmott, a majestic tree festooned with twinkling lights and colourful baubles is now in place in the Main Hall. All week the sound of angelic voices singing well loved Christmas songs has filled the school once more, and it is quite normal to find a gaggle of shepherds, kings and angels socially distanced in the corridor. Mrs O'Rourke has been recording the children's performances so that we can bring them directly to your living room via the wonder of zoom and in classrooms across the school there has been a flurry of activity as the children create some stunning Christmas cards. Underpinning everything is the Christmas message of hope. Despite all the difficulties of this year, the children are showing us that love, kindness, peace and joy are still alive and well at Monkfield Park.

Mrs Howell

Christmas Cards—A Quick Reminder



Children may bring Christmas cards to school to send to their friends and members of staff. However, to ensure this is done safely, all cards will need to be quarantined for 72 hours before they can be distributed. Cards can be brought to school from **Monday 7th December** and each class will have post boxes in which to post the cards. Following quarantine the cards will be distributed to the children. We will not be able to accept any cards after **3.30 pm on Monday 14th December** in order to ensure delivery by Friday 18th December.

Christmas Jumpers

The annual Christmas lunch will be served on Thursday **17th December**. We are suggesting that if children would like to wear a Christmas jumper they may make a voluntary donation of £1 to Blue Smile—the local charity we are supporting this year. Blue Smile provides therapy and support in schools across Cambridgeshire to help children to be happier and emotionally healthy following a crisis.





Investigating the Vile Victorians in Year 5

Last Friday, 27th November, Year 5 enjoyed a Victorian WOW day to remember. The misty weather set the scene for an action-packed day of Victorian themed activities. These included: baking Queen Victoria's favourite tea time treat - Victoria sponge cakes; producing some inspirational nature art; perfecting our Victorian handwriting ; and tackling some really tough maths challenges from a typical Victorian school book. The day culminated with a Victorian tea party, during which the children got to enjoy their cakes and reflect on their learning. The verdict—life in a Victorian school was not as much fun as it is today, the work was repetitive and teachers were VERY strict!





Year 6—Your Country Needs You!

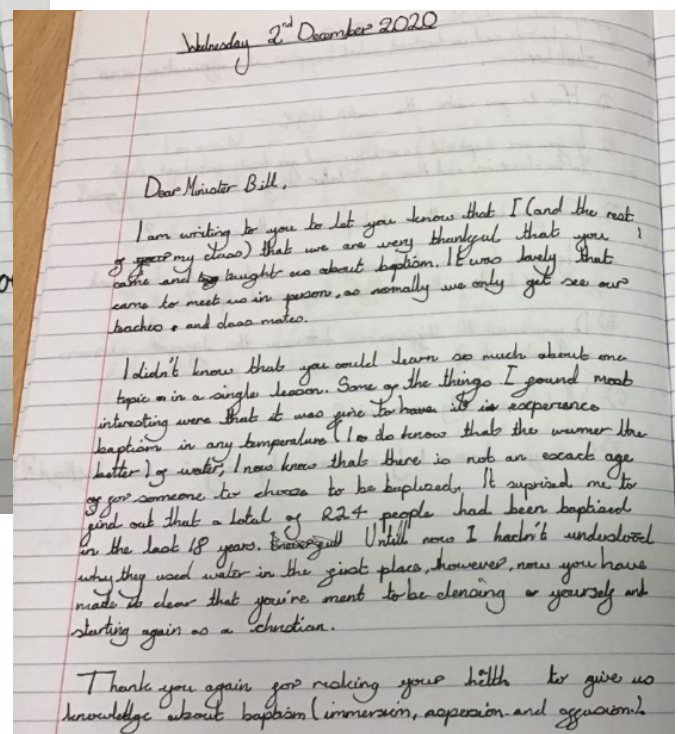
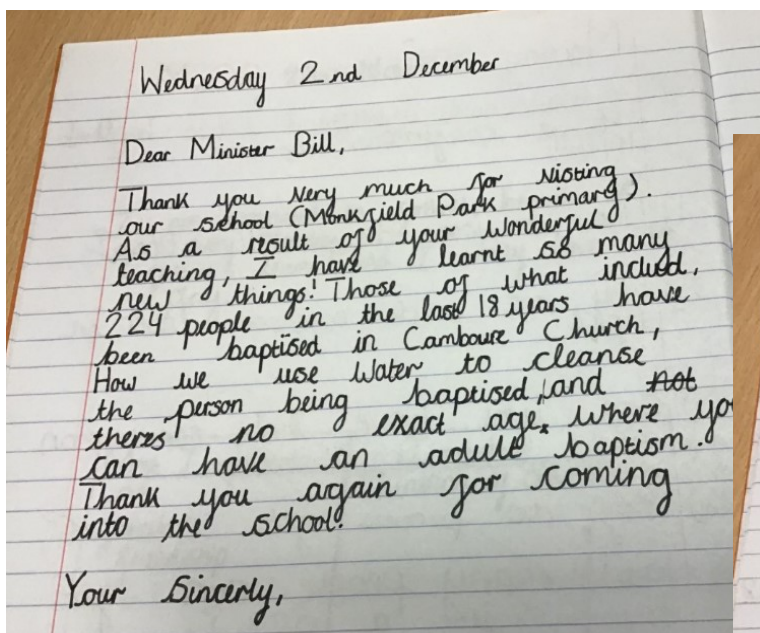
On Thursday Year 6 were transported back in time to experience what life was like for the brave soldiers who endured the treacherous trenches for the duration of the 1914-1918 Great War. They experienced the taste of some typical rations such as Bully Beef, which was a staple of the soldiers' diet, and followed an authentic recipe to make some traditional Yorkshire Parkin. At the outbreak of war many people volunteered to learn first aid to help the sick and wounded. Learning about the British Red Cross and how first aid was improvised in the heat of battle gave the children a real sense of the danger faced by the troops and how difficult life was without antibiotics. The children studied medals and memorial plaques presented to soldiers for their dedication and service before creating their own artwork and medals as a tribute to the dedication of those who gave their lives during this time.



Year 6 Learn About Christian Rites of Passage



On Wednesday Year 6 were visited by Rev Bill Miller, the local minister from the Cambourne Church. In their topic in R.E., this half term, Year 6 have been learning about baptism and confirmation and so they relished the opportunity to hear from an expert, despite having to observe strict social distancing rules. The children were full of questions and were fascinated by Minister Bill's description of an adult baptism. After their session, they wrote letters to Minister Bill to thank him for his visit and to record some of the new information they had learnt.



The Great Monkfield Photographic Competition

As we all have cameras readily to hand these days thanks to our smart phones, we are taking photographs all the time. Well now is your chance to channel your creativity and get fit too. Mrs Sawford has come up with the idea of holding a photographic competition for the children– details on the poster below. Why not take this opportunity to visit the Country Park and encourage the children to capture some images of the incredible natural world here in Cambourne?

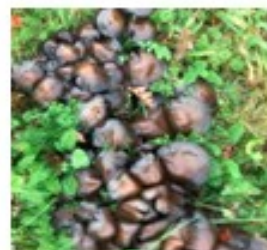
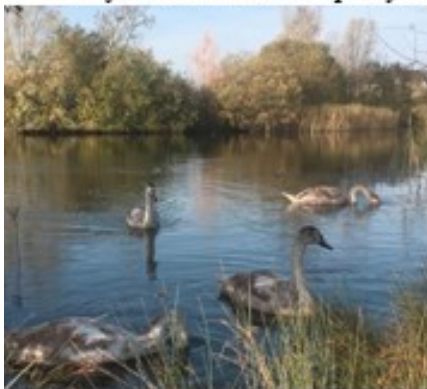
Monkfield Park Photo Competition

Do you love to snap photos of all the wonderful nature and wildlife in Cambourne Country Park? This competition challenges you to take your best photo of any wildlife or nature scene in the park and enter into the Monkfield Park Photo Competition.

To enter, you can either get an adult to email a photo to the office, or you can print off an A4 sized copy and give it to your class teacher by Thursday 17th December.

The categories are for Reception, KS1 and KS2 – and there will be prizes for the winners, and 2 runners up! Winners will be announced in our Special Assembly.

So – get snapping – we can't wait to see what you take! Here are some photos Mrs Sawford has taken to inspire you.



Headteacher Roll of Honour

Nathan in Green Class—Nathan has really impressed Mrs O'Rourke this week. It has been wonderful to see Nathan really getting in to the role of Joseph in the Year 1 Nativity play and delivering his lines with great clarity and expression.

Rosie in Dorado Class—Rosie has been putting her love of dance to good use this week. She has helped everyone to learn the routine for her class performance and wowed us all with her confidence and grace.

Unnati in Delphinus Class—Unnati is such a calming influence in class. She never makes a fuss and always dedicates herself to doing the best work that she can. Her art work is truly outstanding and shows her depth of understanding and great skill.

Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you what their superhero power would be and why.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you what an angel might represent.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you which English coins are made from silver.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain why their stories need a clear beginning, a middle and an end and what happens in each of these sections.

Ask your Year 4 child recite some of the lines from the beginning of a river poem.

Ask your Year 5 child to compare how children spend their leisure time now with the Victorian era.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain the features of a newspaper report.

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 weeks.

10th December —Year 3 & 4 Carol Concert zoom at 5pm and 6pm

11th December—Y1 Nativity zoom at 5pm and 6pm

17th December—Christmas lunch

18th December—LAST DAY OF TERM

19th December—1st January 2021—CHRISTMAS BREAK

4th January INSET Day

5th January - Children return to school.

