

Newsletter 21

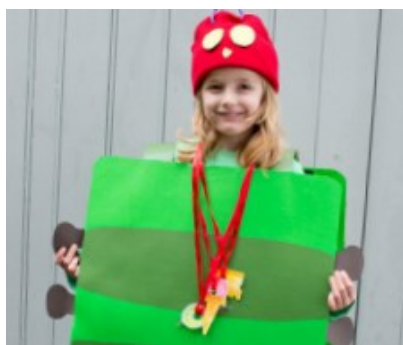
Friday 23rd February 2018

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Dress Up for World Book Day 2018

On Thursday 1st March we will be joining with children all over the country to celebrate our love of reading, books, illustrators and authors. To encourage children to explore the pleasure of books and reading we are asking everyone to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. Your costumes can be as simple or as complicated as you would like to make them—just let your imagination run wild! If you are stuck for ideas or are struggling to know how to make your favourite character come to life the World Book Day website has lots of helpful tips and resources (<http://www.worldbookday.com/dressing-up/>). We hope you will enjoy this great celebration of books and reading. Happy dressing up.



Following a recent visit from our Education Welfare Officer I would like to bring the current rules regarding absences from school to your attention.

In September 2015, the Department of Education lowered the amount of absence in which a student is classified as being a persistent absentee from 15% to 10%. This means 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 and the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice. Schools must ensure that parents are informed of any attendance concerns at an early stage and there-

fore 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.

Schools are not able to authorise leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. There are only 190 statutory school days in one year and 175 days (weekends and school holidays) available to use for holidays and significant family events. The Governing Body feels that every effort should be made to arrange such events during school holidays as every school day counts if children are to make progress. 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, which in the first instance will be £60 per child, per adult in the household. Failure to pay this penalty within 21 school days will result in the charge being doubled to £120. 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.

Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you who they would be able to reach if they called 999 for help.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you who Andy Goldsworthy is.

Ask your Year 2 child to explain what the main features of a traditional tale are.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you three ways a camel has adapted to live in its habitat.

Ask your Year 4 child what vocabulary we can use to describe sound.

Ask your Year 5 child what a 'nukhada' is and what other language have they learnt this week.

Ask your Year 6 child to tell you about crime and punishment throughout history.

Head Teacher Roll of Honour

This week we have been thinking about being active and healthy so I have been delighted to see the following children who have shown so much effort in putting this important message into practice:

Lucy in Lacerta class—Lucy has been persevering with some very tricky dance routines to help her keep fit and healthy. She has shown great dedication and has worked hard to master some very complex steps.

Jamie in Aquila class—Jamie has gained so much confidence in swimming over the last few weeks. He is working so hard to improve his strokes and his determination is exemplary.

Sasha in Indigo class—Sasha has been working on her core strength and used this very effectively to help her perform some excellent balances in gym lessons this week.

Vaanya in Yellow class—Vaanya has been putting 100% effort into our '5 a day' exercises. She works so hard to copy the routines and has been encouraging others to follow her example.

Dragon Dancing in Reception

Children in Orange and Yellow classes have been celebrating Chinese New Year in traditional style by taking part in Dragon Dancing. The children learnt that in the Chinese zodiac 2018 is the year of the dog and that this is how the years are dated. Everyone had great fun discovering how this exciting festival is celebrated in China with fire crackers, special meals and many wonderful customs such as the giving of money to children and wearing red garments to guarantee good luck and prosperity in the coming year.



World Thinking Day



On February 22nd we were delighted to be able to mark World Thinking Day in school with members of the Girl Guiding movement. World Thinking Day is a celebration of ten million girls worldwide that has taken place on 22nd February since 1926. It remains a day for all Guides and Girl Scouts to think of each other and to celebrate their sisters all around the world. Many girls came to school in their Brownie and Rainbow uniforms to celebrate this very special occasion.

Active Classrooms, Active Homes



Here at Monkfield Park we are passionate about keeping children active and healthy. Active classrooms improve behaviour and attention, support academic performance and strengthen classroom cohesion. We hope the children have been telling you about the active challenge chart we have recently introduced into each classroom to see which class can be the most active throughout the school week. Classes are enjoying completing 1 minute, 2 minute and 5 minute active challenges throughout the school

day as a brain break. Each time they complete a challenge, the number of active minutes are added to their class chart. At the end of each week, the total number of minutes for each class is collected and added to a whole class display. The class with the most minutes at the end of this half term will enjoy a healthy, nutritious cooking session.

Go Noodle is one of the resources used in the classroom to motivate children and to keep them active. It is a website with hundreds of videos that activate children's bodies and brains. Just visit www.gonoodle.com and sign up for free. By signing up you could turn screen time into active time, create great family fun and make your home healthier.

We hope that together we can create active homes and active classrooms. Enjoy!

Forthcoming Dates

26th February —2nd March—Science Week

27th February—Phonics' Meeting

1st March—World Book Day

2nd March—Year 6 Author Visit

w/c 5th March—Book Week

8th—14th March—Scholastic Book Fair

20th March 9.30am—Reception Come and Share

22nd March 5pm—Parent Consultation Evening

23rd March 9am—Cygnus Class assembly

23rd March—Vision Screening

w/c 26th March —International Week

27th March 2pm—Year 5 performance

27th March 4pm—Parent Consultation Evening

28th March 6pm—Year 5 performance

29th March—last day of Spring Term

30th March—EASTER HOLIDAYS begin

16th April—Children Return to school

18th April—PGL Information evening



Some children need to experience an exaggerated arm movement in writing a word to remember how it is spelt.

Write the word on an outside wall or path with a huge decorator's brush dipped in water, or spray it with a water pistol (children love this) or shine your torch on a dark wall to make the shape of the letters. Computers are no good for spelling — you have to practise writing it, and some children will really need that kinaesthetic movement of the arm.

School Disco

Friends of Monkfield Park would like to say a big thank you to all the Teachers and Parents that helped out at our School Disco on Friday 9th February. The children were very well behaved and seemed to have a lot of fun!

It was another really successful evening and we raised a fantastic total of £616.11 so thank you to all who came.



200 Club

The 200 Club is a simple way to raise extra funds for the school and for yourself! If you would like to join our 200 Club we will be sending out a 6-monthly Subscription form shortly so you could be included in the draw from March 2018.

The 6-monthly Subscription is £6 and you will be allocated a number for the monthly draw. Each month you will have the chance of winning half the money in the pot, you've got to be in it to win it so keep an eye out for the form!!



Ideas

Just like last year our main fundraising aim this year is to raise funds for the Library refurb. We are after fundraising ideas that not only we can do but also that the staff and pupils can do at school.

If you have any ideas no matter how BIG or small please let us know. You can either send us a message via our Facebook page or via email to:

friendsofmonkfieldpark@gmail.com .



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