

Newsletter 3

Friday 19th September 2025

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OPAL Play Date

It was lovely to see so many of you at our 'Welcome to Reception' evening on Monday. I hope the evening was informative and gave you an insight into the routines and expectations for the children now that they are attending school full time.

I do hope that you have all received your personal invitation to our very special OPAL play date which is taking place on Monday afternoon, and that as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

The afternoon will begin with a presentation from Nicola, our OPAL mentor at 2.00 pm. Nicola will be talking about OPAL and where we currently are on our OPAL journey. Following Nicola's presentation you will be able to see OPAL in action for yourselves and we are all hoping that you will be inspired to join in with your children as they access many of the play activities on offer. The children are very much looking forward to showing you how OPAL playtimes work and how much fun they have.

With kindest wishes
Mrs Howell.

5 Stars For the Kitchen Staff

I am delighted to announce that following an inspection by the environmental health officer this week, the school kitchen has once again been awarded the hygiene rating of 5 stars. This rating, the highest

awarded under the Food Standards Agency scheme, reflects the kitchen staff's unwavering dedication to providing safe, high-quality food for our children, staff, and visitors. It recognises outstanding performance in cleanliness, food handling, and management practices.

Many congratulations and thanks must go to the kitchen team for their hard work and dedication to feeding us all nutritious and delicious meals every day.



A Polite Reminder About Parking!



It must be the start of term as I have already received a number of complaints about car parking! We have also noticed cars parking on the grass verge adjacent to the staff car park gates and parents blocking the gates when dropping off or collecting children.

The Highway Code states that parking is prohibited on double yellow lines and yellow zig-zag lines outside schools at all times; this includes stopping to set down or pick up passengers. Although the verge is not on school property we would request that parents and car-

ers do not put our children in danger by stopping or parking in this area as it increases the likelihood of an accident. Thank you for your support and understanding in this important matter and for working with us to ensure the safety of all the children and staff at Monkfield Park.

Beat the Street

On Wednesday evening, together with other local schools, I attended the launch of the Beat the Street game at South Cambs Hall in Cambourne. The game will start on Wednesday 24th September 2025 and end on Wednesday 22nd October 2025. Your child will be bringing home their Beat the Street cards shortly, so please look out for them.

This really is an exciting new initiative to encourage us all to get moving and discover more of Cambourne and our local community. Beat the Street is a free, fun initiative that will see Cambourne transformed into a giant game! See how far you can walk, cycle, run, scoot and wheel in just 4 weeks. There are great challenges to enjoy and prizes up for grabs.



Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to find a set of 2 objects around the home. E.g. shoes/chairs/bananas.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you about the animals in the story 'Brown Bear Brown Bear'.

Ask your Year 2 child to show you how many ways can they find to partition the number 64.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you how to say 'hello' in Spanish.

Ask your Year 4 child to describe how particles behave in solids, liquids and gases.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain the Earth's movement in Space.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain how to add and subtract with negative numbers.

FORTHCOMING DATES

22nd September—OPAL presentation for parents and play session

22nd to 25th September—Bikeability Level 2 for Year 6 children

25th September—Flu vaccinations

26th September—Bikeability Level 1 for Year 4 children

26th September—Friends of Monkfield Park (FOMP) AGM at 3.30pm

1st October—Year 1 trip to Castle Headingham

3rd October—Harvest Festival

6th October—Individual photographs

10th October—Phoenix Class Assembly

14th October—Parent consultation evening

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE FOR Y6— 22nd October—Parent consultation evening for Year 6

4th November—Y6 trip to Great Huts

23rd October—Parent consultation evening

20th October—Online Safety week

24th October—Break up for Half Term

27th to 31st October—HALF TERM

3rd November—Children return to school

26th to 28th November—Children's Art Gallery

9th December—Y1 and Y2 Christmas production

10th December—Y1 and Y2 Christmas production

16th December—Y4 Christmas Carol Concert

17th December—Y4 Christmas Carol Concert



If you have a child who will be three in September you can book places for the Autumn term in our pre-school now. Graded Good by Ofsted in June 2024 we can provide 15/30 hours of funded provision with a qualified Early Years teacher and dedicated and supportive Early Years staff, in a caring and nurturing learning environment. We are open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm during term time and welcome visits from parents and carers. Please contact the school office to arrange a visit and discover the Monkfield Way. Please contact us on: 01954 273377 or by e-mail: clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk

Nail Varnish and Jewellery!

This week I have noticed a number of children wearing brightly coloured nail varnish and items of jewellery. Please can we remind you that children are not permitted to wear nail varnish in school. We would be grateful if you could ensure that your child removes all makeup and nail varnish before coming to school, particularly following the weekend. The only items of jewellery permitted to be worn are wrist 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. The school cannot accept responsibility for removing or storing earrings 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.



Reception 2026 Tours



We appreciate that selecting the right school for your child is not an easy decision to make. Each parent and carer is looking for a school that will make the educational experience as motivating and rewarding as possible for their child. To help you make this important decision we would like to welcome parents and carers into school to see at first hand what makes Monkfield Park such a special place to learn. We are offering a number of parent tours so that you can see the school in action and talk with the Headteacher and staff.

Please join us for one of our parent tours which can be booked by contacting the school office on 01954 273377 or by email :office@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk The tour dates are:

Tuesday 30th September at 2pm

Friday 10th October at 9.30am

Wednesday 22nd October at 2pm

Thursday 13th November at 5pm

Tuesday 25th November at 10am

Friday 5th December at 2pm

Thursday 11th December at 10am

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school and hope you will join us for one of the tours. If you are unable to make any of these dates, please contact the school office and we will be happy to arrange a mutually convenient date for you to visit the school and meet Mrs Howell, the Headteacher.

Settling In Well

Monday was the first full school day for our Reception children and we were all so impressed by how they took it in their stride. They are such a confident and curious group of children who are delighting in the wide range of activities on offer to them each day. We are all enjoying getting to know the latest additions to the Monkfield Park family as they begin this important phase of their learning journey. I hope they are regaling you with all the details of their day and the exciting learning they are involved in. However, if they are struggling to remember, here are some photographs to prompt your conversations.



For general queries regarding the Care and Learning Centre, please contact the school office by e-mail on: 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

Settling In

We are so proud of our new children and how well they are settling in and gaining in confidence at pre-school. They are learning the new routines really well and doing brilliantly at sitting on the carpet for stories and singing.

Exploring Numbers

This week many of the children have begun to explore our maths resources during their play. They have been counting objects and starting to recognise numerals, making tall towers of cubes and making patterns with shapes.



Welly Boots

Thank you to all those parents who have already sent in welly boots for their children. If you have not yet done so, please send some NAMED wellies to keep at preschool next week, as it's starting to get muddy in the garden.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Jane Turner
Early Years Teacher
Pre-School Manager