

Newsletter 29

Friday 6th May 2022

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Back Together Again

Monday was a very special, exciting day in school. It marked the first time we had gathered together as a whole school for an assembly in the Main Hall in over two years. Looking back through the calendar, I can see that the last time we were able to do that was 16th March 2020!

In the intervening time we have been fortunate to have been able to continue to meet for assembly via Microsoft Teams. However, nothing can replace the unique feeling of being able to interact together as a whole school.

This week we were marking deaf awareness week and thinking about how we can support those members of the school community who have hearing loss. We have been learning about how taking action and making small changes can have a positive impact on everyday life for deaf people and those with hearing loss. It was also a wonderful opportunity for us all to practise our assembly greeting using British sign language.

Mrs Howell



Online Safety and Playtime Games

It has been brought to our attention that there is an online horror game circulating on You Tube and Tik Tok which some children are talking about in school and are replicating on the playground. It is called Poppy's Playtime and is based on a toy with the innocuous sounding name of 'Huggy Wuggy', which chases you around a toy factory. This is a very unsettling and scary game which has resulted in a number of children being upset, scared and anxious. The game has an age rating of 12 plus

and is, therefore, not suitable for children of primary school age.

We have spoken to children across school about this game not being suitable for them to play. Please could we ask you to reiterate these messages at home and ensure that children do not bring 'Huggy Wuggy' toys in to school. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Pocket Toys—A Reminder

Children are most welcome to bring a pocket toy into school to play with at break times but they must follow the following guidelines. **All pocket toys must be small enough to fit into a child's pocket;** large toys e.g. soft toys and teddy bears are not allowed. Please do not bring anything which is precious or has great sentimental value as school cannot be responsible for pocket toys which are lost, damaged or broken. Pocket toys must not be shared with other children and are for individual use only. During lesson time, all pocket toys must be kept in children's trays or their bag.

To avoid arguments trading cards are not allowed in school.

Team Building in Year 4

The ability to work as part of a team is a vital skill that children need to develop as they move through school. These important skills help children to learn together, listen carefully, communicate clearly with each other, and think creatively so that they become confident, independent learners.

This week Mrs Pashley, from the Cambridge Sports Partnership, visited school to help Aquila and Cygnus Classes develop their ability to work collaboratively by taking turns, ensuring fair play and praising and supporting each other. The children had great fun solving a range of problems such as Charlotte's Web and giant Jenga; mastering the plank walkers and working out how to transport the whole team across an imaginary river.

It was wonderful to see the children's self-esteem and confidence growing throughout the sessions which helped to create a truly positive and collaborative learning environment.



Join the Monkfield Park Team

Teaching Assistant (Level 2 pay scale) & Midday Supervisor

We are looking for enthusiastic, caring professionals who are highly motivated and passionate about children's learning and well-being to support children across the setting (2 to 11 year olds). You will be flexible, patient, have a can-do/roll up your sleeves attitude, together with a cheerful welcoming disposition to support the varying needs, challenges and ages of our children, who are the reason why we are here!

Teaching Assistant 25 hours per week – 9.00 am to 12 noon, 1.25 pm to 3.25 pm, daily, term time only.

Midday Supervisor 5 hours per week – 12.25 pm to 1.25 pm, daily, term time only.

We have enthusiastic children, supportive parents and governors, as well as positive engagement with other local schools and the wider community. You will be part of a supportive, hardworking team based in a well-resourced building in the developing town of Cambourne. Staff development/coaching (both external and internal, individual and group) to meet the needs of our children is high on our agenda, together with regular team meetings, close liaison with the Inclusion Co-ordinator and the teaching staff.

We had our Ofsted Inspection in November 2018 where the school was judged as good. The Inspector found that "Children have positive attitudes to learning" and "Good relationships between pupils and with adults contribute to pupils' strong progress". The Inspector also stated that "Staff are proud to work at the school and want the very best for the pupils that they teach".

Monkfield Park Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The above post is subject to an enhanced DBS check. We are a two form entry primary school with extended school facilities.

Please call for an application pack. CV applications will not be considered.

Visits to the school are very welcome - please contact the school office.

We look forward to you joining our team. This advertisement will be live on a rolling basis until the positions have been filled.

Shortlisting – weekly basis

Interview – by invitation



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:

Max J in Phoenix Class: We are so impressed with the huge changes Max has made to his writing. It has been wonderful to see Max grow in confidence and push himself to achieve the best possible outcomes in his work. Well done Max, we are very proud of you.

Fareed in Columba Class: It has been a joy to see Fareed transform his attitude to learning over the past term. His smile shows how much he is enjoying his work and he is always eager to challenge himself.

Nathan in Violet Class: So many teachers have told me about Nathan's eagerness to help and support others. It is wonderful to know that Nathan is putting the Monkfield Way into action every single day. Thank you for being such a reflective learner Nathan.

An Artist In the Making

I am always delighted when children come to show me their work but I was well and truly bowled over when Aiyana came to share her artwork with me this week. Since she first joined Monkfield Park we have been aware of Aiyana's passion for art, but I am sure you will agree with me that she has a wonderful talent and promises to be a truly great artist in the future. In the meantime we are proudly displaying her latest artwork, which is based on the traditional Indian technique of Warli painting, in school. Well done Aiyana.



Welcome To Miss Coates

We would like to extend a big welcome to Miss Coates who has joined the Monkfield Park team. Miss Coates will be teaching in a job share alongside Mrs O'Rourke in Yellow Class.

Mrs O'Rourke will be teaching Yellow Class for four days each week (Monday to Thursday) with Miss Coates teaching one day each week (Friday). Please do say hello to Miss Coates when you meet her on the playground or around school.

EXTENDING THE SCHOOL DAY—Important Information

Many of you may already be aware that the Department for Education recently announced the publication of the government's white paper, Opportunity for all: strong school with great teachers for your child. The white paper sets out the expectation that all state-funded mainstream schools must deliver a minimum school week of 32.5 hours as soon as they can.

Consequently, we will be extending the length of the school day for children in Reception and Key Stage 1 from September 2022 to meet this requirement.

From Monday 5th September 2022 the school day will be extended by fifteen minutes to finish at 3.30 pm for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This will bring them in line with Key Stage 2.

From September, the school day will run from 8.50 am to 3.30 pm for all children in school.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Save the Date—The Circus is Coming

We are extremely excited that FOMP have arranged for the National Festival Circus to come to Monkfield Park on Thursday 9th June! The National Festival Circus is a magical mix of laughter and excitement - Slapstick clowns, balancing equilibrilists, fast tempo juggling, baffling magic, high flying diabolos, mesmerising spinning hoops and bucketsful of fabulous fun delivered under the Big Top!

Tickets are now on sale exclusively for the school community at an Early Bird price of £6.50. However, this offer ends at midnight on Sunday 15th May. Tickets will then increase to £7.50 each from Monday 16th May and will be made available to the local community as well. If you would like to purchase your tickets for this truly spectacular event please contact Helen Hickmott of FOMP for further information



Jubilee Break the Rules Day

We know how much the children love a 'Break the Rules Day', so we are delighted to announce that we will be holding a very special Break the Rules Day on Friday 27th May in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The day is being organised by FOMP as a fundraising event to help us to purchase new books for our school library. More details will follow shortly so please save the day and start hunting out lots of patriotic red, white and blue items.

'Fines' will be 50p per rule on the list or £2.50 for every rule listed!

FORTHCOMING DATES

9th to 12th May	Key Stage 2 SATS week
17th May	Reception Summer performance at 10am
18th May	Year 5 visit to Harry Potter World
18th May	Reception Summer performance at 2pm
23rd to 27th May	PGL week for Year 6
27th May	Break the Rules Day
27th May	Break up for Half Term
6th June	INSET Day
7th June	INSET Day
8th June to 10th June	Eco week
9th June	FOMP Circus event
10th June	Phoenix Class Assembly
10th June	The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations
13th to 17th June	STEM week
17th June	Class photographs
21st June	Year 3 performance at 2pm
22nd June	Reception and KS1 Sports Day (Reserve Sports day on 24th June)
22nd June	New Reception parents' evening
23rd June	Year 3 performance at 2pm
28th June	Key Stage 2 Sports Day (Reserve Sports Day on 29th June)
1st July	Lacerta Class assembly
7th July 8th July	Reports sent out to parents and carers
11th July	Reports Drop In session for parents
11th to 15th July	Healthy Lifestyles Week
13th July	Year 6 performance at 6pm
14th July	Year 6 performance at 6pm
20th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
21st July	Last day of the Summer term and school year

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

Rabbit Room News

The children have been so excited to watch our caterpillars growing this week. They have certainly got bigger very quickly! Today the caterpillars have started to hang down from the lid of their pot and prepare to make cocoons. What a wonderful learning opportunity for the children!

At our maths table, we have also been busy counting caterpillars and recognising numerals. Next week in our Maths Group Time we will be focusing on recognising amounts of objects (1-5) without the need to count them - 'just knowing' or subitising. This is an essential early number skill. Perhaps you can practise at home too? Start with amounts of 1-3 objects before moving on to 4 and 5. Look at regular number patterns such as those on dice and numicon, as well as different, irregular arrangements of objects.



Help Needed!

We have a very sad cushion cover in our reading den which needs some TLC! Are there any keen sewers out there who would be willing to make us a new cover with a zip? We would be able to cover the cost of the fabric. If you can help, please speak to Mrs Beresford.