

# Newsletter 14

Friday 17th December 2021

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## Seasons Greetings

As we come to the end of another interesting Autumn term I would like to thank each and every one of our families for your continued support. From your responses to the parental survey, we know how much you would like to be back in the school buildings, sharing in the daily life of the school and seeing your children learn. The continuing challenges of Covid-19 have required careful ongoing management to ensure everyone's safety but please can I assure you that as soon as the guidance allows us to do so we will be only too delighted to welcome you all back into the school.

Despite the continuing challenges, our dedicated staff have continued to offer the children the best possible learning experiences and support. I am extremely grateful for their hard work and would like to express my thanks to them.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very joyful, safe and restful Christmas. The children have worked so hard over the past fifteen weeks and certainly deserve some much needed relaxation. On behalf of all the staff I hope Santa brings you everything on your list and we look forward to welcoming the children back in January, ready to embrace all the exciting learning opportunities that the New Year will bring.

Mrs Howell

## Year 4 Reading Record

Cygnus and Aquila Classes held a small pre-Christmas celebration this week to mark an incredible achievement. Way back in September we set all the children a challenge to increase the amount of reading they were doing each day. With the introduction of Accelerated Reader, we established the 100% Club for children in Key Stage 2 to motivate them to read more and complete the Accelerated Reader quizzes for all the books that they read. We all know how much children love a challenge and this has proved to be extremely popular with the children. Year 4 have really grasped the reading challenge and this week they celebrated having read an incredible **5,000,000** words since September!

This is a great achievement and it was lovely to see the children celebrating this huge milestone with an afternoon of reading and a cup of hot chocolate. Well done to everyone in Cygnus and Aquila Class.



### Application for Reception Places for September 2022

Applications for Reception school places for September 2022 can now be made to the Cambridgeshire County Council Admissions Team. You can apply online at: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions) or the school office will provide you with a paper copy of the form. The closing date for the first round of applications is 15th January 2022.

We appreciate that selecting the right school for your child is not an easy decision to make. Please can I encourage prospective parents to join one of our 'parent tours' so that you can see the school at first hand and we can have the opportunity to tell you what makes Monkfield Park such a special place to learn. Following advice from the Local Authority we are avoiding large gatherings to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19. However, we are still offering very small tours for two parents at a time and request that visitors wear face masks when in the school building. Please contact the school office to book on to a tour.

### FORTHCOMING DATES 2021 to 2022

17th December—LAST DAY OF TERM

20th December—3rd January 2022—CHRISTMAS BREAK

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

5th January—Children return to school

10th January—Healthy Selfie campaign week

25th January—Year 6 SATs information evening for parents

28th January—Violet Class assembly

4th February - Columba Class assembly

4th March—Green Class assembly

4th March—Mid term reports sent to parents

10th March—Book Fair

15th March—Year 5 performance at 2pm

17th March—Year 5 performance at 6pm

18th March—Dorado Class assembly

22nd March—Parent consultation evening

25th March—Aquila Class assembly

28th March—NHS Vision screening for Reception and Year 1 children

31st March—Parent consultation evening

1st April—LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM

19th April—INSET Day

19th April—Year 4 residential visit to Burwell House.

20th April—Start of Summer term

**Thank you.**

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for all for your very generous gifts, cards and good wishes; they are very much appreciated. I am always humbled by the generosity of our parent body who support us unfailingly throughout the year.

May I wish you a safe, happy and peaceful holiday from us all at Monkfield Park.

**Turkey, Tinsel and Christmas Jumpers**



On Thursday Mrs Tucker and the amazing catering team served up a delicious traditional Christmas lunch for the whole school to enjoy. This is always an exciting event which requires huge amounts of planning to ensure everything is cooked to perfection. With incredible dedication the team peeled and chopped mountains of vegetables, roasted mounds of potatoes and prepared vast numbers of turkeys to ensure we were all well and truly fed.

The children and staff sported an incredible array of Christmas jumpers which gave the occasion an extra festive feel and also raised funds for our charity of the year, Cancer Research. A huge thank you to Mrs Tucker and her wonderful team for their patience and dedication in making sure we have wonderful lunches throughout the year.

**Christmas Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme**

During the Christmas holidays, the Christmas HAF Programme is offering eligible children and young people, in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals, a fully funded place of up to 16 hours at a participating holiday scheme and experiences of their choice.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Parents HAF webpage gives further information on how to book a place and includes a video of the Summer HAF programme. This is a valuable opportunity for your child to take part in enriching experiences, physical activity and receive a nutritious meal during the school holidays.

For further information please contact: [HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Or scan the QR code for more information on how to register.





### WOW DAYS

Year 3 had an exciting day imagining what it would have been like to live in Cambridgeshire more than 5,000 years ago. The



children had enormous fun producing clay beads to make authentic jewellery, creating their own cave paintings and knapping bars of soap to make some very realistic



spear heads and flint tools. The children agreed it was a wonderful day of immersive, creative learning to round off their topic.

### Year 6 Experience World War I

This week Year 6 consolidated their learning from this half term's topic with an immersive World War I WOW day. They came to school dressed appropriately for the era, as soldiers, nurses, farm workers and many walking wounded. Working in teams the children converted old-fashioned imperial measurements such as gills into pints to enable them to bake their Yorkshire Parkin. They researched local heroes who received the Victoria Cross for their bravery, before making medals in their honour. In art, they created their own soldier silhouette art and are now all experts in improvised first aid following a 1914 crash course. This was a memorable way to finish off our topic which has really captured everyone's interest.



### Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert

On Thursday evening Year 4 took part in their traditional 'Christmas Carol Concert' celebrations with the event beamed to their parents and families via Zoom. This delightful occasion provided our children with the opportunity to perform to a virtual audience and showcase what a talented group they are. Their spirited musical programme included several familiar seasonal pieces and some fine carol singing, as well as clear and confident readings. We were so proud of the children who brought home the true meaning of Christmas to us through their wonderful performance.

For those who missed the live Zoom broadcast and the technical hitches, for which we apologise, the recording is available on the website and can be accessed using the password which was e-mailed to parents and carers via the school office.



### A Very Wiggly Nativity

The first performance of the Year 1 Nativity Play always signals the beginning of Christmas for me and this year was no exception. Wiggly Nativity is a retelling of the traditional Christmas story through some very catchy songs and wiggly dance moves.

A Wiggly Nativity gives every single child, angel or sheep, the opportunity to channel his or her excited energy and restless enthusiasm into telling the nativity story. We were all so impressed by the fantastic performances, the enthusiastic singing and the dance moves were very wiggly indeed. The children thoroughly enjoyed all their rehearsals and it was wonderful to see them taking to the stage with such confidence and pleasure.

Although we were unable to invite families into school for the performance, thanks to Zoom we were able to stream the performance into everyone's living rooms and it was wonderful to see the children singing along as they watched. The recording will be available on the website and can be accessed using the password which was e-mailed to parents and carers via the school office.





# 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:

Wai Wai in Indigo Class: It has been a delight to see Wai Wai growing in confidence and becoming such an impressive learner. He always tries so hard and pushes himself to do the best that he can whilst being kind and respectful to adults and a great friend to everyone.

Abhinaav in Dorado Class: Abhinaav we have noticed how hard you have been working recently and how determined you have become to make good choices in school. You have proved that with hard work you can achieve great things. Well done.

Alina in Pegasus Class: Alina is a quiet force for good in our school. You always set an example for everyone through your hard work and determination to see a job through to the end, even when carrying out Year 6 lunch duties. Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness when helping others.

## Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to re-tell the Christmas story using actions.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you about the invention of the first aeroplane and what it was made from.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you what happens in the story of the Polar Express.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you about their favourite activity from their WOW day this week.

Ask your Year 4 child to tell you what the arguments for and against zoos are.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you what the important features are when writing a persuasive letter.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain how maggots were used as a first aid treatment for wounds in World War I.

### Reception Get a Virtual Visit

Reception have had the pleasure of meeting Santa virtually today. They had a lot of questions to ask him and his elf! They wanted to know how he knows exactly where to deliver all of the presents, how his sleigh can travel so quickly and even asked how he stays awake all night! They were excited to tell him of all of the food and drinks they would be leaving for him on Christmas Eve and didn't forget about the reindeers who Santa had told them were resting so they too had enough energy for the busy night ahead!

The children were privileged to have a virtual author visit from the famous Julia Donaldson. They discussed their favourite books that she had written and were excited to listen to her new story that will be released soon. They joined in with the Stick Man song and watched the illustrators show them how they create the images for the famous stories such as Superworm and Father Christmas in Stick Man. This inspired the children to all have a go at drawing!



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

### Rabbit and Hedgehog Room News

What a busy week we have had at the Care and Learning Centre, full of Christmas crafts and special events...

The children sang beautifully at our Christmas Song Time and we were so proud of them! There were more than 40 parents and family members in the Zoom call which was a fantastic turn out! After the performance the Hedgehog and Rabbit group children joined together to have a celebratory snack time and then did some Christmas dancing and played musical statues. All of this excitement was followed by a delicious Christmas dinner with Christmas tablecloths and crackers.

On Thursday afternoon we had a very special Zoom call with Father Christmas! The children were very excited to see him on the screen and he even left us each a present to take home. Thank you Father Christmas!

We would like to thank all of the Pre-School parents for their gifts, cards and kind wishes and wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

