

Newsletter 9

Friday 13th November 2020

In this issue:

A wonderful community

Children in Need 2020

Communicating with school

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Balanceability

Consultation

Diwali

Sentence starters

Headteacher's Roll of Honour

Forthcoming dates

A Wonderful Community

With our annual Remembrance Day falling on Wednesday of this week we have all had the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices previous generations made and to think about those who are carrying on that tradition of self-sacrifice today. As I sit here writing the weekly newsletter I feel so grateful to be part of the Cambourne community which never fails to amaze and inspire me. The support we receive from our parents and carers at the school gates each day makes us feel so humble and we are very grateful for all your kind words and gestures. The children are a real lesson in resilience for us all; their unfailing optimism and delight in the small things in life make them a joy to be around and to learn with. As a community Cambourne has much to teach others—your generosity and large hearts make the world a much better place. Thank you.

Mrs Howell

Children in Need 2020

Some superstitious people may view **Friday 13th November** with a little trepidation, but not Monkfield Park. With their usual delight in dressing up or down, the children and staff went all out to celebrate the annual Children in Need Day and to raise money to support those children and families who are less fortunate. School was a sea of green, red, white and blue, Pudsey Bear's traditional colours, as the children took part in a range of activities around this year's theme of mental health and wellbeing. As soon as we have managed to count up all your generous donations we will let you know how much was raised for this very good cause.



Communicating with School

We are currently finding that a number of parents are attempting to communicate with their child's class teacher via Seesaw. Please can I politely ask that all communications for class teachers are sent via the school office using the e-mail address: office@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk

Seesaw is a platform for setting and uploading children's work and as a means for teachers to feedback to the children about their work. Messages left by parents on Seesaw have now become a part of their child's profile which is causing some issues for teachers when marking and assessing the children's work. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



A Message from Cambridgeshire Constabulary



Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As the recent Safer Schools Newsletter highlighted, this week Cambridgeshire Constabulary is taking part in a national operation, Operation Sceptre, to tackle knife crime.

For further information about knife crime and what to do if you suspect a loved one is carrying a knife, please visit <https://bit.ly/3jUafTy>

Kind regards,

Children and Young People Team, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Balanceability

Each week for this half term, our Reception children are taking part in the Balanceability programme which is delivered through the Cambridgeshire Sports Partnership. This specially designed programme uses unique ergonomic balance bikes and a range of fun activities to build children's confidence, spatial awareness and dynamic balance skills, enabling young children to cycle without ever needing stabilisers.

Through the first lockdown there was a huge increase in cycling with people looking for ways to keep fit and exercise. I am sure you will agree that our children are well on their way to developing the skills which will enable them to take part safely in this very beneficial and enjoyable activity.

Who knows, a future winner of the Tour de France may be honing their skills on our playground at this very moment!



**We must
keep on protecting
each other.**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE



Proposal to extend the age range to include a Sixth Form at Cambourne Village College

The Cam Academy Trust is proposing to extend the age range at Cambourne Village College from its current 11-16 to 11-18. This will create a new Sixth Form provision at the school. It is proposed that the Sixth Form should be for 350 Sixth Form students in total across Years 12 and 13. The suggested start date for this provision is September 2023 with Year 12 students only permitted in 2023 and then moving on to Years 12 and 13 in September 2024 and beyond. The educational provision is intended to be very largely Level 3 provision with a mixture of both A level courses and applied/vocational programmes.

The Cam Academy Trust is consulting on this proposal. Responses to this proposal are sought from interested parties. The consultation began on **Monday 9 November** and concludes on **Friday 11 December**.

Responses can be emailed to: consultations@catrust.co.uk with 'Age Range extension at Cambourne Village College' in the title bar. Alternatively, hard copies of any responses can be delivered to reception at Cambourne Village College.

The Cam Academy Trust is prepared to hold a virtual consultation event on this proposal if there is a desire to do so from interested parties. Please indicate an interest in attending such an event in an email to consultations@catrust.co.uk. If there is interest, then arrangements will be made to hold a virtual consultation event and information about this will be circulated.

Celebrating Diwali in Reception

It was a virtual trip to India for our Reception children in Orange class and Yellow class this week to learn about the important Hindu festival of Diwali, which has been celebrated across the world throughout this week. Using the delightful story book, 'Dipal's Diwali', the children have discovered how this colourful festival is celebrated and the im-

portance placed by people of the Hindu faith on generosity and helping others as part of their celebrations. Everyone had a wonderful time dressing up, making rangoli patterns and their own versions of the beautifully decorated diva lamps to brighten up the classrooms.



A Polite Reminder

Following the guidelines issued by the government with regards to the current lockdown, please can I politely remind everyone that where possible one family member should drop off and collect children from the gates to avoid congestion on the footpaths. Thank you.

Headteacher Roll of Honour

Thea in Phoenix class—Thea has been a welcoming and reassuring friend for a new child who has recently joined our school. With great kindness and care, she has exemplified the very essence of Monkfield Park.

Rohan in Orange class—Rohan has impressed everyone with his kind and thoughtful actions. He is always polite and ready to help anyone.

Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you about Diwali and how it is celebrated.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you what the characters made their houses from in their story.

Ask your Year 2 child to explain why people wear poppies on November 11th.

Ask your Year 3 child how many countries in Europe can they name.

Ask your Year 4 child to use two adjectives to describe their door that opens up The Black Rock.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you about the strategies they can use when they are feeling overwhelmed.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain what a homophone is and give you some examples.

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.

w/c 16th November—Anti bullying week

16th November—Flu vaccinations

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.



Your Early Intervention Family Worker

Virtual Drop in's
Mon/Tue/Wednesdays
2:30-3:30pm
Booking essential.

Early Intervention Family Workers offer you an opportunity to ask for information, advice and support on any issue affecting your family life in a relaxed and confidential environment. These areas include:

- Challenging behaviour
- Routines
- Supporting emotions and wellbeing
- School transitions
- Parenting strategies
- Building resilience and confidence
- Any other family challenges you might be facing

As Early Intervention Family Workers we offer support in various ways:

- 1:1 sessions
- Workshops on specific topics
- Attending school events
- Group sessions on areas of need
- Signposting to other services

During the coronavirus pandemic we are still offering support, however this is currently on a virtual basis.

For more information speak to your school office or contact us directly on:
✉ Samantha.stacey@cambridgeshire.gov.uk ☎ 01954 284604

