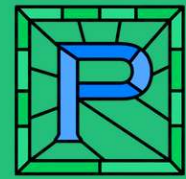


The Monkfield Mail



A weekly round-up of what is happening in our school

Issue 1: Friday 4th September 2026



Mr Sweeney's Shout Out...

Welcome back after what was a very warm Summer! I hope that you have had a restful (if that was possible) and enjoyable break, and also hope that you are looking forward to the new school year, as we all are.

As you can see, this is a new format for the weekly newsletter, and I hope that you enjoy reading about what is happening across Monkfield Park and Care and Learning Centre in each issue. This week's newsletter is a slightly trimmed down version due to the children only being in for two days before this being shared.

It has been lovely to meet many of you outside both yesterday and today, and I am looking forward to meeting more of you over the coming weeks (I have also included my photo just so you can put a face to a name). In my short time at Monkfield, it is already very clear to me what a wonderful community I have joined. I would also like to thank Mrs Howell for sharing her wealth of knowledge and a school with many successes with me; I am looking forward to building on her educational legacy with you all. It is clear there is a huge amount of potential at Monkfield Park - I cannot wait to see that realised over the coming year and beyond.

Whilst we are only two days in, the staff have been in since Tuesday. Focussing on safeguarding training and looking at the Monkfield curriculum. It has been great to spend time in each classroom and get to know the children. The enthusiasm and willingness to learn they have already shown is a really exciting sign for the rest of this year. I know all of the staff feel this! In our first assembly this week, I shared my love of superheroes and we discussed what it means to 'be a hero' focussing on being kind, resilient and taking a risk; we will be looking at this more next week, linking to 'The Monkfield Way'.

I am looking forward to working with you and am already excited to share what's happening across Monkfield Park next week. We look forward to seeing many of you next Tuesday, 8th September, at our 'Meet The Teacher' afternoon after school.

Have an excellent weekend, mine will be spent running and looking after my two young boys - our youngest turns two next week, so there is lots to sort before then!

Thank you for your continued support.
Mr Sweeney and the Monkfield Park Team

The Monkfield Way:

We are tolerant and respectful of other people
We are confident and responsible people
We try our best in everything we do
We look after ourselves, each other and the environment
We love learning together.



Safeguarding at Monkfield:

Attendance:

We are sure that, like us, you as parents and carers realise the importance of attendance and punctuality. At Monkfield Park, we continue to work hard to ensure all children are in school as much as possible and to reduce incidences of lateness.

Attendance facts:

- All schools must report their termly attendance percentages to the local authority.
- Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child receives a full-time education.
- Parents can be issued with a fixed penalty notice for failing to ensure their child attends school regularly – this includes taking a child out of school on holiday.
- The local authority has the power to prosecute parents in the magistrate's court for the offence of failing to ensure their child attends school regularly.
- If your child arrives from 9.20 am onwards, we are required to mark them as having an unauthorised absence for the whole morning – arriving after 9.19 am once in a week brings their attendance down to 90% for that week. If a child arrives between 9.00am and 9.19am, they will receive a late mark.

There is much evidence to show that good attendance plays a vital role in helping your child to achieve their potential.

Children who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Fall behind in their school work
- Find it difficult to make and keep friends
- Be unhappy at school
- Misbehave so that others cannot see that they are finding the work difficult
- Learn poor attendance habits that follow through to secondary school and future employment
- Being frequently late adds up to lost learning. For example, arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks of the year
- When children are late they find it harder to settle in to the routine of the day
- When children arrive late they often miss key messages and teaching which continues to have an effect on their learning for the rest of the lesson or day

Getting here on time every day really is important in helping your child to become a happy and successful learner. Every day really does count!

CLC Updates:

Welcome!

Welcome back everyone, and an especially warm welcome to our 11 new children and their families starting with us this term. The returning children settled back really well after the Summer break and have had a great time reconnecting with their friends and exploring the setting and resources once again. On Thursday, some of the staff team carried out Home Visits for our new children, who today, have been in for their first sessions, alongside their parents. It's been lovely to begin to get to know everyone and we can't wait for the exciting term ahead!

Welly Boots and Sun hats

As Autumn is fast approaching, but we are still experiencing some hot, sunny days, please ensure that you send in both a clearly named pair of welly boots and a sun hat for your child to keep at Pre-School. Thank you!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Jane Turner

Early Years Teacher

Pre-School Manager

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