

The Monkfield Mail



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

Issue 6: Friday 9nd October 2026

Mr Sweeney's Shout Out...

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is only two weeks until half term; I am not quite sure where the time has gone and how much has happened since September already. It is feeling incredibly autumnal all of a sudden, and my favourite season feels like it is finally here. The children are now really settled into classroom routines, and although it is clear that they are very tired, it has been really pleasing to see that they are still working hard, remaining polite and are still excited to share their learning with me regularly.

The month of October is also 'Black History Month' and this year's focus is 'Honouring Our Communities'. Each class is exploring how people have helped their communities through belonging, determination, fairness, courage and standing up for what is right, and have their own inspirational individuals that they are exploring ranging from Mae Jameson to The Windrush Generation. Our assemblies will also continue to discuss key individuals too.

I thoroughly enjoy my time wandering into classrooms, seeing and hearing about the exciting, purposeful learning that is taking place in each room. It is also a real privilege to share this learning with you weekly too, and this week is no different. In Orange Class this week, the children went on an autumn walk today and then sorted the items they had found into colours. They were then keen to continue learning about autumn on their return and were able to share different signs of autumn as they drew autumn pictures. This week, in Science, Year One have been learning about different animal groups. They explored the features of fish and compared them with amphibians and reptiles. The children loved observing the fish closely and identifying their scales, fins and gills. They were particularly surprised to discover that the fish had black tongues! This week, Year Two have been so busy. There has been a buzz of excitement around the elections for school council and eco club. Well done to all those brave candidates who put themselves forward. In Science, the children used data about the growth of a chick to build bar graphs in order to present the information in a more scientific manner. Whilst in Geography, the children learnt more about the geographical features of countries in the UK. Did you know that Loch Ness contains more water than all the lakes and rivers of England and Wales combined?

Meanwhile, in PE, Year Three pupils have been exploring movements and balances performed in unison. They will continue to develop their skills by creating floor sequences that combine a range of movements and balances, flowing smoothly from one action to the next. Year Four have continued their work around the text 'The Thieves of Ostia' creating questions and recounts in role of key characters. Year Five have just finished an epic Times Tables Rock Stars battle! The competition was incredibly close all week, with every single child laser-focused on speeding up their multiplication recall. After a thrilling neck-and-neck race, Lacerta class clinched the victory by a razor-thin margin of just 16 points. A massive well done to our new rock legends in Lacerta! Year Six have demonstrated their musical skills by creating their own grime beats and rhythms this week.

Next week sees the first of our parent evening consultations. We are looking forward to sharing your child's progress with you on either **Tuesday 13th October** or **Thursday 21st October**. Year Six and Dorado class have slightly different dates, but these have been sent to you via the school office.

I hope you have an enjoyable, autumnal weekend. We are off pumpkin picking, which has become an annual family tradition, and my marathon training really kicks in!

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:

Helping children use AI safely, respectfully and responsibly

Artificial intelligence is becoming part of children's everyday lives. It can support learning and creativity, but primary-aged children still need adult guidance to understand what AI is, recognise its limits and use it in ways that protect themselves and others.

Your child may already be using AI

Children do not need to open a dedicated AI app to encounter artificial intelligence. It may be built into search engines, homework tools, games, smart speakers, video platforms and photo-editing features. They might use it to answer questions, explain a school topic, suggest story ideas, translate words, change pictures or talk to a chatbot. Ask your child where they have encountered AI and what they think it does- they may know more about using it than about staying safe.

What is generative AI?

Generative AI creates new content, including words, pictures, videos and music, in response to a question or instruction. AI can look and sound confident and convincing, but AI is not always accurate, appropriate or fair. AI does not think or understand things in the same way that a person does. Children may copy an AI-generated answer without understanding it, believe inaccurate information or accidentally share personal details. AI can also be misused to create unkind or embarrassing images, pretend to be someone else or produce content that frightens or upsets another person. What feels like a joke to one child can have a real impact on someone else's feelings, reputation and safety.

Using AI safely

Children should never share their full name, school, address, location, passwords, photographs or private worries with an AI tool. They should use age-appropriate services with adult support and tell a trusted adult if AI produces anything upsetting, confusing or inappropriate.

Using AI respectfully

Children should ask permission before using another person's name, photograph or voice. AI should never be used to embarrass, frighten, impersonate or be unkind to someone-even as a joke.

Using AI responsibly

AI should help children develop their ideas, not do all their thinking for them. Children should check answers with an adult or another reliable source and explain what they have learnt in their own words.

Wear Red - Friday 16th October

Just a reminder that we have invited all members of our school community to wear red to 'Show Racism the Red Card' next Friday!

Attendance Information:

Well done to...

Please remember to let us know as soon as possible if your child will not be in by calling or emailing the office.



Care and Learning Centre News:

We love books!

Each week at Pre-School, the staff plan a focus story, which we read to the children every day. Once the story has been introduced on a Monday, we put a copy of the book into our reading area for the children to also read independently or with friends. As they become more familiar with the focus book across the week, they may begin to recite the story, repeat the refrains or retell it in their own words. Young children love the familiarity of repetition and these activities really help to develop early literacy skills.

This week our focus story has been, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. The children have loved joining in with the refrains and sound effects, as well as acting out various parts of the story.

We also place great importance on looking after our books, learning to turn the pages carefully and to replace books to the bookshelf when we have finished.

Best wishes,
Jane and the CLC Team

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