

The Monkfield Mail



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

Issue 7: Friday 16th October 2026

Mr Sweeney's Shout Out...



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now on the final run-down to half term! The children (and staff) are clearly very tired, but I have been incredibly impressed by their resilience and enthusiasm that is still not waning. I am incredibly proud to be the Headteacher of such a special school. This week, there have been lots of discussions around progress and next steps both as a staff team and with parents, and I truly believe there is a lot to be excited about, but a lot to be grateful for too.

As you know, children had the opportunity to wear red today to 'Show Racism The Red Card', and I have been blown away by the sheer volume of red around the school (and enjoyed an excuse to get my Liverpool shirt out - much to Mrs McCarthy's displeasure), but also have been really impressed by the mature conversations and questions raised by children when discussing what racism is and how this can impact so many of us in our school community. In our Monday assembly this week, we explored the text 'What is Racism?' and discussed how it can impact so many of us. The children were incredibly sensitive when identifying how nobody should be subjected to any form of prejudice regardless of any protected characteristic, and were able to share how they could make a difference. This was a tricky concept to discuss and every year group's maturity and empathy really shone through.

Orange class have been wowing us with their phonetic reading skills this week, the progress they have made is superb. Meanwhile, Year One have been reading the book Elmer, and wrote sentences about how Elmer was special, and how they are special; there have been some absolutely wonderful discussions about how they are all unique. Year Two have been working hard with adding and subtracting over ten barriers. Year Three enjoyed an exciting online session with the Royal Opera House on Thursday. The introductory lesson took the children on a journey through time as they explored ballet, opera and design, with a live performance helping to bring the history of these art forms to life. Year Four have been investigating evaporation and condensation in science this week. As part of their hands-on learning, they have placed test cups of water around the school to explore how different temperatures impact evaporation rates - there are cups in very unusual places in school currently! Year Five have had a fantastic Ancient Greek "Wow Day" today! The children immersed themselves in history by drawing intricate Greek columns, exploring a virtual Parthenon, and then building their own scale models. They also crafted traditional olive leaf wreaths and concluded the day by competing in their very own Olympic Games. Year Six had a workshop delivered by community coordinators from South Cambs about our local area. The children identified the areas of their community they enjoyed and what could make them even better. They finished by writing a pledge to help support our community in Cambourne.

A big shout out to our KS2 cross country runners who represented Monkfield Park impeccably at the Wimpole cross country event this Wednesday. There were some cracking finishing times, and some superb running. Well done everyone!

Whatever your weekend holds, I hope it's an enjoyable one. We are heading to a soft play birthday party, and I am looking forward to some time with our boys. I might not be saying that when I'm climbing up to the slides for the 30th time!

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:

Every adult at Monkfield Park has a duty to keep children safe, this includes being kept safe from prejudice, bullying and racism. All staff are trained to recognise and respond to these concerns promptly. We do not accept racist, homophobic, sexist or other prejudice-based language or behaviour, and we take every incident seriously, whether it happens in the classroom, on the playground, on the way to school or online.

What we mean by these terms

- Prejudice-based language includes any words or phrases that demean someone because of their race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender or family background. Children may use such language without understanding how hurtful it is, but its impact is the same.
- Bullying is behaviour that is repeated, intended to hurt, and involves an imbalance of power. It can be physical, verbal, emotional or online, and it can be targeted at a child because of who they are or who they are perceived to be.
- Racism includes racist remarks, jokes, name-calling, images, gestures, graffiti, exclusion and any behaviour that treats someone unfairly because of their ethnicity, nationality or skin colour. Racist behaviour is never acceptable, and we treat it as a serious safeguarding matter.

Describing something as "just banter" or "only a joke" does not make it acceptable.

We teach children about respect and diversity, and we encourage them to be upstanders who speak up for others. When an incident is reported, we listen to everyone involved, keep the affected child safe, investigate fairly, involve you at an appropriate point and make referrals to external agencies where a child may be at risk.

You can help at home by:

- Talking regularly about friendships and what your child sees online.
- Challenging stereotypes and explaining why hurtful language matters.
- Encouraging your child to tell you if something upsets them.
- Keeping screenshots of abusive messages, without replying, and sharing them with us.

Scarecrow Trail!

Look out for our very own 'Monkfield Scarecrow' as part of the Light Up Cambourne Scarecrow trail. A huge thank you to a committed group of Year Sixes who have designed this.

Attendance Information:

Well done to **every class** this week with each class having attendance figures of over 95%! Wow!
A big shout out to Cygnus class who had attendance figures of 99.4% this week.



Care and Learning Centre News:

We Are All Different

This week, in the lead up to Wear Red Day, we have been celebrating our differences! We have looked at a book called 'We are all Different' and talked about each of our various hair, eye and skin colourings. We discussed that although we are all different and unique, we can all be friends. At Together Time, we looked in a mirror and then described ourselves to our friends. We have also made some face pictures choosing different skin, eye and hair colours.

Song Time

During this half-term the children have been busy learning new songs and rhymes, some of which have been related to our learning themes. We would love to invite all parents and carers to come and listen to our wonderful singing on Thursday 22nd October at 9.15 am. If your child does not normally attend preschool at this time, you are very welcome to bring them along for this event.



Best wishes,
Jane and the CLC Team

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