

The Monkfield Mail



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

Issue 8: Friday 23rd October 2026

Mr Sweeney's Shout Out...



Dear Parents/Carers,

Where have the last eight weeks gone!? I cannot believe that we are already at our first half term of the year; there is a lot to be positive about. Whilst I may have only been at the school for a short period of time, looking back a lot has been achieved across every year group, and there is much to be proud of for us all, which we hope you found too at parent consultations. The children have definitely earned a week's rest.

In our assemblies this week, we have revisited 'The Monkfield Way' with a clear focus on respecting others and the importance of rules. As we reach the end of a half term, it can be easy to forget this. We were all in agreement that regardless of how we feel or if we are not ourselves, we must always show respect to all of those around us. A huge well done to Phoenix Class for their assembly today - it was wonderful to hear all about your learning.

There has been a lot of wonderful learning across the school in our final week of Autumn 1. In Reception, the children have been finding out lots of information about superheroes (my favourite topic) and have been creating their own superhero stories with a beginning, middle and end. Year One have been playing Number Bond Hungry Hippos while practising their number bonds to 10. The children had lots of fun racing to find the correct number combinations and strengthening their fluency with number bonds. This week Year Two have been working hard on using their manners, using number bonds to ten to support adding 1 digit to 2 digit numbers and publishing their reports about the United Kingdom. In addition, they have learnt about the life cycle of a frog and some of the geographical features of Northern Ireland. Indigo class have enjoyed story time with Miss Turner from Cambridge University who will be joining their learning until February. Meanwhile, Year Three have been using glockenspiels to accompany a song called 'Sparkle in the Sun'. The children performed as a class and began to learn about improvisation too. Year Four have been exploring Roman Gods and Goddesses in History, learning about their powers, symbols and the important role they played in everyday life in Ancient Rome. Year Five have had an incredibly busy week. They have worked hard this week to write original Greek myths, expertly incorporating Alan Peat exciting sentences. Alongside this, in Spanish, the children have been learning all about El Día de Los Muertos (Mexican Day of the Dead) when families gather to remember and celebrate their deceased loved ones. The children made colourful decorations and tasted Pan de Muertas (Bread of the Dead) a sweet bread, that Mrs Horton made. Year Six have worked hard to redraft wonderful narratives based on the text 'Kensuke's Kingdom', this week.

Parking in our local area:

Can we please ask that you are considerate of others around you and where you park at collection/drop off times. We are aware that Priory Walk Car Park can get very busy, but ask that if there are no spaces, you are mindful of parking on the roads and causing congestion. This can pose a huge danger to our children and families when crossing roads if their line of sight is blocked. Can we also ask that you stick to speed limits around the school too; many of our children cycle and have mentioned their concerns about cars overtaking them rather quickly.

Panda Meander:

This year, we are taking part in Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust's 'Panda Meander' with our own Panda sculpture for Monkfield Park. We will be looking at possible designs for this, with the children, after half term. For now, he has made himself at home in my office and is attempting to help me with emails!

Whatever half term holds for you all, we hope it is an enjoyable one. I am looking forward to spending some uninterrupted time with the boys and my wife; we're going on a 'Hungry Caterpillar' trail and off to the zoo (again) next week - it should be fun!

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:

What is Contextual Safeguarding?

Contextual safeguarding recognises that children can experience significant harm outside the home, including in their neighbourhoods, online, at school and within peer groups. Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) 2026 highlights the importance of understanding the risks children may face in different contexts and working together with families and partner agencies to reduce those risks.

Risks can include child criminal exploitation, child sexual exploitation, serious violence, peer-on-peer abuse, online harms, and inappropriate influence from others.

Signs that a child may need support can include changes in behaviour, spending increasing amounts of time away from home, unexplained gifts or money, becoming withdrawn or secretive, or changes in friendship groups. If you are worried about your child or another child, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team.

Online Safety: Monitoring Systems.

As part of our commitment to safeguarding, we use filtering and monitoring systems to help keep pupils safe whilst using school technology. These systems help us identify potential online safety concerns so that appropriate support can be provided where necessary. Technology is only one part of keeping children safe online. Through our curriculum we teach pupils how to use technology responsibly, recognise risks and know how to seek help if something makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Key Dates:

3/11 – Year 6 Trip to Great War Huts – All day

20/11 – Lacerta Class Assembly – 9.15am

9/12 – Year 4 performance of Winter Songs – 2.30pm

18/12 – Last day of term

Please keep an eye on Class Dojo for further dates!

Attendance Information:

A big shout out to Columba, Cygnus, Dorado, Indigo and Phoenix who all had attendance figures of over 97% this week.

Our current whole school attendance figure is 96.6% with the national average being 95.9%



Care and Learning Centre News:

Autumn

This week the children have been learning about Autumn. We have noticed that the weather is beginning to get chilly and that we need to start wearing our coats. Can the children show you the magic trick they have learnt, to 'flip on' their coats all by themselves? Maybe, they can also try and learn to do up their zips with you at home? We also talked about how some leaves are starting to change colour and fall down from the trees. We went for a walk around the school grounds to search for colourful Autumn leaves and collected some up to take back to the classroom to use in our play. Perhaps you could go for an Autumn walk over half-term and collect some more items for our Autumn display?

Half-Term

Next week is half-term and the Care and Learning Centre will be closed. We would like to wish you all a restful break and look forward to seeing the children back at Pre-School on Monday 2nd November.

Best wishes,
Jane and the CLC Team

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.

