

Newsletter 16

Friday 19th January 2024

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PARKING ENFORCEMENT CHANGES—THINK WHERE YOU PARK!

I am sorry to have to begin the newsletter with the thorny subject of parking but there have been some changes to the way parking is enforced which could have significant consequences for our families.

From 1 February anyone parking on restrictions such as double yellow lines or zig zag lines near the school are far more likely to receive a parking ticket than before.

Cambridgeshire County Council was given Civil Parking Enforcement powers by the Government last year and together with South Cambridgeshire District Council they have asked me to remind people of the changes before tickets, with fines attached, begin to be issued by Civil Parking Enforcement Officers. The safety of pupils and everyone in and around the school is really important and inconsiderate parking can make it more dangerous for everyone. Please use this change as an additional reminder to think about where you park. In the past only the Police could issue tickets for illegal parking, but the changes mean it is now a civil matter and Council Civil Parking Enforcement Officers can issue the tickets for some matters. For more details about Parking Enforcement please visit Cambridgeshire County Council's [Civil Parking Enforcement page](#) of its website.

mrs Howell.

Monkfield Park's Public Speaking Heroes

On Thursday our four intrepid finalists for the Network CB23 Public Speaking competition took to the stage at the prestigious Peterhouse College to present their speeches to a panel of judges. I was bursting with pride as, unfazed by their surroundings and the large audience, Josh (Y3) and Hamza (Y4) presented their speeches on the topic, "should children be allowed to choose what they learn", while Lilah (Y5) and Mae (Y6) were given the task of debating, "Space Exploration or Deep Sea Exploration".

The children gave extremely accomplished and confident performances which captivated the audience with their persuasive arguments, stage presence, verbal nuances and non-verbal communication skills. The competition was extremely strong with 35 children taking part.



Continued overleaf

The Victorious Public Speaking Team

Continued from front page

However, Monkfield Park held their own with Josh and Mae declared runners up in their respective categories. When the judges announced that Monkfield Park was the overall winner, having gained the most points in the competition, we could hardly contain our excitement as we were presented with the Public Speaking Shield. These children have certainly made us extremely proud and their kindness towards the other competitors showed them to be worthy winners. Huge congratulations and well done to all the children.

Catching Up With Our Ex-Pupils

Once you become a member of the Monkfield Park family you are always a part of that family and, like all families, we love to hear about all the incredible things our ex pupils are doing. We were absolutely thrilled before Christmas to welcome back Harry Withers and catch up with what he has been doing. Harry left Monkfield Park having gained a place at the prestigious Royal Ballet School and is now in Year 11 at White Lodge in Richmond Park.

Harry started off by giving an incredible assembly to the whole school that left the staff and children gasping in awe as he performed an excerpt from the Nutcracker ballet. The children then joined in a question and answer session and were amazed to hear about Harry's daily routines and the level of training he has to undertake in addition to his academic studies. Harry kindly conducted workshops for the Year 3 children and taught them some of the steps needed to recreate the famous battle scene in the Nutcracker between the toy soldiers and the rats. The children were inspired by Harry's passion and threw themselves into the dance with great enthusiasm. I hope we can go and see Harry perform one day.



Lunchtime on the Field.

The weather may have been rather chilly but the children have been delighted to be able to use the field at lunchtimes, if they have wellingtons or waterproof boots to change in to. Each day the number of children bringing boots has increased and I am sure you will agree that they all seem to be happy as they delight in accessing the luxury of our 'green lung'. If your child hasn't brought in wellingtons or boots yet and they wish to play on the field, please send them in.

From next week, we will be reintroducing the football timetable for children who have wellingtons or waterproof boots with them.

STAYING SAFE ON ICE



Warning
Thin ice.
Do not walk
on frozen lake.

**DANGER
OF DEATH**

We have received information today from a concerned member of the public that they have seen primary school children playing on a frozen pond in Cambourne. The lady and her husband have both warned groups of children on a number of occasions that they are putting themselves in danger by walking on ponds which are frozen, but have been ignored.

Whilst we have no evidence that the children were from Monkfield Park, the safety of our children is our concern. We know how exciting frozen bodies of water can be to children so please can I ask that you remind your child of the dangers of playing on or near frozen ponds, lakes and water courses. With the current very cold temperatures, falling into very cold water can result in hypothermia and death in as little as 10 minutes. Teachers have spoken to the children today about

these very real dangers at this time of year. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you all about the animal blubber experiment they did this week.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you which materials are waterproof and will keep a small dog dry.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you something we can do to slow climate change.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you why vitamin D is so important and how you can protect yourself from UV rays.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain how remainders work in division.

Ask your Year 5 child to clap out a Samba beat and show you a basic Samba step.

Ask your Year 6 child to sing the Robin Hood song.

Headteacher Parent Drop Ins

Do you have something you would like to talk to Mrs Howell about? If so, why not come along to one of the Headteacher's Drop In sessions this term. Mrs Howell will be offering parent drop ins for anyone who wishes to discuss any aspect of school life throughout the Spring term. The dates can be found below, but please remember that these are offered on a first come, first served basis and you may therefore have to wait.

31st January 2.30—3.30 pm

15th March 3.00—4.00 pm 15th

15th February 3.00—4.00 pm

27th March 9.30—10.30 am

28th February 9.00—10.00 am

8th March 8.30-9.30am



FORTHCOMING DATES Spring Term 2024

- 22nd to 26th January—International Week
- 26th January—Columba Class assembly
- 31st January—Headteacher drop In at 2.30 to 3.30pm
- 2nd February—NSPCC Number Day
- 5th to 9th February—Children’s Mental Health Week
- 6th February—Parent’s Therapeutic Thinking Workshop at 2.30pm
- 6th February—Parent’s Therapeutic Thinking Workshop at 5.30pm
- 8th February—Reception Come and Share
- 9th February—Blue Class assembly
- 9th February—FOMP School Disco—details to follow
- 13th February—Year 2 performance at 2pm
- 14th February—Year 2 performance at 2pm
- 15th February—Year 1 WOW Day—London
- 15th February—Headteacher Drop In 3.00 to 4.00pm
- 16th February—Break up for half term
- 19th to 23rd February—Half Term
- 26th February—Children return to school
- 28th February—SEND Coffee Morning
- 28th February—Headteacher Drop In 9.00 to 10.00am
- 5th March—Dental checks for Reception and Year 1
- 5th March—SEND Coffee Morning
- 8th March—Cygnus Class assembly
- 8th March—Mid-term reports to parents
- 12th March—Parent consultations
- 14th March—Year 1 trip to Church Farm
- 15th March—Violet Class assembly
- 18th to 21st March—Book Fayre from 3.40pm
- 21st March—Parent consultations
- 22nd March—Green Class assembly
- 26th March—Year 5 production at 2 pm
- 27th March—Year 5 production at 6 pm
- 28th March—Break up for Easter

For general queries regarding the Care and Learning Centre, please contact the school office by e-mail on: clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk or by telephoning 01954 273377.

To speak with a member of the Care and Learning Centre staff please telephone 01954 273301

Room News

A Belated Welcome Back

A warm (but somewhat belated) welcome back to all of our children and families and a very Happy New Year! We hope that you had a lovely, restful break. Many apologies for the disruptions and lack of CLC newsletter last week, as myself and several other staff members were unwell. We would like to wish an extra special welcome to our 5 new children and their families who have started with us this term. They have made a fantastic start to settling into the setting. As always, we are looking forward to a busy term of playing, learning and joy ahead.

Read, Write Inc Phonics

This week, during Group Time, the children in the Rabbit Group have begun learning the pictures from the Read, Write Inc phonics scheme. We have learnt the pictures: mountain, apple, snake, dinosaur and tower. We have also talked about the corresponding sound for each of the pictures, for example, a,a,a apple, ssssss snake. Look out for videos on Evidence Me showing the pictures we have learnt each week, as well as how to pronounce each sound.



International Week

Next week, we will be joining in with the Primary School's International Week. As you know, CLC is a diverse setting and we celebrate this as one of our strengths. One of the activities we will be doing is having a go at learning to say "hello" in as many of the 15 different languages that are spoken within our preschool families as possible! For this we need your help! Please make a short video of your family saying "hello" in your home language (even if it is English) and post it on Evidence Me for us to share with the children. Next Friday, everyone in the school is invited to come wearing their traditional cultural clothing, so it will be fantastic to see some of our preschool children joining in with this too.

Wishing you all a great weekend.

JANE TURNER