

Newsletter 13

Friday 8th December 2023

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Counting Down to Christmas!

We really are on the countdown to Christmas now and I am reliably informed by the children that when you receive this letter on Friday afternoon we will only have 17 sleeps left until Christmas Day!

The coming week promises to be packed full of joy and Christmas spirit as the children in Year 1 will be presenting their Nativity Play on Wednesday and Thursday at 2pm, and the Year 3 and Year 4 children will be performing their Christmas Carol concert to their families and friends on Tuesday afternoon at 2pm and then on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 6pm. The rehearsals are sounding wonderful so I hope you will join us to support your children in these very Christmas endeavours.

Our wonderful Year 5 children are busily delivering Christmas cards to recipients each afternoon. They have had a few challenges where there has been insufficient detail on the envelope to get the card to the correct person! Please can we ask that you help your child to write the recipients full name and class on the envelope before they are posted.



Thank you

Mrs Howell.

Christmas Jumpers and Christmas Lunch Reminder

This year our annual Christmas lunch will be served on Tuesday 19th December. If you wish your child to have a lunch on that day, please can we remind you to book your child's lunch as soon as possible? The menu options for the 19th December are:

- A) Traditional roast turkey dinner
- B) Plant based Christmas cracker

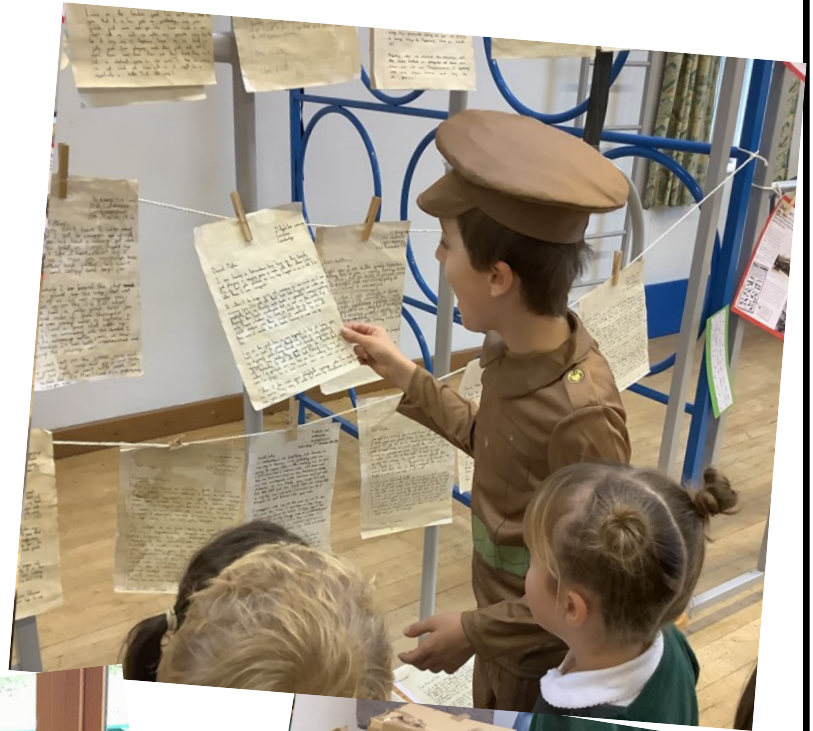
Both options are served with roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts, carrots, garden peas, sage and onion stuffing and gravy. For dessert the choices are chocolate and orange rocky road, vanilla cookie with frosting or fresh fruit.

Children are very welcome to wear a Christmas jumper on this day, instead of their school sweatshirt or cardigan. We are suggesting that they may make a voluntary donation of £1 which we will donate to our charity of the year, which is the British Heart Foundation. Children should wear their normal school trousers or skirt with their Christmas jumper.



World War I Museum

A huge thank you to everyone who came to support the Year 6 World War I Museum this week. The children were inspired to share their learning with the whole school, their families and friends following their trip to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. All the children worked incredibly hard to create a fantastic exhibition about life in the trenches and used their creativity to make some fantastic displays and interactive activities to enhance the experience for their visitors. The children were joined by Martin Gebble from the 10th Essex Living History Group, who brought with him a range of original World War I artefacts including gas masks, items of military uniforms, equipment and tinned food items for the children to examine and study. The museum was a wonderful way for the children to showcase their learning about the 'Great War' and their many skills and talents.



Reception Pantomime Visit

There was much excitement on Tuesday as the Reception children embarked on their first school trip. Over the past weeks the children have been learning about traditional fairy tales and decided that it would be a great idea to see a story that they didn't know so well. Boarding the coach they travelled to Peterborough to watch a production of Aladdin at the Key Theatre. This traditional pantomime was filled to the brim with terrible jokes, comedy, mayhem, magic and even some giant pandas! The children had an amazing time and told me that it was the best thing to do to cheer everyone up on a chilly Tuesday!



Applying for a School Place

If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, and you live in Cambridgeshire you need to apply for a Reception place for September 2024 before the **closing date of 15th January 2024. Applications received after this date will not be considered until the second round of allocations in May.**

You can apply online at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/primary-reception-junior-or-middle-school>

We appreciate that selecting the right school for your child is not an easy decision to make. Each parent and carer is looking for a school that will make the educational experience as motivating and rewarding as possible for their child. To help you make this important decision we would like to welcome parents and carers into school to see at first hand what makes Monkfield Park such a special place to learn.

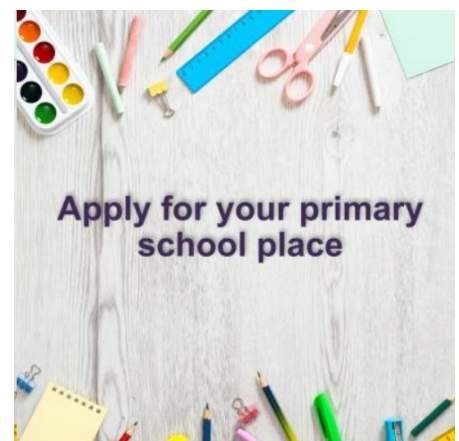
We are offering a number of parent tours so that you can see the school in action and talk with the Headteacher and staff. Please join us for one of our parent tours which can be booked by contacting the school office. The next tour dates are:

Friday 15th December at 2pm

Wednesday 10th January at 2pm

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school and hope you will join us for one of the tours.

If you are unable to make this date, please contact the school office and we will be happy to arrange a mutually convenient date for you to visit.



Headteacher Roll of Honour

Each week this space will provide a celebration of children who may be especially noticed for demonstrating learning or behaviour that we feel should be recognised and commended. This week I would like to congratulate some groups of children:

All the children in Cygnus and Aquila classes who have produced such amazing class books to showcase their learning about volcanoes. Not only are these excellent examples of collaborative working, but the standard of writing and art work is exceptional. Well done everyone, I think you are well on the way to achieving your pen licences.

The children in Pegasus and Delphinus Classes who put on an amazing museum experience for the whole school and their families this week. The creativity and thought which had gone into all the displays was incredible and the pride the children took in explaining their learning to the visitors throughout the day was so wonderful to see. I was impressed by all the work on display but the standard of the children's writing about life in the trenches was incredible. Well done to everyone in Year 6.

Sentence starters

- Ask your Reception child to find square and rectangle shaped objects around the home.
- Ask your Year 1 child to tell you what they found out about floating and sinking.
- Ask your Year 2 child to explain what a Polygon is.
- Ask your Year 3 child to tell you some interesting facts about cities that are in deserts.
- Ask your Year 4 child to tell you an interesting or fun fact about volcanoes.
- Ask your Year 5 child to demonstrate their Tai Chi sequence.
- Ask your Year 6 child to tell you which World War I artefact they thought was most interesting.

Wellingtons

We would like to open up the field all year round to allow the children to have more room to run and play. However, to allow us to do this, every child will need a pair of wellingtons which stay in school for them to change into at break and lunchtime. This will be in addition to the children's school shoes which they will need to wear inside the school buildings and when the weather is dry. If you have any spare wellingtons which your children have grown out of we will be very happy to take them off your hands if you would like to donate them to school. Any donations of wellingtons can be left at the School Office. We will be opening the field up when we return to school in January and our aim is to have every child with a pair of wellingtons in school by that date. Please speak to us if you are experiencing problems sourcing wellingtons.



FORTHCOMING DATES Autumn Term 2023

4th December —Tour for prospective parents at 2.00pm—this is now full

5th December—Reception pantomime trip

12th December at 2pm—Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert

13th December —Tour for prospective parents at 9.30am—this is now full

13th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

13th December at 6pm—Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert

14th December—9.00am to 10.00am—Headteacher's Drop In

14th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

14th December at 6pm—Year 3 and Year 4 Carol Concert

15th December —Tour for prospective parents at 2pm—spaces available

19th December—School Christmas Lunch (wear your Christmas Jumper)

19th December—Choir performance at Cavendish Court

20th December—LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM

21st December—3rd January 2024—CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

4th & 5th January—INSET Days (school closed for children)

8th January—Children return to school for Spring term

10th January—Swimming lessons begin for Year 4

10th January—Tour for prospective parents at 2pm—spaces available

22nd to 26th January—International Week

26th January—Columba Class assembly

2nd February—NSPCC Number Day

5th to 9th February—Children's Mental Health Week

8th February—Reception Come and Share

9th February—Blue Class assembly

13th February—Year 2 performance at 2pm

14th February—Year 2 performance at 2pm

16th February—Break up for half term

19th to 23rd February—Half Term

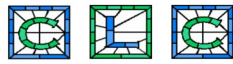
26th February—Children return to school

5th March—Dental checks for Reception and Year 1

8th March—Cygnus Class assembly

12th March—Parent consultations

Monkfield Park



Care and Learning Centre

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

This week at the Care and Learning Centre, things have begun to get a little bit Christmassy! We started off the week by reading the story of the Nativity and learning some songs which reflect the story, ready to sing to you at our Christmas Song Time in a couple of weeks. The children have learnt the names of the story characters as well as some new vocabulary, such as 'nativity', 'stable', and 'manger'.

The children have helped to decorate our classroom Christmas tree, which is now looking beautiful, and have also enjoyed looking at our preschool advent calendar. Each day we move the snowman peg along the numbers and pick out a name from a bag. That person gets a turn to put a felt decoration on the Advent tree. This has been great practice for turn taking as well as for counting up to number 24!

End of Term Reminders

Tuesday 19th December 9.15am - Song Time for parents and carers

Tuesday 19th December - Christmas Jumper Day and School Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 20th December - Last day of Autumn Term

Monday 8th January - Start of Spring Term

Best wishes

JANE TURNER

