

Newsletter 4

Friday 29th September 2023

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A Busy Week

As we hurtle towards October, the pace of the term has really increased this week with so much going on in school. The children have been very busy with Bikeability, the culmination of our money fortnight and the elections for our school and Eco councils. The successful Eco candidates will be holding their first meeting in the coming week and will be working with Mrs McCarthy to help us to improve our green credentials further by making us a more sustainable school. Our new school councillors will be working with Mrs O'Rourke using their skills and creativity to make improvements across the school and to ensure all children are represented.

The children have told us that they want to build a whole school community which thrives on mutual respect and values positive relationships so that school is a positive and rewarding experience for everyone. I am certain that our children will succeed in their plans to improve our school and I am proud to be working with them to ensure they make those plans and dreams become a reality for everyone.

Mrs Howell.

Harvest Festival

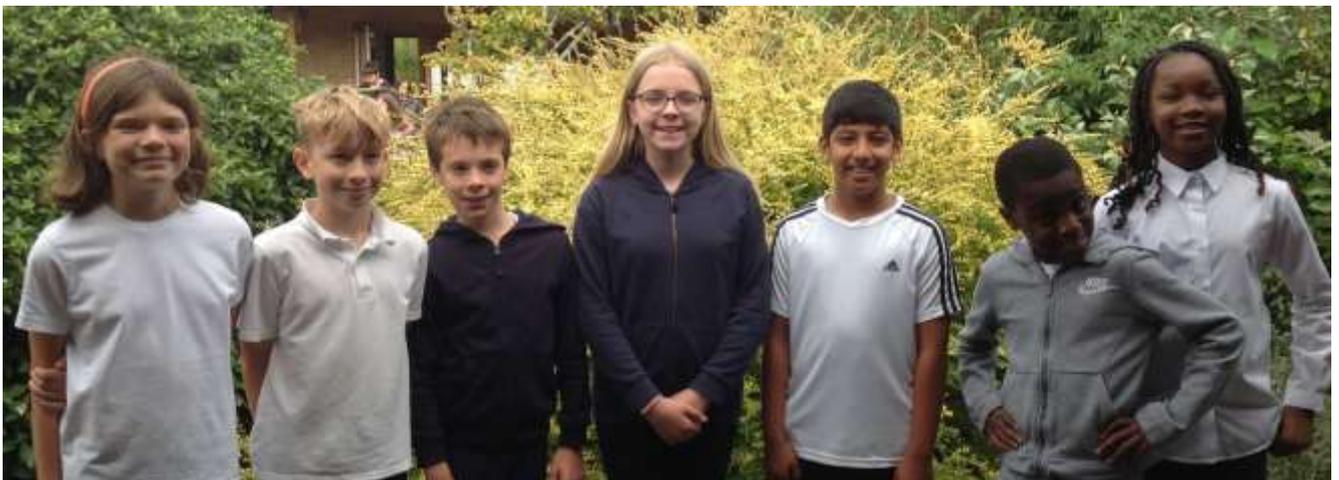
On Monday 9th October we will be celebrating our annual Harvest Festival in school. This traditional festival gives us the opportunity to celebrate the safe gathering in of the harvest and to give thanks for all the things that we have in these challenging times. As part of our assembly we will be collecting gifts of dried food and other essential items throughout next week to donate to the Cambridge and Cambourne Food Banks. Our local food banks are a vital lifeline for many families who find themselves in very difficult financial circumstances, providing a balanced and nutritious supply of food to families in need. If you would like to donate items for our Harvest Festival assembly we would welcome:

Noodles and rice	Soap, toiletries and nappies	Olive oil
Toilet rolls	Long life juices and cordials	Dried and tinned goods
Stock cubes	Pasta sauces	Tinned tomatoes
Cleaning products	Instant coffee and tea bags	Long life milk or powder
Milk powder	Puddings e.g. rice pudding, custard, Angel Delight, jelly and sponge	

PLEASE DO NOT SEND FRESH OR PERISHABLE GOODS

Democracy at Monkfield Park

At Monkfield Park we think it is important that we provide opportunities for every child to communicate their feelings as well as influence decisions that are made within school. This week we announced the results of the elections for our school councillors and Eco councillors. All the children wishing to stand for election to these two prestigious bodies had to present their 'manifesto' to their class mates before the ballot took place. I was impressed to hear some of these presentations being given and to see how skilled the children were in communicating their passion.



Bikeability 2023

This week we welcomed the wonderful instructors from Outspoken to school to deliver the Bikeability training course to some of our intrepid Year 6 children. Cambourne has a fantastic network of cycle



paths but we also need to ensure the children are also able to cycle confidently and safely on the road, in traffic. Confident cycling opens up a world of opportunity for children from travelling to school, enjoying family bike rides, keeping fit or just hanging out with their friends. The instructors spent four days teaching the children how to identify and respond to hazards on the roads, tackle tricky junctions and cross-roads, and understand what the road signs and markings mean. The instructors were so complimentary about how well mannered and focused the children were. Well done to everyone. We are proud of you.

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.

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. In addition we will also be offering an open evening event so that you can meet and chat with the Reception teaching team. Please join us for one of our parent tours which can be booked by contacting the school office. The dates for the tours are:

Thursday 5th October at 2.00pm

Wednesday 11th October at 9.30am

Wednesday 18th October at 2.00pm

Thursday 9th November—Open Evening from 6.00pm

Friday 24th November at 9.30am

Monday 4th December at 2.00pm

Wednesday 13th December at 9.30am

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:

Oskar in Cygnus Class: Accuracy in Science is vital and Oskar certainly smashed it with his excellent recording this week. His bar chart was so accurate and carefully constructed. Great work Oskar.

Isla in Lacerta Class: In a world where we use less and less cash, money can be a difficult concept for children to grasp. Isla has done some fantastic work for money fortnight calculating the change needed at the class sale, with great mental agility and speed.

Neil in Columba Class: Developing a cursive handwriting style involves much practise. I was so impressed to see how beautiful Neil's writing is and the care he takes with all his work. Neil always puts so much effort into everything he does and exemplifies the Monkfield Way in trying his best in everything he does. Thank you Neil.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to make a repeating pattern using objects around the home e.g. fruit or items of cutlery.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you about more, less and equals.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you if number lines always have to start at zero.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain what Yom Kippur is and how it is celebrated.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain the difference between the boiling point and freezing point

Ask your Year 5 child to explain who Mae Jemison is.

Ask your Year 6 child to tell you how to stay safe on the road.

Parent Carer Drop Ins

This half term, we are able to offer parents and carers the opportunity to drop in to school to see the Head Teacher (Mrs Howell) about any aspect of school life. The dates and times are listed below for this half term.

Please note that there is no appointment system and that parents and carers will be seen on a first come, first served basis during a 1:1 meeting:

4th October 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm

13th October 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm

18th October 8.30 am to 9.30 am



FORTHCOMING DATES Autumn Term 2023

4th October—Year 5 and Year 6 Careers' Convention

5th October—Tour for prospective parents at 2.00pm

9th October—Individual school photographs

10th October—5.00pm -7.30pm—Parent consultation evening

11th October—Tour for prospective parents at 9.30am

13th October at 9:15am— Phoenix Class Assembly

16th October—Art Week

18th October—Tour for prospective parents at 2pm

19th October 4:00pm —7:00pm—Parent consultation evening

23rd—27th October—HALF TERM

30th October—Children return to school

30th October to 3rd November—Children's Art Gallery

9th November—Open Evening and Tour for prospective parents at 6pm

w/c 13th November—Anti bullying week

17th November—Children in Need Day

22nd November—Flu vaccinations for all children

Change of date for Indigo Class Assembly. This will now take place on 24th November at 9.15am

24th November—Tour for prospective parents at 9.30am

4th December —Tour for prospective parents at 2.00pm

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

13th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

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

14th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

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

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 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



Over the last few weeks, the children have been busy learning all about our classroom and the different areas they can play in. We have learnt some new words such as 'Construction Area' where we can build models and 'Maths Area' where we can learn about numbers and shapes. We have also been working hard on tidying up the toys at the end of the session, putting them all back in the places where they belong, using the labels and photographs on display. We have also been focusing on our visual timetable, learning the pictures and signs which make up the routine of our day. The children have been doing brilliantly with this. Well done everybody!

In the Maths Area this week, some of the children have enjoyed playing the Dotty Dinos colour match game with an adult. We have been learning how to take turns around the table to roll the dice. Perhaps you could play some simple games with your child at home too, to help with turn taking?

Classroom Visits

If any parents or carers haven't yet had a chance to visit our setting and look around the super learning environments which we have available at the Care and Learning Centre, you are most welcome to pop in at 3 o'clock Tuesday or Thursday next week and have a look around.

Ms Turner