

Newsletter 19

Friday 9th February 2024

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Smart Phone Safety

I am sure you are all aware of the arguments raging in the press about the harm that children are being exposed to through social media and many of the apps they are using on their phones and tablets. Although we are constantly teaching the children about online safety and the behaviours which are expected when they are communicating with others on social media, we are under no illusions that there is still much work to be done. Despite apps such as WhatsApp having an age restriction of 16 and TikTok a limit of 13, we know that many children are being allowed to access them.

It has come to our notice that some children are posting intimidating and threatening messages on online social media platforms. If you have enabled your child to use such social media platforms, it is recommended advice that parents should monitor the way children are using this to communicate with one another e.g. are you aware of who your child is talking to and the nature of the conversations they are having? Children who are under the age limit for these apps should not be using them unaccompanied and a trusted adult should carefully monitor the content of 'chat' to ensure that children are not using inappropriate language with one another and that the nature of the conversation is appropriate. Keeping our children safe both physically and online is of the utmost importance and we must work together to ensure our children are using any online platforms appropriately and safely. We value your support and co-operation in this and we would recommend that all families have an open and frank discussion about the use of social media platforms.

Mrs Howell.

Gong hei fat choy

Have you ever wondered what happens at our After School Club? The children are able to access a wide variety of art and craft activities, relax with friends, do puzzles, write stories or play games to name just a few of the activities which are on offer. The children wanted me to showcase their amazing Chinese dragon which they had created to celebrate Chinese New Year. The children have had a very creative time performing their own celebration dragon dance in preparation for Chinese New Year.



Number Day 2024

Last Friday the whole school dressed up in digits to mark NSPCC Number Day. However, we weren't just celebrating the power of numbers, we were channelling our love of maths to raise money for the incredible work of the NSPCC. Through donations and an after school bake sale we raised an incredible £416.55 for the work of the NSPCC. The children also took part in the amazing Times Table Rockstar challenge which ran throughout the day. I am delighted to announce that the children answered an incredible 128,434 questions correctly and the winning class was Delphinus Class, with Aquila Class coming a very close second. A huge well done to all the children for such an impressive achievement.



Year 6 English Challenge

Wow! What an incredible evening our Year 6 team had taking part in the Year 6 English Challenge at Hardwick and Cambourne Primary School. They were a real credit to the school as they enthusiastically worked as a team to do their best. The challenge was broken into five main parts: books—matching authors to books and ordering books by publication date; memory—memorising a poem in just 2 minutes; extra thinks—identifying book characters from their pictures; basic skills—spelling, punctuation and grammar, and text types—identifying the genre.

We came a fantastic third, but as one of our team so eloquently put it, it didn't matter whether we came first or last as she was having so much fun!



Girls Football

Our Year 5 and Year 6 girls are shaping up to be a very talented team of football players. Accompanied by Mr Yates, the girls competed in the South Cambs Sports Partnership football tournament here in Cambourne. Mr Yates was delighted with their performance and reported that they played with skill and determination, and demonstrated what a cohesive and supportive team they are in all the matches that they played. Thank you to all the girls for setting a wonderful example for everyone and for being fantastic promoters of the Monkfield Way.



Cambridge Therapeutic Thinking (Previously STEPS)

Thank you to all those parents and carers who joined us on Wednesday for our Cambridge Therapeutic Thinking (CTT) workshops. We are now a year into our journey to implement the therapeutic approach in our school and wanted the opportunity to be able to share our new Behaviour Policy with you and to explain the research and thinking behind this approach to managing behaviour. The core philosophy of the CTT approach is that children do not learn to rectify their behaviour by being humiliated or being made to feel worse. When children feel better about themselves they behave better.

We were able to share a PowerPoint presentation which explains where we currently are on our CTT journey and some materials which offer advice and guidance for parents and carers about how you can support your child at home using similar approaches. These materials have now been uploaded to the school web site and they can be found using the link below:

http://www.monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk/website/cambridge_therapeutic_behaviour/350631

The Behaviour Policy provides clarification about the protective and educational consequences we are using to promote the children's wellbeing, to encourage them to reflect on their behaviour choices and how these can be changed to ensure everyone is safe and happy in school. If you do have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you two interesting facts about owls.

Ask your Year 1 child to use an interesting adjective to describe a London landmark.

Ask your Year 2 child to explain how multiplication differs from addition.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you what they wrote in their letter for children's mental health week about why they matter.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain how to convert an improper fraction into a mixed number.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain two differences between Methodist and Catholic beliefs.

Ask your Year 6 child to tell you how they can keep themselves safe online.

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.

15th February 3.00—4.00 pm

27th March 9.30—10.30 am

28th February 9.00—10.00 am

8th March 8.30-9.30 am

15th March 3.00—4.00 pm



FORTHCOMING DATES Spring Term 2024

- 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
- 29th March to 12th April - Easter Holiday
- 15th April—Children return to school for start of Summer term
- 22nd April— Height and Weight measurements for Reception and Year 6
- 26th April—Dorado Class assembly
- 29th April to 3rd May— Healthy Lifestyles Week
- 13th to 16th May—End of KS2 SATS for Year 6
- 20th to 24th May—Walk To School Week
- 21st May—Reception singing performance at 9.30am
- 22nd May—Reception singing performance at 2pm
- 24th May—Break up for Half Term

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

Chinese New Year

This week we have been very busy learning about Chinese New Year. First of all we watched a short film on CBeebies, 'Let's Celebrate', to find out a bit about what Chinese and other families do to celebrate. We then had a go at doing some Chinese writing and made red and gold lanterns to decorate our classroom. We looked at some beautiful money packets which children receive as gifts at the New Year and we played a game, rolling a dice and counting out the corresponding number of coins to put in a money packet. We pretended to give the packet to one of our friends and tried saying "Gong Hay Fat Choy" (happiness and prosperity) in Cantonese! Next week we will be continuing our learning and celebrations with noodle tasting and a dragon dance!

We would like to wish all of our families celebrating this weekend "Happy Spring Festival!" Please send us some photographs of your celebrations via Evidence Me to share with the children.



B.



Best wishes, JANE TURNER