

Newsletter 3

Friday 27th September 2024

In this issue:

An Unexpected Start

Harvest festival

Bikeability

Sentence Starters

Reception places 2025

Forthcoming dates

Care and Learning Centre



An Unexpected Start to the Week

The week began in a very unexpected fashion with a fire evacuation before the start of the school day on Monday morning. We are grateful to the Fire Brigade who attended, but it took a while before they were able to give us the all clear and allow everyone onto the site. Unfortunately, this also coincided with the day Summer decided to end with the onset of torrential rain! I would like to thank everyone for their patience in what was a difficult and soggy situation. We do practise for such eventualities regularly and I am so pleased that we do as the children already on site behaved so well and followed all the correct procedures.

The rain seems to have settled in and the forecast is for continuing wet weather in the coming weeks. Please can you remind your child that they need to bring a coat or waterproof jacket to school with them each day and a pair of wellingtons, boots or spare shoes to change into, as we will be using the field at lunchtimes every day. We are fortunate to have such a large green space to play on and we are determined to make the best use of it all year round.



Next Friday, 4th October, we will be holding our annual Harvest Festival Assembly 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 good things that we have. As part of our assembly we will be collecting gifts of dried food and other essential items to donate to the Cambourne Food Bank. 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 those in need. If you would like to donate items for our Harvest Festival assembly we will be collecting donations of food, dried goods and toiletries throughout next week. We would welcome donations of the following items:

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

Cycling to School Safely

This week we welcomed the wonderful instructors from Outspoken to deliver the Bikeability training course to some of our Year 6 children. We are very grateful to the Outspoken Instructors who give their time for free to run the training courses in school. Although Cambourne is lucky to have a fantastic network of cycle paths which enable our children to cycle safely to school, as the children get older and become more independent we also need to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills 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 crossroads, and understand what the road signs and markings mean. The instructors were so complimentary about how well mannered and focused the children were throughout the week. Well done to everyone, we are proud of you.



Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to find a collection of three objects around the home or outside.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you about the wet and dry seasons in the jungle.

Ask your Year 2 child to explain the stages in the life cycle of a chicken.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain what the three different periods of the Stone age are.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain who Boudicca was.

Ask your Year 5 child to describe the features of a formal letter.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain population density.

Applying for a School Place for September 2025

If your child was born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, and you live in Cambridgeshire, you need to apply for a Reception place for September 2025 before the closing date of 15th January 2025. Applications received after this date will not be considered until the second round of allocations in May. Further information about how to apply for a school place can be found in the First Steps booklet via the link below:-

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/imported-assets/First-Steps-2025-26-06.09.24.pdf>

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 on 01954 273377 or by email :office@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk

The current tour dates are:

Wednesday 2nd October 9.30am Now Full

Thursday 17th October 2.00pm Now Full

Thursday 14th November 5.30pm

Tuesday 26th November 9.30am Now Full

Wednesday 4th December 2.00pm

Thursday 12th December 2.00pm



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.

FORTHCOMING DATES Autumn Term 2024

- 4th October—Harvest Festival for children in school
- 7th October—Individual school photographs
- 8th October—Year 5 Careers' Convention
- 8th October—Year 1 trip to Hedingham Castle
- 11th October—Phoenix Class assembly at 9.15am
- 15th October—4.00pm –6.30pm—Parent consultation evening
- 16th October—Year 4 Roman WOW Day
- 18th October—Year 1 Animals WOW Day
- 21st to 25th October—Art Week
- 24th October 4pm —6.30pm—Parent consultation evening
- 28th October—1st November —HALF TERM
- 4th November—Children return to school
- 5th to 7th November—Children's Art Gallery
- w/c 11th November—Anti bullying week
- 14th November—Open Evening and Tour for prospective parents at 5.30pm
- 15th November—Children in Need Day
- 22nd November at 9.15am—Indigo Class assembly
- 26th November at 9.30am—Reception 2025 tour
- 4th December at 2.00pm—Reception 2025 tour
- 10th December at 2pm—Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert
- 12th December at 2.00pm—Reception 2025 tour
- 12th December at 6pm—Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert
- 16th December—Reception theatre trip
- 17th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play
- 18th December at 10am—Year 1 Nativity Play
- 18th December—Team afternoon
- 19th December—Christmas Lunch
- 20th December—LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM
- 23rd December—3rd January 2025—CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
- 6th and 7th 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

Foamy Fun!



The children have had fun exploring shaving foam this week. They had a go at describing the feeling of the foam, "It feels soft and blue!" "This is so squishy!" "It feels like a teddy bear!"

Evidence Me

We hope that you are enjoying seeing the observations of your children settling and playing at pre-school so far this term. All new parents should have received an email from the office with details about how we use Evidence Me, but just a reminder that, in line with the Early Years Reform of 2021, staff prioritise their time settling the children and interacting with them above taking photographs and writing notes. You should receive a minimum of one observation for your child each fortnight, although you may well receive more than this. We highly recommend using the Evidence Me app as the easiest way to check observations of your child on your smart phone or tablet. Remember, we also love to see your comments and feedback on our observations as well as your observations from home.

Lunch Boxes

Please ensure that your child puts their lunchbox and water bottle on the trolley outside the front door when they arrive in the morning. For safety, lunchboxes and bottles **must be clearly named on the outside**. Please remember that we are a nut and celery free school, which also means no pesto sauce, as this contains nuts. If your child has a school dinner we will inform you at collection time if they did not eat well, so if you do not receive a message about lunch, it means that your child has eaten the majority of their food. For packed lunches, children will return home with any food that they did not eat, so you will know how well they have eaten. Please rest assured that we always do our best to encourage children to eat and drink, but we cannot make them do so.

Wellies

Following the rain we've had recently, the children now definitely need to wear wellies out in our grassed area. If you haven't already done so, please send them in on Monday, clearly named, so that your child is able to have fun outside. If your child is wearing wellies when they arrive at pre-school, they will still need a separate pair to keep with us which can get muddy, many thanks.

Ms Turner