

Newsletter 15

Friday 10th January 2025

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Welcome back to a rather chilly January! I hope you all had a restful and very relaxing break and that all our families who celebrate Christmas enjoyed a joyful festival spending time with their families and friends. On behalf of the staff I would like to begin by thanking you all for your very kind and generous cards and gifts.

Although this has been a very short first week, the children have returned to school with renewed energy and enthusiasm, so I think we can look forward to some very exciting learning this term. We began with a very reflective assembly about what the children think is working well and what they feel we should be focusing on in the coming weeks. I was delighted to hear the children describing the very positive impact of OPAL on their playtimes and how beneficial they think the restorative approach has been in terms of resolving disputes and disagreements. Coupled with the great learning I have already seen going on in classrooms, I think that 2025 is set to be an amazing year at Monkfield Park. With kindest New Year wishes.

Mrs Howell

Don't Forget to Book Your Child's Lunch

Please can we politely remind you to book your child's school lunches, if you haven't already done so. The full menu for the Spring term is available on School Grid with a wide range of delicious options for everyone. Booking in advance helps to avoid children becoming upset when they may not be able to have the full choice of meals if you haven't pre-booked. The kitchen staff will always try to accommodate everyone but with rising food costs and to prevent food wastage the staff may not be able to provide your child with a meal of their choice without a pre-order.

Can we also ask that you discuss the choices on the menu with your child and order meals that they would like to eat. The kitchen staff are unable to provide replacement meals if your child does not like what you have ordered for them as the kitchen can only cook according to the orders made.

If you have any problems accessing your account or placing orders please speak to the office staff who will be happy to help you.



Attendance and Punctuality

Research shows that there is a close link between school attendance and a child's achievement. Your child will achieve better when they go to school every school day. Children learn better, they make friends, they are happier, they have a brighter future. We want to work with all our families to make sure that poor school attendance is not a limiting factor for any child at Monkfield Park.

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

Schools are required to ensure that parents are informed of any attendance concerns at an early stage, therefore you will receive an initial communication from us if your child's attendance falls below the expected 96%. The initial letter is simply to make you aware of your child's attendance level. If concerns persist, then we will contact you again, to ensure you have all the information about your child's attendance at the earliest possible stage. If your child's attendance level continues to fall we will contact you to meet with us to explore the reasons and discuss what help can be put in place to increase your child's attendance.

Schools are legally obliged to provide support and intervention for pupils who are at risk of persistent absence i.e. where a child's attendance is 90% or below. This will take the form of meetings with parents, school-based interventions, and the offer of support from outside agencies and professionals. As a school we are very keen to identify the barriers to attendance that families face and will welcome opportunities to overcome these barriers together. However, when a child's attendance falls outside of the parental legal obligations to send their child to school, there are legal pathways that must be followed by the school.

Term Time Leave

The guidance from the Local Authority and the Department for Education does not allow the school to authorise absences in term time other than in very exceptional circumstances. We are still receiving requests from families who wish to take holidays or travel abroad in term time to visit family members. We would urge you to adhere to the school holiday dates when planning holidays and family events. The term dates are available on the school's website and are included in this newsletter.

Coats and Boots

In view of the very cold weather we are currently experiencing, please can you make sure that your child has a warm, waterproof coat, hat and gloves in school each day as we will be playing outside.

It is very important that they also have a pair of wellingtons or waterproof boots e.g. walking boots, which stay in school for them to change into at lunchtimes. To preserve our carpets, the children will still need to come to school in their school shoes which they will need to wear inside the school buildings and when the weather is dry. We now have lockable wellington storage cabinets outside each classroom for the children to store their wellingtons safely and avoid trampling mud into the carpets.



Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you what they observed on their Winter walk.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you the story of the festival of lights.

Ask your Year 2 child to explain what a riddle is and give you an example.

Ask your Year 3 child to re-tell the story of 'The Egyptian Cinderella'.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain who the Vikings were.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain the features of a folk tale.

Ask your Year 6 child to re-tell the story of Robin Hood in their own words.

Applying for a School Place for September 2025

If your child will
be aged 4 by
**31st August
2025**

You need to
apply **NOW**
for a School
place



SCAN ME

**Apply by
15th January
2025**

For further information please visit
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions
or contact your local School

Applications received after 15th January will not be considered until
the second round of allocations in May.

FORTHCOMING DATES Spring Term 2025

15th January—Last date for applications for Reception places for September 2025

15th January—Swimming lessons begin for Year 4

23rd January—Public Speaking competition

24th January—Columba Class assembly

30th January—Friendship Games at Cambourne Village College

3rd to 7th February—Children’s Mental Health week

3rd February—Reception and Year 6 height and weight measuring

5th February—KS1 Wellbeing Wednesday

6th February—Y4 Viking WOW Day

7th February—NSPCC Number Day

7th February—Y1 visit to Cambourne Library

10th February—Year 4 Network CB23 Maths competition

11th February—Year 2 production at 2pm

12th February—Year 2 production at 2pm

12th February—Year 3 Life in Ancient Egypt Day with History off the Page

13th February—Reception Come and Share from 9.30am

17th to 21st February—Half Term Holiday

24th February—Children return to school

5th March—Year 1 Kenya WOW Day

6th March—World Book Day

7th March—Cygnum Class assembly

12th March—Reception vision screening

13th to 18th March—Book Fair in Main Hall

14th March—Red Nose Day

14th March—Violet Class assembly

21st March—Green Class assembly

25th March—Reception performance at 10am

25th March—Parent Consultation Evening from 4pm

26th March—Reception performance at 2pm

2nd April—Team afternoon

3rd April—Parent Consultation Evening from 4pm

4th April—Break up for Easter holiday