

Newsletter 21

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Why Not Share a Story?

Next week we will be celebrating World Book Day and as part of that we will be sharing lots of stories. Sharing a story with your child is such a beneficial thing to do for so many reasons:

- Stories help children to feel safe and connected to you.
- Stories can help children develop a sense of self.
- Stories help children to understand everyday thoughts and emotions.
- Stories can help to soothe or comfort when life is a little overwhelming.
- Stories help children to understand the world around them and learn about things they have not yet experienced for themselves.
- Stories offer a window to new and exciting worlds which stimulate imagination and creativity.
- Stories can help children to learn how to problem solve.
- Becoming a story teller builds self-esteem and confidence.
- Sharing stories aids brain development, focus and attention.

Why not spend some time relaxing and sharing a story this weekend? I always say technology is wonderful but nothing beats a book!

Mrs Howell.

Mid-Term Reports and Parent Consultations

We are now at the mid point of the academic year and teachers are preparing the children's mid-year reports which will be sent out to you on Friday 8th March. These reports will help you in your discussions with class teachers at the forthcoming parent consultation evenings on Tuesday 12th and Thursday 21st March. Following feedback from parents and carers, we will be offering a hybrid model for the coming parent consultations evenings. For the first evening on Tuesday 12th March, the appointments will be held face-to-face from 4.00 pm. Reception and Key Stage 1 teachers will be based in the Activity Hall and Key Stage 2 teachers will be in the Main Hall. Parents and carers will also have the opportunity to look at the children's books. We will be offering a crèche for children at the consultations on Tuesday 12th March. On Thursday 21st March the appointments will be virtual via zoom, again from 4.00 pm.

Booking for appointments on both weeks is via the electronic booking system. If you have any problems accessing the booking system please speak to the office staff.

I do hope you will all take this opportunity to speak to the teaching staff about your child's progress and their many achievements.



Next Thursday 7th March is World Book Day and to mark this event we will be holding a week of exciting activities to celebrate our passion for books, illustrations and reading.

Do you have a favourite word? On World Book Day itself we are encouraging children and staff to come to school dressed as a word of their choice. Please do not feel that you need to purchase anything new or expensive for this event - we simply invite your child to get creative in representing a word of their choice using what you have at home. For example, pyjamas could be worn to represent the word 'sleepy'; or sparkly clothes for the word 'sparkle'. Outfits do not need to be intricate, time consuming, or costly, we just want everyone to have fun and celebrate our love of words and reading. If you are stuck for inspiration there are lots of ideas on the internet.

FRIDAY 15th MARCH IS RED NOSE DAY

Red Nose Day is back on **Friday 15th March** and we're joining schools up and down the nation to do something funny for money by holding one of our very popular non-uniform days. The theme this year is 'Red-to-Toe' if you have something red to wear, although normal non-uniform is fine as well to help support the fundraising!

The suggested donation is £1. You can donate via the usual bucket collection on the playground on 15th March or via the JustGiving page at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd24-monkfield-park-primary-school>

PLEASE NOTE: The minimum donation allowed on JustGiving is £2.

However much you can spare, your donation will go to Comic Relief to help people facing poverty in our communities, here in the UK and around the world.

We will also be selling **red noses** in school from Monday 4th March. This year there are three fun red nose characters to collect, with a 1 in 166 chance to get your hands on the super limited edition rare 'Gold' nose!! There will be a limited amount of red noses available to buy through the school office at a cost of £2 each. Please send the correct change in with your child in a labelled, sealed envelope if you would like to purchase a red nose through school. They are also available to order directly through Amazon as well. At least £1 from the purchase of each red nose will go to Comic Relief.



British Heart Foundation Red Bake Sale



We are delighted to be supporting the British Heart Foundation as our charity of the year. The British Heart Foundation fund around £100 million of research each year into all heart and circulatory diseases and the things that cause them with the aim of finding cures and treatments. This research is only possible because of fundraising.

As part of our fundraising our School Council will be holding a red themed bake sale to support the British Heart Foundation's colour of red on Wednesday 13th March after school on the Key Stage One playground (or in the main hall in the case of bad weather). We would be very grateful for any donations of red food and red coloured bakes to sell at the sale. Children can bring these into school on the morning of the 13th March. Please ensure all food is celery and nut free and ingredients are clearly labelled.

Snack and bakes will be sold at 50p an item and you will also be able to donate using cash or online via the British Heart Foundation website using a QR code. We look forward to seeing you at the bake sale and thank you for your support in fundraising for the British Heart Foundation.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to find and order three of their toys by height or length.

Ask your Year 1 child to name the different parts of a castle.

Ask your Year 2 child to use some adjectives to describe Florence Nightingale.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain the difference between a contact and a non-contact force.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain the water cycle.

Ask your Year 5 child to name at least three countries or territories in South America.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain why people explored the Earth in Tudor times.

A Few Reminders

The children are now accessing the field at lunchtimes all year round. This is to give them more room to run and play. Please can you send your child to school with a pair of wellingtons or waterproof boots to change into? This is to prevent the children getting wet feet and bringing lots of mud into the classroom.

We have also had quite a lot of football and other trading cards being brought into school recently. We do not allow these to be brought into school as they cause disputes and fighting and can frequently be lost. Please can you check that your children are not bringing them to school in their bags.

Pocket toys are also increasing in size again! The rules are that a pocket toy **MUST** be able to fit into a child's pocket, must not be of great monetary or sentimental value and must be appropriate. The children can play with these toys at break and lunch times but at other times they must be stored in a child's bag or tray. Children are fully responsible for their pocket toys and school cannot be held responsible for items which are damaged or lost. Thank you for your support in this matter.

FORTHCOMING DATES Spring Term 2024

5th March—Dental checks for selected Reception and Year 1 children

5th March—SEND Coffee Morning

8th March—Cygnus Class assembly

8th March—Mid-term reports to parents

12th March—Parent consultations in person 4pm till 6:20pm

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 via Zoom 4pm to 6:20pm

22nd March—Green Class assembly

26th March—Year 5 production at 2 pm

27th March—Year 5 production at 6 pm

28th March— Last day in school before 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

27th to 31st May—Half term holiday

3rd June—INSET Day (school closed to children)

4th June—Children return to school

19th June—Reception and KS1 Sports Day

26th June—KS2 Sports Day

27th June—Reserve KS2 Sports Day

28th June— Year 4 Residential Trip to Burwell House

3rd July—Key Stage 2 Wellbeing Wednesday

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

Shapes Everywhere!

During our Group Time sessions this week, the Rabbit Group has started learning about shapes. We have looked at circles, triangles and semi-circles and talked about their properties. We have learnt the words 'corner' and 'side', looking to see how many each shape has, as well as 'straight' and 'curved' to describe the sides of different shapes. We went on a shape hunt around the classroom to find different objects and toys which are circles. We found out that there are circles EVERYWHERE! Maybe you could go on a shape search at home or when you are out and about? It would be great if you could upload some photos of your search on to Evidence Me for the children to share with their friends. Ask your child to describe the shapes to you, telling you how many corners and how many sides and whether the sides are straight or curved.



World Book Day

Next Thursday 7th March is World Book Day. To mark this occasion, we would like to invite the children to dress up as a book character or to bring in an object to represent a favourite story. Costumes and accessories should be very simple and there is no need to purchase anything new. Children may also bring in their favourite book to share if they would like. Please make sure that all books and accessories are clearly named.

Parent Consultations

Over the next few days, you should be receiving an email from the office regarding our parent consultations. Please look out for this and come and book an appointment at the school office to come and talk to your child's Key Person.

Best wishes *JANE TURNER*