

# Newsletter 16

Friday 17th January 2025

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## Everything is Rather Muddy

Following the sub zero temperatures and frozen ground that marked the return to school last week, the thaw arrived this week. Unfortunately, that has seen much of the site becoming a bit of a mud bath! One thing we know is that children and mud have a great affinity with each other and this has resulted in the mud making its way into the building as so many of the children seem to have forgotten to bring their wellingtons, waterproof boots or a change of shoes back to school after the Christmas break. Please can we ask you to remind your child to bring their boots/spare shoes back to school to help us to control the amount of mud that is brought into the school building.

You may have noticed the arrival of some shiny, new, green metal cabinets which have been positioned outside each classroom. These are our storage cabinets for children's boots and shoes and are positioned next to the benches outside the classrooms to make it easy for the children to change their footwear before going out to play or returning to the classroom for lessons. We know that new routines take quite a while to become embedded so your help in reinforcing the importance of changing into outside shoes would be greatly appreciated by the cleaning team, the staff and me. Thank you for your help.

Mrs Howell

## Don't Forget the School Disco!

Everyone needs something to help drive away the January blues, and the wonderful FOMP team have the answer—THE SCHOOL DISCO!

Make sure you have Friday 31st January saved in your diary and that you have purchased your tickets.

There will be three discos at the following times:

- 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm – Years 1 & 2
- 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm - Years 3 & 4
- 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm – Years 5 & 6



Reception children will have their disco as part of their Golden Time and will not require tickets. For the other discos, tickets cost £3.75 each and this includes entrance, drink and a snack. Please purchase your tickets and provide all of the relevant pick-up/allergy information required via the PTA Events page, before Thursday 30th January, on [www.pta-events.co.uk/fomp](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/fomp)

### Budding Palaeontologists

Before Christmas some of our eagle eyed Year 5 boys noticed something unusual in a rock in the school grounds. The boys asked Mrs Howell what she thought this strange inclusion might be and she confirmed that it looked like a fossil. Since returning to school this very keen group of boys have been painstakingly investigating this phenomenon during their lunch breaks. This week their careful excavations fully revealed the fossil—a well preserved ammonite. Ammonites are the fossilised remains of mollusc like creatures which lived in the ocean and became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous period about 66 million years ago! It is incredible to think that Cambourne was part of the sea bed at the end of the Cretaceous period at the same time the dinosaurs also became extinct millions of years ago.



As the boys explained, “When we first spotted it, it wouldn’t budge at all. We carefully started to dig it out with sticks and other bits of rock that we had made into tools, There were lots of crystals in the rock too that are called inclusions. When we finally managed to reveal the fossil it was an amazing sight and we felt so proud of it”.

Well done to the boys for spotting the fossil and for taking such care to excavate it. I think we may have some Palaeontologists in the making.



## Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to see how many different types of transport they can spot from a window where they live.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you which materials they used to make their wind resistant houses.

Ask your Year 2 child to sing you their favourite song from our production.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you what the recommended SPF is for children.

Ask your Year 4 child to name one of the authors of the Bible.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you the difference between a reversible and irreversible change.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain why good insulation is important in houses.

Big Garden  
Birdwatch

24-26 January 2025

# Join the world's largest garden wildlife survey.

The Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring in the UK.

Last year over 600,000 people took part in Big Garden Birdwatch 2024, counting a whopping 9.7 million birds! House Sparrows took the top spot, but counts of these chirpy birds are down by 60% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979. In fact, we've lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years. With birds facing so many challenges, it's more important than ever to get involved in the Birdwatch. Every bird you do – or don't – count will give the RSPB a valuable insight into how garden birds are faring. For more information go to [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch).

Choose an hour between  
24 and 26 January

Only record the birds that  
land in your patch

Record the highest number  
of each bird species you  
see at any one time

**FORTHCOMING DATES Spring Term 2025**

- 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 3 Life in Ancient Egypt Day with History off the Page
- 13th February—Year 2 production at 2pm
- 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—Cygnus 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
- 7th—21st April—EASTER HOLIDAY
- 22nd April—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](mailto: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

### Happy New Year!

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to Care and Learning Centre! We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break. A good rest seems to have done the children the world of good, and they have amazed us at how well they have come back, with some fantastic listening and learning! An extra special welcome to our 5 new families and children who are joining the Care and Learning Centre this term.

### Read Write Inc Phonics

This week, during Group Time, the children in the Rabbit Group have begun learning the pictures from the Read Write Inc phonics scheme. So far, we have learnt the pictures: mountain, apple, snake, dinosaur and tower. We have also talked about the corresponding sound for each of the pictures, for example, a,a,a apple, ssssss snake. Look out for a video on Evidence Me which shows the pictures we have learnt this week as well as how to pronounce each of the sounds, to help you practise at home.



*Best wishes,*

*Jane Turner*

*Pre-School Manager*