

Newsletter 5

Friday 11th October 2024

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In School This Week—Head Lice!

This week we have been informed of a number of cases of head lice in school.

As a mum, I appreciate what a scourge they are and how frustratingly difficult it is to break the cycle and banish these unwelcome visitors. We would appreciate your co-operation in managing this by thoroughly checking your child's hair each week and treating where necessary. There is no need to buy expensive treatments, as it is just as effective to apply conditioner to wet hair and use a lice comb to remove any live lice and eggs.

Please don't forget that the whole family needs to be checked at the same time and that bedding should be thoroughly washed. More information and support can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

With best wishes

Mrs Howell.



Attendance Updates

Last week we sent out attendance letters to inform parents and carers if their child's attendance had fallen below 96%.

Schools have a statutory duty to monitor attendance and every month we analyse the attendance data for each child. The percentage attendance figure is calculated for the school year to the end of the previous month i.e. for this year to date, this will be from 5th September 2024. Schools are required to ensure that parents are informed of any attendance concerns at the earliest opportunity, therefore you will receive an initial communication from us if your child's attendance falls below 96%. This initial letter will be to simply make you aware of your child's attendance level.

If concerns persist and your child's attendance continues to deteriorate then the school will contact you again to inform you of our concerns and to offer a supportive meeting with Mrs Walsh, our Family Support Worker, to explore the reasons for the absences and discuss what help can be put in place to increase attendance. This is a voluntary and supportive process and Mrs Walsh is on the playground every morning to help if your child is feeling anxious about coming into school.

If a child's attendance falls below 90% they will be classified as a persistent absentee. Schools are legally obliged to provide support and intervention for pupils which will take the form of 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 support you and overcome these barriers together.

Year 6 Netball Tournament

Well done to our Year 6 netball teams who participated in the first netball tournament of the season at Cambourne Village college this week. Mr Yates reported that the children played with great passion and determination, demonstrating excellent team skills. Both teams had a very enjoyable time and were great ambassadors for our school.



Year 5 Looking To the Future

It's never too early to start thinking about the future so, with this in mind, Year 5 visited the Careers Fair organised by the Network CB23 cluster of schools. This was an excellent opportunity for the children to meet representatives from a range of local companies. The children were able to talk to many different employers including the NHS, the Wildlife Trust, Cambridge University, Citrix Systems and Savills Estate Agents. All the exhibitors chatted to the children so that they were able to gain an understanding of what their jobs entail, the different roles available and the skills that are needed for a variety of inspirational and motivating careers.



Year 1 Visit to Castle Hedingham

We love to enrich the children's learning with hands on experiences and as Year 1 are currently immersing themselves in studying medieval castles we jumped at the opportunity to visit Hedingham Castle. Castle Hedingham is one of the best-preserved Norman keeps in England and an amazing place for children to visit and explore. This was a fantastic experience for the children as they were able to witness what life was like for the people who lived at Castle Hedingham 900 years ago.



Please Keep our Playground Safe

Our playgrounds are extremely busy at morning drop off and again when the children are being collected at the end of the school day. To avoid the possibility of collisions with pedestrians and to ensure the safety of all those who access the site with small children at these busy times, please can we politely remind adults and children that they should dismount from their scooters and cycles at the school gates before they enter the school grounds.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping everyone safe.



Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to find something which is triangular shaped in or around your home.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you the most memorable thing about their visit to Castle Hedingham.

Ask your Year 2 child to describe the life cycle of a frog.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you which metals are combined to make bronze.

Ask your Year 4 child who is in their support network and how they would ask them for help.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you how our knowledge of space can help us understand climate change.

Ask your Year 6 child to predict what will happen to their bread samples in two weeks.



Do you have any items of school uniform that your child has outgrown? Do you have any wellingtons that your child no longer needs? If you have any of these items, FOMP would be very grateful for any donations to re-stock their pre-loved school uniform bank. FOMP wash and sell the uniform on to other families at a very reduced price thereby saving the planet and raising funds for the school. FOMP is particularly short of larger sizes for Key Stage 2 children and wellington boots.

If you have items to donate please drop them into the school office or e-mail Helen Hickmott directly at: sh.uniform.monkfieldpark@gmail.com to arrange collection.

FORTHCOMING DATES Autumn Term 2024

15th October—4.00pm –6.30pm—Parent consultation evening In school

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 via zoom (meeting details to follow)

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

26th November—Trunk Theatre visiting Year 2

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

24th January—Columba Class assembly

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

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

5th February—KS1 Wellbeing Wednesday

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

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:

Thursday 17th October 2.00pm Now Full

Thursday 14th November 5.30pm

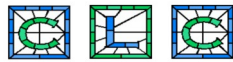
Tuesday 26th November 9.30am Now Full

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 the school and meet the Headteacher.

Monkfield Park



Care and Learning Centre

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

Musical Fun

This week we have been playing musical instruments in our Group Time. We have been learning the names of some of the instruments, such as 'bells', 'tambourine' and 'maraca'. We played Stop and Go and had to watch and listen very carefully to see when to keep our instruments still. We also practised playing quietly and LOUDLY! Great listening everybody!

Outdoor Play

At the Care and Learning Centre pre-school, we firmly believe that outdoor play is vital for children's development and we have a 'free flow' policy where children are able to move freely between inside and outside play and learning all year round. This week, the children have had a fantastic time playing out in the muddy garden! They have been digging, mixing mud pies, building obstacle courses and transporting toys around in the wheelbarrows, to name just a few of the activities! Thank you to all those parents who have sent in welly boots and a reminder to those who still need to bring them. Thank you.



Best wishes

JANE TURNER