

Newsletter 24

Friday 22nd March 2024

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Easter Greetings

There has been a marked change in the weather over the past week and as we marked the Spring equinox this week it finally feels like Spring is beginning. The trees around school are gracing our boundaries with new blossom, daffodils are in bloom and there have even been a few days when the sun has been shining. This is rather timely as the Spring term is rapidly drawing to a close with only four school days until we break up for the Easter holiday.

It has only been four weeks since we returned from the half term break but we have certainly packed a lot of learning into that short time and there has been so much to celebrate with WOW Days, author visits, sporting events, competitions and lots of very generous fundraising activities. The children are always so eager to take on any challenge which inspires the staff to find even more ways of making learning fun, exciting and adventurous for them. Everyone has worked so hard this term and I think they are ready for a well deserved holiday. So it only remains for me to wish you all lots of sunshine, relaxation, time to spend with families and friends and, of course, lots of Easter eggs.

With very best wishes

5 Stars For The Monkfield Park Kitchen Staff

The ladies from the Dolce catering team have done it again. In the recent inspection of the kitchen by the Local Authority food safety officer, they were awarded the Food Standards Agency's top grade of 5 stars. This means that the hygiene standards are very good indeed and fully comply with all legal requirements.



We send our congratulations to the team who work so hard to serve the children and staff delicious, healthy and nutritious lunches every day. The menus offer a range of traditional and contemporary dishes which are designed by Dolce to appeal to the children and are prepared using locally sourced, fresh ingredients.

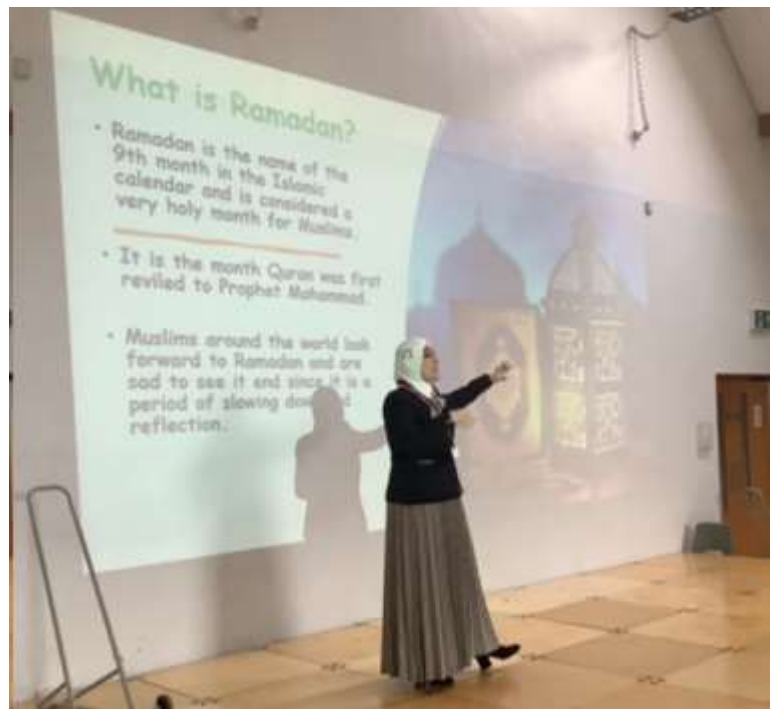
I always enjoy my lunch and am so impressed with the team who are always ready with a smile and a kind word for everyone. Thank you ladies, we really do appreciate you.

Marking Ramadan

We were delighted to welcome Dr Yomna Helmei, from the University of Cambridge Centre for Islamic Studies, to school this week. Dr Helmei gave a very interesting assembly to the whole school in which she told us all about the importance of Ramadan to Muslims across the world and gave us lots of new and interesting information about Islam. The children were so enthusiastic and made Dr Helmei very welcome.

"I really liked the video of the families and how they break the fast. It was amazing to see inside the homes". *Florence Y3*

"It was really interesting to see what it was like during the day for those people who are fasting during Ramadan. It really helped me to understand". *Lilah Y5*



RED NOSE DAY

To everyone who purchased a red nose, dressed in red from head to toe, or made a donation to support Comic Relief's Red Nose day last Friday, we would like to say an enormous thank you. Thanks to your generosity FOMP raised an amazing **£569.58**. All the money raised will allow Comic Relief to help people facing poverty in communities, here in the UK and around the world. Thank you once again for your incredible generosity.

Welcome to Our New Governors



Following the recent election process for the vacant parent governor post, I am delighted to announce that Mr Greg Clifton, father of Arthur in Year 5 and Teddy in Year 3, has been elected as parent governor for a period of four years.

In addition we welcome Mrs Jacqueline Durrant, our School Business Manager, as the new staff governor. Mrs Durrant has been with Monkfield Park since its inception and brings a wealth of knowledge of the school to the role.

In the Footsteps of the Lady with the Lamp

This week Year 2 were transported back in time to 1854 where they found themselves in the middle of the Crimean War. Visiting Scutari Hospital they joined 'the Lady with the lamp', Florence Nightingale, in her mission to treat many of the injured and sick casualties. The children set to cooking wholesome and nutritious meals for the wounded soldiers, providing clean and hygienic wards, learning basic First Aid and bandaging techniques, and teaching the trainee nurses about the importance of keeping rats and other vermin out of the hospital. Having made their own authentic lamps, the children also had a zoom call with Mary Seacole. Mary Seacole was another inspirational woman pioneer in the field of medicine and health care. She was a contemporary of Florence Nightingale who did amazing work caring for the injured soldiers on the front line in the Crimean War.

Everyone had a great time in their role-play, learning many new facts and developing a better understanding of the important role Florence Nightingale played in developing the country's health service and the modern standards of nursing we have come to expect today. The children joined together at the end of the day to share the nutritious vegetable soup they had created. It was a great hit with everyone and the children thought it was just the thing to help sick and injured people get better and regain their strength.



Tag Rugby

A huge well done to the Year 5 and Year 6 children who played in the Tag Rugby tournament this week. The team had a fantastic time at the competition which was organised by South Cambs School Sports Partnership at Shelford Rugby Club. The children were very competitive in the plate competition and were deservedly awarded the Spirit of the Games Award for the respect they showed to the opposition and the referees, their honesty, and the superb teamwork they demonstrated. We are very proud of you and you should be very proud of your achievements.



Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to teach you to talk like a pirate.

Ask your Year 1 child to explain how they made their animated stories.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you the most interesting fact they learnt about Florence Nightingale.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you what adventure they would like to complete. Think about Tom from the book, 'The Boy who Biked the World'.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain how a river starts at a source and moves to the river mouth.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you an interesting fact they have discovered about Peru.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain how you calculate or estimate the area and perimeter of a triangle.

Reception Visit to Cambourne Library

The children loved visiting Cambourne library on Monday and having the opportunity to explore a wide range of books. We enjoyed browsing the shelves and borrowed some pirate themed stories to read in school to enhance our current topic.

We also spoke to the children about joining the library and how they can get their own library card and borrow books themselves. You can find further information about how to join the library below.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/library-membership>

The Cambridgeshire Libraries Family Facebook page is a brilliant way to find out about events happening at local libraries. Cam-

bourne Library has a Lego event happening on Wednesday 3rd April (in the Easter holiday break).

<https://www.facebook.com/CambslibFamilies>



The Great Tommy Sleep Out



Mr Chamberlain, our Site Officer, is taking part in the Royal British Legion's Great Tommy Sleep Out from 29th to 31st March to raise money for veterans who have been injured in conflicts and now require life-long care. If you would like to sponsor Mr Chamberlain and help him to raise money for this worthy cause, there is a sponsor form in the school office.

Great Quizzing

This week a combined team of Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in the first Network CB23 Humanities Quiz held at Bourn. The children used their joint talents to answer questions on a wide range of topics



they cover in their lessons in school together with some general knowledge challenges. Could you recognise the foreheads of current world leaders? The children did brilliantly and we are very proud of them all.

A Reminder About School Uniform

Spring is upon us and everything is growing, including the children who all seem to be having a growth spurt. Consequently, I know many of you are already thinking about purchasing new uniform for your child/children over the coming weeks. Our uniform is very important to us as it instils a sense of pride and sets the same high level of expectation we ask the children to apply to their work. As a school we aim to make our school uniform as simple and affordable as possible so please can we take this opportunity to remind you of the requirements.

- Knee length grey skirt, grey school trousers or grey school shorts.
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Dark green sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black school shoes—not trainers

Trousers and skirts should be **GREY** and not black. **Black leggings are not acceptable items of school uniform.** Children will need sensible black school shoes (not Ugg style boots or shoes) and additionally a spare pair of shoes, boots or wellingtons to change into when playing on the field at lunchtimes.

We will be reminding children of our expectations regarding school uniform and would ask you to support us in reinforcing these expectations.

FOMP have an excellent stock of nearly new and second hand uniform which can be purchased from the School Office at very reasonable prices. Please do contact the office and they will be happy to pass on FOMP's contact details to you.



Naming Uniform

Please can you ensure that all items of school uniform and equipment are clearly named. This does not have to be a sewn in name tape but can simply be your child's name written in pen on the label. It makes it almost impossible to reunite lost/misplaced items with their owners without this. Thank you for your support in this matter.

FORTHCOMING DATES Summer Term 2024

25th March—Year 6 PGL Information Evening at 6pm

26th March—Year 5 production at 2 pm

27th March—Year 5 production at 6 pm

27th March—Headteacher Drop In 9.30—10.30am

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

15th April—Year 6 SATs information evening at 6pm

22nd April— Height and Weight measurements for Reception and Year 6

26th April—Dorado Class assembly

29th April to 3rd May— Healthy Lifestyles Week

10th May—Lacerta Class assembly

13th to 16th May—End of KS2 SATS for Year 6

14th May –Reception Come and Share

16th May—Vision Screening for Reception children

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

14th June—Class photographs

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

5th July—Aquila Class Assembly

10th July—Reception summer celebration

18th July—Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

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

Buds and Blossom

This week the children have continued learning about Spring. We have been out and about in the school grounds looking for buds and blossom, using magnifying glasses to help us see things clearly.



Nursery Rhymes

The children in the Hedgehog Group have been learning the nursery rhymes 'Humpty Dumpty' and 'Hey Diddle Diddle' this half term. I wonder if they can sing them to you at home? As you know, singing rhymes regularly with your child is a great way to develop their early literacy skills, so keep on singing!

Spring Song Time

On Thursday 28th March at 9.15 am, we would like to invite all parents and carers to come and listen to the songs we have been learning this term. All children are welcome to attend, even if this is not their usual morning.

Easter Holidays

We break up for Easter holidays next Thursday 28th March and return to pre-school again on Monday 15th April. We would like to wish all of our families a restful break and a Happy Easter from the CLC team!

Best wishes

JANE TURNER