

Newsletter 28

Friday 2nd May 2025

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Being Inclusive

In my assembly on Monday I talked to the children about being inclusive and asked them to think about what a visitor to our school might see and how they would know we are an inclusive community. As always, the children came up with fabulous answers and examples. I then asked if anyone had ever felt excluded because someone had said something unkind to them online. The response shocked me as nearly every hand in the hall shot up. Children went on to give examples of how small arguments on social media groups had escalated into huge dramas in which they were castigated and excluded.

I am sure you are all aware of the current debates in parliament and the measures that Ofcom is implementing to improve children's safety online and ensure children are not accessing harmful content. Despite apps such as WhatsApp, Instagram and Snapchat having an age requirement of 13, most children have accounts which are enabled by their parents. Where parents have enabled their child to use such social media platforms, it is recommended that they should closely monitor who their child is talking to and the nature of the conversations they are having. Children who are under the age limit for these apps should not be using them unaccompanied and a trusted adult should carefully monitor the content of 'chat' to ensure that children are not using inappropriate language with one another and that the nature of the conversation is appropriate. Keeping our children safe both physically and online is of the utmost importance and we must work together to ensure our children are using any online platforms appropriately, safely and with kindness.

Mrs Howell

Keep our Playground Safe

Our playgrounds are extremely busy at morning drop off and again when collecting children at the end of the school day. It is very important that for their safety, all children stay with their accompanying adult and do not wander off to the school field or other areas at these times.

Please could we also politely remind all adults and children that they should dismount from their scooters and cycles at the gates before they enter the school grounds, to avoid the possibility of collisions with pedestrians. It is of paramount importance that we ensure the safety of all those who access the school site with small children at these busy times.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.



Burwell House

Year 4 had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Burwell House this week!

They explored the extensive house grounds in the glorious Spring sunshine whilst honing their orienteering skills in the snail game. They then had a delicious pizza lunch before creating some natural and, in some cases, frighteningly accurate portraits of their teachers using twigs, leaves and other objects found around the grounds. They then worked in groups to create larger sculptures of Mandala patterns and Indian animals linked to our India topic. The children then made up their own beds before enjoying the evening meal. It's important to note that the children cleared up after themselves independently after every meal. Mr Meredith and Mrs Tranter were very impressed! They rounded off an exciting first day by singing songs, telling stories and playing games around the camp fire before settling down to a nice warm hot chocolate in the lounge before bed.

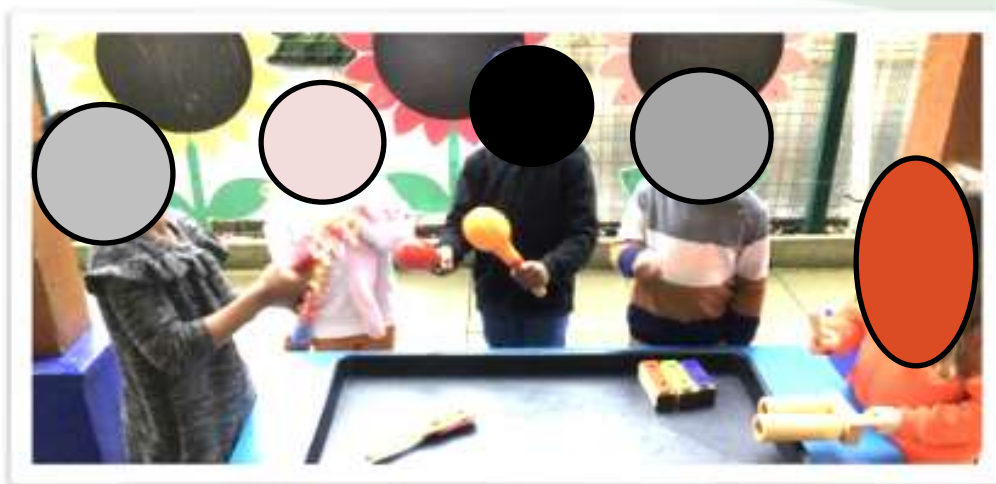
Day 2 started bright and early and the children were taken on a Burwell Village walk in which they learnt about the fascinating local history of the Fens and visited some intriguing historical buildings such as the village gaol. The Burwell Fox was next, in which the children had to become foxes and use all of their guile and cunning to find and answer questions around the house grounds whilst trying to evade the attention of the grumpy local farmers (teachers). The children then enjoyed a well-earned BBQ lunch in the garden before returning to school.



BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

September will be with us before we know it, so now is the time to book your pre-school place for the Autumn term.

If you have a child who will be 3 in September you can book places for the Autumn term in our pre-school now. Graded Good by Ofsted in June 2025 we can provide 15/30 hours of funded provision with a qualified Early Years teacher and dedicated and supportive Early Years staff, in a caring and nurturing learning environment. We are open from 8am to 6pm during term time and welcome visits from parents and carers. Please contact the school office to arrange a visit and discover the Monkfield Way.



Pre-school for children age 3+ with wrap around care

15/30 hours of funded provision with a qualified Early Years teacher

Open from 8 am to 6 pm during term time

Graded Good by Ofsted

A caring and nurturing learning environment

Visits welcome. COME AND DISCOVER THE MONKFIELD WAY.

Contact us on: 01954 273377

e-mail: clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk

www.monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk

County Lines Seminar

The Ivison Trust (formerly known as Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE)) are holding two evening seminars specifically for parents and carers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with a focus on County Lines and Criminal Exploitation. These seminars will be delivered with a parent whose child has been a victim of exploitation, sharing their experiences and advice on responding to risks.

The sessions will share what criminal exploitation is, with a focus on County Lines and explore how to spot signs that it may be happening to your child or a child you know. They will also cover trends in the local area and where to get advice and support if you are concerned.

For more information and to register a place visit [Parent webinars - county lines and criminal exploitation - Ivison Trust](#)

What parents will learn

- Learn what county lines is
- Understand what is happening in your local area
- Learn how exploiters groom children
- Understand the signs that your child might be at risk
- Know where to access support and advice if you have concerns

Upcoming webinars Cambridgeshire 17th June 2025 7:00pm – 8:30pm – [Book your place](#)

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to describe the rain forest.

Ask your Year 1 child to explain what your skeleton is for.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you what they would measure with grams, millilitres, and centimetres.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain how you define what a drug is.

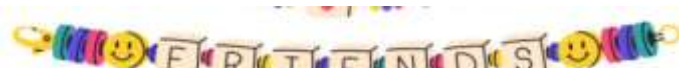
Ask your Year 4 child to explain what skills they needed to use to guide their blindfolded partner safely around the trees.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you about the art work of William Morris.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain some different ways that drugs can be classified.

A Polite Reminder About Jewellery and Nail Varnish

With the arrival of the sunny weather we have seen an increase in the number of children wearing bracelets and other items of jewellery together with nail varnish. For health and safety reasons jewellery and elaborate hair ornaments should not be worn to school. The only exceptions are watches and small studs for pierced ears. All jewellery items, including 'fitbits', MUST be removed during PE lessons and hair must be tied back to prevent injury. Children should remove their own earrings and store them safely or parents should remove them before the start of the school day. The Local Authority Health and Safety guidance no longer permits the taping of pierced ears during PE lessons. Staff cannot remove earrings for children or be responsible for storing them. As an alternative, silicone studs may be worn during PE lessons. Please can you check that all bracelets, bangles and necklaces are removed before your child comes to school each day and that nail varnish is removed following the weekend. Thank you for your support in this matter.



FORTHCOMING DATES SPRING TERM 2025

5th May—May Day Bank Holiday

6th to 8th May—School Council Toy Sale at 3.30pm

7th May—Reception Trip to South Angle Farm

12th to 15th May—Key Stage 2 SATS week

16th May—Blue Class assembly

19th to 23rd May—STEM Week

19th May—Reception Come and Share

21st May—Year 5 production at 2pm

22nd May—Year 5 production at 6pm

26th to 30th May—Half Term

2nd June—INSET Day

3rd June—Children return to school

3rd June—Catch Your Breath Workshops for Year 6

4th to 6th June—Empathy Week

4th to 6th June—Phonic Screening Check week

11th June—New Reception Come and Play session at 4pm

9th to 13th June—Y4 Multiplication Check period

13th June—Class photographs

18th June—Key Stage 1 and Reception Sports Day

20th June—Lacerta Class assembly

20th June—Reserve Key Stage 1 and Reception Sports Day

27th June—Aquila Class assembly

1st July—Key Stage 2 Sports Day

2nd July—Reserve Key Stage 2 Sports Day

2nd July—New Reception Parents' Evening

8th July—Year 6 performance at 6pm

9th July—Year 4 World War 2 WOW Day

10th July—Year 6 performance at 6pm

11th July—Move up morning

11th July—End of year reports to parents

14th to 18th July—Year 6 PGL residential trip

22nd July—Year 6 Leavers' assembly at 10am

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

Lifecycles

Over the last couple of weeks we have been reading lots of books about lifecycles and talked about the difference between an information book and a story-book. The children enjoyed telling me about the different information books they have at home and what they can learn from them. I wonder if any of the children can tell you what happens at the end of the Tadpoles Promise story? There is a big shock!

We've learnt lots of new vocabulary such as 'frogspawn', 'cocoon', 'chrysalis' and even 'metamorphosis' and have also been learning some songs about butterflies and frogs. After half term we will be receiving some newly hatched live caterpillars and the children will have the opportunity to observe the life-cycle of a butterfly for themselves.



Care4Calais

In May half-term, Ms Turner will be joining a Cambridgeshire National Education Union delegation, to volunteer with Care4Calais.

ITEM LIST

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Volunteers!
- Tents
- Men's and boys' coats (especially small and medium sizes)
- Sleeping bags and blankets
- Jogging bottoms or jeans, size 26-34 waist (joggers with cuff bottoms if possible)
- New boxer shorts (esp small and medium, tight fit if possible)
- Socks, hats and gloves
- Hoodies and jumpers
- Trainers
- Unlocked mobile phones with chargers (note – unlocking essential please)
- Powerbanks
- Tarpaulins
- Rain ponchos
- Backpacks

OTHER ITEMS NEED, BUT NOT PRIORITY

- Toiletries and toiletry packs
- Rollmats
- T-shirts
- Bin bags
- Anti-bacterial hand wash

ITEMS THAT ARE NOT NEEDED

This is because we already have lots of these things, because there is no demand for them, or because they aren't appropriate.

- Anything that is dirty, torn, or otherwise damaged
- **FOOD** - please note that due to Brexit restrictions we can no longer transport food to France
- Children's toys
- Women's and children's clothes
- Men's trousers larger than 34" waist
- Electrical goods
- Handbags
- Towels

Care4Calais is a volunteer run charity delivering essential aid and support to refugees living in the UK, Northern France and Belgium. The charity believes in a fair and tolerant British society and advocates for a welcoming and inclusive attitude towards refugees. Operating year round, the focus is to provide warm clothing, bedding, food and medical assistance to people in desperate need. Items most in need are:

If you are able to donate any items from the list above, please bring them along to the Care and Learning Centre by Friday 23rd May. Thank you!

Jane Turner, Early Years Teacher and Pre-School Manager