

# Newsletter 2

Friday 20th September 2024

In this issue:

Safeguarding children

Wellingtons

Naming uniform

Reception settling in

Applying for Reception places  
2025

Sentence Starters

Year 4 Team Building

Forthcoming dates

Care and Learning Centre



## Safeguarding our Children

If you were wondering why I was absent from school on Thursday, it wasn't because I was relaxing at home, I was actually undertaking my Designated Safeguarding Lead refresher training. This takes place every two years and it is always quite a challenging day as some of the case studies we have to learn about are very upsetting and unsettling. However, at the centre of this is our statutory duty, as detailed in the document Keeping Children Safe in Education, to ensure children at Monkfield Park are able to flourish and thrive because they are protected and free from harm.

Sometimes protecting our children can seem like an insurmountable task as modern technology presents so many more risks—I spent the afternoon learning about the dangers posed by AI which really made my hair curl! We have to strike a balance between setting boundaries and putting in protective factors to teaching the children how to recognise and manage risk for themselves.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated Safeguarding Team at Monkfield Park but it is important to remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every single person who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in keeping our children safe.

Mrs Howell.

## **Wellingtons!**

Just a reminder that the children will be playing on the field all year round and so they will need a pair of wellingtons or waterproof boots to change into at lunchtimes. This will be in addition to their school shoes which they will need to wear inside the school buildings and when the weather is dry. If you have any spare wellingtons which your children have grown out of we will be very happy to take them off your hands if you would like to donate them to school. Any donations of wellingtons can be left at the School Office. Please speak to us if you are experiencing problems sourcing wellingtons.



## **Name That Uniform!**

Please can you ensure that all items of school uniform and equipment that your child needs for school are clearly named? This does not have to be a sewn in name tape and 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. We already have a growing pile of sweatshirts and cardigans which we cannot reunite with their owners.





## A Day in the Life of Our Reception Children

Monday was the first full school day for our Reception children and we were all so impressed by how they took it in their stride. They are such a confident and curious group of children who are delighting in the wide range of activities on offer to them each day. We are all enjoying getting to know the latest additions to the Monkfield Park family as they begin this important phase of their learning journey. I hope they are regaling you with all the details of their day and the exciting learning they are involved in. However, if they are struggling to remember, here are some photographs to prompt your conversations.



## Applying for a School Place for September 2025

If your child was born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, and you live in Cambridgeshire, you need to apply for a Reception place for September 2025 before the closing date of 15th January 2025. Applications received after this date will not be considered until the second round of allocations in May. Further information about how to apply for a school place can be found in the First Steps booklet via the link below:-

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/imported-assets/First-Steps-2025-26-06.09.24.pdf>

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:

**Wednesday 2nd October 9.30am**

**Thursday 17th October 2.00pm**

**Thursday 14th November 5.30pm**

**Tuesday 26th November 9.30am**

**Thursday 12th December 2pm**

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.



## Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child about how they use their kind hands at school.

Ask your Year 1 child to explain what a mammal is.

Ask your Year 2 child to count to 20 and then to 100.

Ask your Year 3 child to act out verbs to show what the Stone Age Boy learnt from Om.

Ask your Year 4 child to tell you how many different ways they can partition a 4 digit number.

Ask your Year 5 child to name the features of a persuasive advert.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain how to round a 5-digit number to the nearest multiple of 10, 100 and 1,000.



### Year 4 Enjoy Team Building

The ability to work as part of a team is a key skill that children need to develop as they move through school. These skills help children to learn together, listen carefully, communicate clearly with each other, and think creatively so that they become confident, independent learners. This week the children in Aquila and Cygnus Classes were challenged to develop their ability to work collaboratively by taking turns, ensuring fair play and praising and supporting each other. The children had great fun solving a range of problems such as Charlotte's Web; mastering the plank walkers and working out how to transport the whole team across an imaginary river. It was wonderful to see the children's confidence grow throughout the sessions.



**FORTHCOMING DATES Autumn Term 2024**

23rs to 26th September—Year 6 Bikeability

26th September—NHS flu vaccinations

27th September—Year 4 Bikeability

**27th September—Friends of Monkfield Park AGM at 3.30pm in the Activity Hall**

7th October—Individual school photographs

8th October—Year 5 Careers' Convention

8th October—Year 1 trip to Hedingham Castle

11th October—Phoenix Class assembly at 9.15am

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

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

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

10th December at 2pm—Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert

10th December at 2pm—Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert

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

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

### Staff News

We are delighted to welcome Miss Rebecca Russell, our new Deputy Pre-School Manager, who will be working alongside Mrs Brown in this role. Miss Russell will also be taking on the role of Breakfast and After School Club Manager with Mrs Brown. Miss Russell has worked extensively in childcare and holds the Level 3 qualification. She recently took some time off from working in nursery settings to take up a position as a private nanny in Athens, Greece. Miss Russell enjoys being creative and was a dancer for 10 years, often dancing at the Blackpool Tower and Winter Gardens. Miss Russell will be opening up the door for Pre-School for some of the mornings next week so you can all get to know her!



### **Group Time**

The children have continued to settle well into pre-school life and have been getting used to the new routines. This week, they have been introduced to 'Group Time'. Each morning, we split into 2 small groups and go into our cosy Group Room for a planned, adult led learning activity. This week we have been talking about the days of the week and the weather and learning some new songs about this. Well done everyone for being such super listeners!

### **Welly Boots**

All the children need a pair of clearly named wellies to leave at Pre-School so they are able to play on the grassy areas of the garden during wet weather. Thank you.

Best wishes

Jane Turner