

Newsletter 10

Friday 22nd November
2024

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THANK
YOU

Thank You So Much

This is a week to say thank you to so many of you for your kindness, your generosity and support.

Last week we dressed up to raise money for BBC Children in Need. Thanks to the playground bucket collection and the donations via the just giving page you helped us to raise an amazing **£426.23** to help disadvantaged children across the UK.



Secondly I would like to say a huge thank you to FOMP who surprised us with the gift of a super Makita outdoor music player to brighten up our playtimes. The children have been able to have music while they play this week and last Friday they were able to enjoy a playground disco as part of our OPAL lunchtime play.



Thank you to all of you who have donated items to school for our OPAL playtimes. From chalk to bubble machines and dressing up clothes, we are grateful and thank you for your kindness.

With best wishes
Mrs Howell.

Cross Country Running

32 of our amazing Key Stage 2 runners braved the freezing weather conditions on Wednesday to participate in the Sports Partnership's Cross Country Running competition at Wimpole Hall. The competition has grown massively with approximately 1,000 children taking part this year. We are so proud of all the children who competed with great energy and determination and, throughout the event, were fantastic ambassadors for our school. Well done to all the children who competed and a special well done to Eden in Year 3 who came 5th over all in her race.



WELLINGTONS and OPAL Again!

I am sure you are growing tired of my endless appeals to send your child to school with a pair of wellingtons, boots or spare shoes. We have made great strides with this initiative and the large majority of the younger children are wearing wellington boots which means they are able to keep their feet warm and dry whilst enjoying the activities on offer on the school field.

However, many of the older children are still very resistant to wearing boots or changing their shoes and claim not to have any. We do have some spare pairs of wellingtons which have been donated so please do speak to the school office or Mrs Hickmott, our OPAL Play Coordinator, if you are struggling to find wellingtons to fit your child as they may be able to help. We would also be very happy to receive any donations of wellingtons that you no longer need and these will be gratefully received by the school office.

Thank you for all the items that have already been donated to help kick off our OPAL journey. The children have been really enjoying their lunchtimes playing with chinks, small world toys and Lego. We are looking ahead to the next stages that we would like to put in place. The following items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime:

- More small world items (figures/dinosaurs/cars etc) as we would like to expand our collection
- Large garden games - chess/jenga etc.
- Kitchen items for a Mud Kitchen - e.g. pots, pans, baking trays, wooden spoons, chopping board
- Child sized spades/shovels, trowels, brooms, buckets and bowls
- Camping roll mats, yoga mats, tarpaulins, blankets and cushions
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
- Dressing up items (particularly accessories e.g - hats/scarves/headwear/coats as these can be used more when it is cold or wet)
- Bags/Briefcases (especially hard cased ones)

If you have any of the above items that you no longer need please drop them off at the school office.



Threadworms

We have been made aware of cases of threadworm (also known as pinworm) in school.

Threadworms are very common in children of pre-school and school age and spread easily. The main symptoms to look out for are:

- Small white, thread like strands in your child's faeces
- Extreme itching around the anus
- Waking at night
- Irritability

Some children may also experience bed wetting and weight loss.

Your pharmacist or doctor will be able to prescribe medicine to kill the worms but it will not kill the eggs and these can survive outside the body for up to 2 weeks. You must tell the pharmacist if you need to treat a child under 2 years old, or if you're pregnant or breastfeeding. Treatment might not be suitable and you may need to speak to a GP.

The NHS recommends that the following steps are taken to prevent re-infection or passing the worms to others:

- wash hands and scrub under fingernails – particularly before eating, after using the toilet or changing nappies
- encourage children to wash their hands regularly
- shower every morning
- rinse toothbrushes before using them
- keep fingernails short
- wash sleepwear, sheets, towels and soft toys (at a hot temperature) every day for several days after treatment
- disinfect kitchen and bathroom surfaces, using hot water
- vacuum and dust with a damp cloth
- make sure everyone in the household wears underwear at night and changes it in the morning
- do not shake clothing or bedding, to prevent eggs landing on other surfaces
- do not share towels or flannels
- do not bite nails or suck thumbs and fingers

If you or your child has threadworms there is no need to stay off school or work but it is very important to stress to children the need to wash their hands regularly and to observe good hygiene practices.

Year 6 Visit to the Great Huts' Museum



Year 6 have also been experiencing mud as part of their learning about life in World War I. One of the highlights of their visit to the Great War Huts at Bury St Edmunds was being able to explore the network of re-constructed trenches and experience a little of what life must have been like for the soldiers. As one of the children, Leila, reflected, "It was a really informative visit but fun too. We



got to try on uniforms, use some of the equipment and even try holding some real WWI rifles. They were so heavy, 6Kg each. We all had our weekly workout lifting them!"

FOMP Pre-Loved Uniform Sale

FOMP will be holding a pre-loved uniform sale on Sunday, 24th November at Lower Cambourne Cricket Pavilion from 11 am to 2 pm. This is a great opportunity to pick up some gently used uniforms at affordable prices, with items ranging from just 50p to £2. Drop by, browse through the stock and find what you need whilst enjoying a tea and coffee to keep you warm while you shop!

FOMP will also be holding a clothing recycling collection on Wednesday, 27th November.

Little Recyclers will be collecting any unused or outgrown second-hand clothing in Priory Walk car park from 9 am on Wednesday 27th November. For those unable to make it on the 27th, you are welcome to bring donations to the uniform sale at the Cricket Pavilion on Sunday, 24th November.

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to describe the big, bad wolf.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you why glass is a good material for windows.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you about their diary entries from 1666.

Ask your Year 3 child what the traffic light system on food packages indicates.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain how early animations were created using frames.

Ask your Year 5 child to tell you how to insert a picture in a Microsoft word document.

Ask your Year 6 child to tell you how to make sure a test is fair in Science.

FORTHCOMING DATES Autumn Term 2024

26th November at 9.30am—Reception 2025 tour—FULL

26th November—Trunk Theatre visiting Year 2

4th December at 2.00pm—Reception 2025 tour—FULL

4th December at 3.30pm—Y4 Times Table Check Information Evening.

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

11th December at 2pm—Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Concert

12th December at 2.pm—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

23rd January—Public Speaking competition

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

6th February—Y4 Viking WOW Day

7th February—NSPCC Number Day

7th February—Y1 visit to Cambourne Library

11th February—Year 2 production at 2pm

12th February—Year 2 production at 2pm

17th to 21st February—Half Term Holiday

24th February—Children return to school

6th March—World Book Day

7th March—Cygnus Class assembly

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:

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.

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

Names

Over the last few weeks, we have been focusing on starting to read and write our names. Each of the children has a name card and when they arrive at pre-school each day, they go to find their name card by the door and then stick it up on the name board in the classroom. Many of the children are getting really good at identifying their names now, focusing in on the shape of their initial capital letter. This week we have been attempting to write our individual capital letters on whiteboards as well.

For some of the children, working on forming their capital letter will be enough for now, but others may be ready to attempt more letters or their whole name. If you are helping your child to practise writing their name at home, please remember to only use a capital letter for the first letter and small, lower case letters for the other letters.



If your child is not yet very interested in writing or drawing, please do not worry, it is still very early days! You can help them start to enjoy mark making by making it more active. For example, use chalks or water and big brushes on the ground outside, make finger marks in shaving foam or patterns in the mud using sticks. You can also help your child to strengthen the muscles in their hand, ready for holding pens and pencils, by providing activities such as squeezing sponges, manipulating playdough or pegging up objects on a washing line. Most of all - make it fun!

Have a wonderful weekend

Best wishes

JANE TURNER