

Newsletter 1

Friday 7th September 2018

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Welcome back

Welcome back to another exciting school year with lots of motivating curriculum and extra curricular events already planned for our children at Monkfield Park. We hope that you have had a great Summer and that your child/ren is/are raring to go again. Having visited the classrooms this week, it appears that many, many children have returned with a really positive attitude regarding their learning and that they have every intention of giving 100% this year.

We have some staff news to update you with, some of which you may already be aware of. Mrs J Johnson has joined us full time from this year and Mrs N Johnson has increased her teaching days from three to four. At the end of last term we said goodbye to two of our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Cowley and Mrs O'Reilly—we wish them both well for the future. We are also pleased to announce that Mrs Martin is expecting her first baby at the beginning of March! Also, congratulations to the former Miss Ward, who got married over the Summer and has become Mrs O'Rourke.

Next week we are looking forward to welcoming our new Reception children as they embark on their first few days of school life. Mrs O'Rourke and Mrs Sheldon have been visiting the children in their home surroundings this week so that they can get to know these children better and use their interests to plan well tuned activities that they will enjoy. Next week we also see the arrival of some new faces in the Key Stage 1 and 2 classes. New families and children will be joining our school from other locations and we hope that they will receive a very warm welcome from us all.

Mrs Jarman

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

Please be reminded that persistent absenteeism is now recognised as 10%, which means that any child with an attendance of less than 90% will be classed as a persistent absentee and will be monitored by the Education Welfare Officer. In these instances the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice. Schools will need to ensure that parents are informed of any attendance concerns at an early stage and therefore you should expect that you will receive an initial communication from school if your child's attendance falls under 96%. The initial letter will be to simply make you aware of your child's attendance level but if concerns persist, then the school may contact you again.

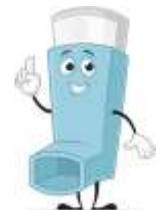
Parents who take a child out of school for term time leave for 6 consecutive sessions (3 days) or more over a 4 week period which are not authorised by the school under the exceptional circumstances rule may receive a Penalty Notice. Therefore Penalty Notices will be issued for single event absences of at least 3 consecutive school days or more where these absences are unauthorised because they are deemed to be neither exceptional or unavoidable.

Each term we analyse how each class is doing and how many children have been able to achieve that sometimes elusive 100% attendance. We know that if your child isn't in school for a very good reason, we cannot teach them all the curriculum asks them to learn and even small gaps in attendance can make a huge difference to children's understanding.

As always, our expectations for children and families are high and we look forward to a well attended year in 2018-19 so that we are supported in doing the very best for your child/ren. Please, please adhere to the school holiday dates when visiting relatives, planning family events, appointments or holidays and don't be tempted to book when children should be learning in school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Checking Medication Held in School

If your child has an asthma inhaler, epi pen, jext-pen or other medication in school please can we ask you to come into the school office to check that their medication is still in date and is stored in a clearly named box or bag. All out of date medication will need to be taken to a pharmacy for safe-disposal. Please note that we will not be able to administer out of date medication to your child.



School Meals

The cost of a meal is £2.30. Please find below the school lunch charges for the Autumn Term:

Weekly	£11.50
Monthly	£46.00
Autumn 1 st half term	£75.90

Parent Carer drop ins

Each half term, we offer parents/carers the opportunity to drop in to see the Head Teacher about any aspect of school life. The dates and times are listed below for this half term. Please note, however, that there is no appointment system and that parents will be seen on a first come, first served basis during a 1:1 meeting:

12th September 8.30am—9.30am

24th September 2pm—3pm

Meet the Teacher Evening & E-Safety Presentation

We do hope you will join us on Monday 17th September at 5.00 pm for our 'Meet the Teacher' evening and E-Safety presentation. The focus for the e-safety presentation this year will be around online gaming and the associated content, contact and conduct risks which come with this. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and to learn about the routines and expectations for their class. In their presentations, the teachers will give you important information about the curriculum, new homework arrangements, when PE lessons will take place, and forthcoming events. You will also be able to look around your child's new classroom. If you have children in more than one class it would be advisable for more than one family member to attend so that they are able to listen to all the presentations. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a crèche for this event so it will be necessary to make childcare arrangements for school children and siblings. The evening will finish at approximately 6.30 pm.



Pocket Toys Reminder

We are happy for the children to continue to bring small, pocket-sized toys into school. The children can use these toys to explore, play and create their own games during playtimes and lunchtimes. Toys must be pocket sized ie., able to fit into a coat or trouser pocket, must not be dangerous or offensive, and must be returned to children's trays at the end of play and/or break time. Please note that trading cards are not allowed to be brought into school and that we are unable to take responsibility for toys which are lost or damaged.

Monkfield Park Art Gallery

Our annual art gallery will take place once again this year for our families to come along and enjoy. The theme for this year will be 'Movement in Nature'. All children will be producing art work that will be displayed in the Main Hall between 3.45 pm and 4.15 pm on Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th and Friday 14th September where we will be selling your child's art work for £1 per piece. If you are unable to make the art gallery, but would still like to purchase your child's work, then please let us know and send a £1 coin into school in a named, sealed envelope marked 'art gallery'. All pieces of sold work will be ready for collection on Friday 14th September at 4.15 pm or will be sent home on Monday 17th September, with your child/ren.



Many parents have commented positively about this event in the past, so we hope that you will enjoy appreciating the children's artistic interpretations.

Homework help drop in

Please don't forget that every Friday between 9.30 am—10.30 am, Mrs Howell will be holding a 'homework help drop in'. This is aimed at parents who may be struggling to motivate their child with learning at home or may need assistance with the best methods in helping children to learn tricky concepts. Don't hesitate to come along if this may be of support to you.



Forthcoming dates

10th September—Reception children begin (morning only)

13th September—Reception children stay until after lunch

w/c 17th September—Reception children begin full time

12th, 13th and 14th September 3.45pm—4.15pm—Art gallery in the Main Hall

17th September—Meet the teacher and e-safety evening for parents

w/c 24th September—Harvest Festival Week

24th September at 6pm—ReadWrite Inc. information evening for Reception and Year 1 parents

26th September—Year 3 Egyptian morning (parents invited)

5th October at 9.15am—Phoenix Class assembly

10th October 5pm—7.30pm—Parent consultation evening

11th October at 1.30pm—Reception come and share

12th October at 9.15am—Green Class assembly

15th October—Individual school photographs

18th October 4pm—6.30pm—Parent consultation evening

22nd—26th October—HALF TERM

29th October—Children return to school

7th November 5.30pm—Reception maths afternoon

9th November at 9.15am—Indigo Class assembly

19th—22nd November—Year 6 Bikeability

23rd November at 9.15am—Violet Class assembly

26th—28th November—Book Fair

11th December at 2pm—Year 3 & 4 carol concert

12th December at 1.30pm—Reception come and share

12th December at 10am—Year 3 & 4 carol concert

13th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity

13th December at 6pm—Year 3 & 4 carol concert

14th December at 10am—Year 1 Nativity

18th December—Christmas lunch

18th December—Christmas festive fun afternoon

19th December—Last day of the Autumn term

20th December—2nd January—Christmas holiday

3rd & 4th January—INSET days (school closed to children)

7th January—Children return to school