



**Monkspath**  
Junior & Infant School

# Monkspath news

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MONKSPATH JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL

[www.monkspath.solihull.sch.uk](http://www.monkspath.solihull.sch.uk)

September 2016

Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new children and new families to Monkspath Junior and Infant School and a 'welcome back' to the rest of the school. I hope that you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and have been able to make the most of the warm weather too!

I would like to say how proud I am to see all our children who are immaculately dressed in their lovely school uniform. Thank you for supporting the school ethos and high standards in this way. As the weather has been unseasonably warm recently, it has been good to see our lovely summer dresses and shorts being put to extra use. Please do ensure that only the 'new' school uniform is in use now as the 'old' style uniform has now been phased out. Full details are available on our school website or from the office if you are unsure as to which uniform items apply to this school.

I am delighted to hear from all the teachers who have told me how well all of the children have settled back into school and how hard they are working. The children are well settled again and it is lovely to see our younger children already making new friendships. This is a great start to yet another very busy term.

We are not yet out of September and we have already seen the Year 6 children being evacuated to Shugborough Hall. Fortunately they all returned to school safely and I am told they had a very enjoyable day. Our Year 3 children are now swimming every Wednesday and the school is very grateful to all the volunteers who give up their time to make this happen as smoothly as possible. We might even have some future budding Olympic Champions!

Our Year 5 children have been entertained by a visiting theatre company to perform "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" which they thoroughly enjoyed. This will also help them in their understanding of classic fiction which they are studying this term. They have also had the opportunity to celebrate Roald Dahl Day by dressing up. The range of amazing costumes the children wear continues to surprise me.

Next week we look forward to welcoming you to our important meetings for all our Parents/Carers with children in Foundation Stages 1 and 2. You should have received your invites with dates and times. This is a real opportunity for you to find a little more about the curriculum and life within the Foundation Stage.

We are publishing the current school diary of events for you to keep handy. This is correct at the time of printing and we do try our hardest not to make alterations to these dates wherever possible.

As always, may I take this opportunity of thanking you all for your continued support of the school and look forward to meeting with you all over the coming weeks at our various events.

Yours sincerely,

*WJ Hutchinson*

**Macmillan** are celebrating again this year with their coffee morning and our fantastic **PTA Team** will be helping with this mammoth event by holding a **Coffee Morning** in the School Hall, next Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September. They will also be having a uniform sale. Everyone is welcome to join us for a coffee and of course a delicious slice of cake.



### School Disco

The PTA are holding their main first event of the year with the ever popular Spooky Disco on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets will be on sale shortly and details of the times will be notified.



### Promoting a Love of Reading

Do you or any Nans and Granddads out there have any minutes to spare that you could give to coming into school to help support a love of reading? We are desperate for volunteers who would be willing to come into school to help out with reading with children. We are not asking you to teach children to read, just to be prepared to come into school to read with and read to, very small numbers of children. We know how much this can help primary age children develop a love for books of all kinds and we would be very grateful for any time you could donate for these activities in school. Please just let your child's teacher know of names and times of availability and we can take it from there.



We are extremely proud to announce that we have been awarded a Bronze Space Education Quality Mark following the fantastic events of last year. Children participated in lots of activities that investigated space, including science investigations, the rocket seed experiment, writing letters to Tim Peake and various art and drama lessons. We are hoping to build on this success so watch this space.

## Safe Start to the School Day



To all new and older pupils and parents please be aware that school does not open until 8.45 when the bell rings. We are seeing a few children arriving early without supervision and we are concerned that should there be any accidents no one is there to help. Of course we do not mind our older children arriving unsupervised but please ensure they are not in the playground until at the earliest 8.35 am. If you do need to bring your child to school early for any reason, please ensure that you contact Mrs Pinner and arrange for a place in our Breakfast/ teatime Club.

*Thank you*

## End of the Day, Half Past 3

If your child has an unavoidable appointment before the end of the school day, can we ask all parents to come directly to the office where they will need to be signed out. **No child** will be allowed out through their classroom door before the end of the school day. This ensures the safeguarding of all our children which is of paramount importance. Thank you for your co-operation. Please ensure that you arrive in good time to collect your child at the end of the day as staff have further meetings to attend at the end of the school day.



## Dogs in the Playground

We welcome dogs, big and small into our school playground providing they are on leads at all times and well controlled. We have lots of children who may still be scared of dogs and we want them to be encouraged not to be and this will help enormously with this. Please ensure that if your dog does 'foul' that this is immediately cleaned up for the health and safety of all.



## **Attendance and Punctuality 2016/2017**

As you know at Monkspath School we place a high emphasis on the importance of regular and punctual school attendance. We believe through good attendance at school, children will achieve higher attainment, have better opportunities and establish good habits that will support them throughout their lives.

The Government places an expectation on us to:

- *Promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence where attendance is less than 90%)*
- *Ensure every pupil has access to full-time education, to which they are entitled*
- *Act early to address patterns of absence or lateness*

To support us to secure good attendance for all our pupils and to address concerns regarding any child's poor school attendance and punctuality, we are working with Central School Attendance and Welfare Service Ltd (CSAWS).

Your child may be referred to a CSAWS Attendance and Welfare Officer if their attendance and punctuality is causing concerns. They will then contact you by phone, letter or home visit to discuss the school's concerns and how attendance and punctuality can be improved. If you have any queries or concerns about attendance or punctuality, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



It is lovely to see the children on their bikes and scooters coming to school however for reasons of health and safety scooters and bikes must not be ridden within the school playground. All children must wear a helmet whilst riding to school on their bikes and only those children who have passed their bikeability test can ride to school unsupervised. All other children must be accompanied by an adult.

### **IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE**

Please ensure that you park safely when attending school premises. All drivers **MUST** take responsibility for parking courteously, safely and legally. As a school we take an extremely serious view of any driver putting the safety of pedestrians at risk, similarly compromising the reputation of the school through thoughtlessness. We are very grateful to the majority of car users who comply with these simple requests on a daily basis.



## Toys From Home



The vast majority of our younger children have now settled in well at school. I would therefore now ask that children DO NOT bring personal toys school. They are not allowed to be played with in the classroom or playground.

## Assessment and Attendance



As you know a key focus for the outcomes of children's education is that they have regular attendance at school. Every child has a target of at least 95% or above to meet. I am sure that you will be abiding by the 'no holidays in term time' school rule! It is also imperative that your child attends school during assessment weeks. For your information, the following will be weeks will have a particular focus on assessment. If the staff are to be fully informed as to how best to help your child, please ensure that they have full attendance during these important weeks in the school calendar, unless of course they are really to unwell to attend.

Year 6:	w/b 7 <sup>th</sup> November,	w/b 9 <sup>th</sup> January,	w/b 6 <sup>th</sup> March and	w/b 8 <sup>th</sup> May
Year 1:	w/b 6 <sup>th</sup> March,	w/b 12 <sup>th</sup> June		
Year 2:	w/b 6 <sup>th</sup> March,	w/b 15 <sup>th</sup> May		
Year 3:	w/b 6 <sup>th</sup> March,	w/b 12 <sup>th</sup> June		
Year 4:	w/b 6 <sup>th</sup> March,	w/b 12 <sup>th</sup> June		
Year 5:	w/b 6 <sup>th</sup> March,	w/b 12 <sup>th</sup> June		



### Lunchtime Supervisors

We are always looking to have a bank of relief lunchtime supervisors to join our busy team so if we have any parents who would like to be considered, please drop in to the office where we can discuss this more with you. It is paid work and covers lunchtime from 11.45 to 1.15pm



## SCHOOL TERM HOLIDAY DATES 2016 - 2017

### AUTUMN TERM 2016

	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2016 – Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2017

### SPRING TERM 2017

	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Spring Holiday</b>	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> April

### SUMMER TERM 2017

	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April - Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June – Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July

## IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS YEAR 2016 – 2017

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### EMAIL ADDRESSES

IT IS ESSENTIAL WE HAVE A CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS FOR EVERY PARENT WHO WISHES TO BE KEPT INFORMED ABOUT SCHOOL EVENTS. WE ARE A PAPER FREE SCHOOL FOR WRITTEN HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS. IF YOU HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY WITH THIS PLEASE ENSURE YOU CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE WHO CAN HELP YOU TO ACCESS INFORMATION VIA SCHOOL.



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