



Monkspath
Junior & Infant School

Monkspath news

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MONKSPATH JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL

www.monkspath.solihull.sch.uk

February 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Well it only seems 5 minutes before I welcomed everyone back to school after the Christmas break and here we are racing towards the finish of the first half term of 2017.

I wanted to give you an update on some staffing news. Many of you will know Sue Hibbert who has been with Monkspath School for a staggering 18 years. She has decided that it is time to take a well - earned rest and take early retirement. I am really sad to see her leave and I know both teaching staff and pupils will miss her loyal service. She will be greatly missed in our Foundation area. At the same time we welcome Nicola Villers, Teaching Assistant to the Foundation team who will be a great asset to the team. Sarah Leatherbarrow former teacher in Foundation and who still works in school has just given birth to a little boy Alexander Tobias on 1st February. We send our congratulations and best wishes to Sarah and her family.

I was very pleased to hear how well the Yr6 children performed during the mock SATS Test week. They will have their last mock SATS upon their immediate return to school after half term. This will really help them in their preparation for the real event later this year so it is imperative that all children are back in school during this week.

On 23rd January, we held the Reading event for our Foundation and Key Stage 1 parents. It was lovely to receive such praise and positive comments following this event (the teachers' costumes added to the effect I am sure) and I would like to thank you for your support in helping your child with their development in reading in their younger years which is a critical element in your child's learning journey whilst they are here at Monkspath.

All our star choir performers sang their hearts out during the Young Voices concert whilst representing Monkspath which was thoroughly enjoyed by both them and their parents and families. I think there were a few tired children in class the next day but very well done, you have made us very proud!

Yr2 took a trip to Cadbury World, not just to eat chocolate but also to learn about the history of the Cadbury Family. The trip was very successful and all the children were very well behaved. Thank you to the parents who were able to support the event.

Thank you to all of you for attending the parent/child consultations. The teachers hope you found these meetings both useful and informative with regards to the progress of your child. If you have any questions or need advice following these meetings please contact the office as they are more than happy to ensure your questions get answered. If you have any parent questionnaire forms still to complete we would be very grateful for the return of these. These surveys allow us to get your feedback which is very important to us.

Please look out for an important letter that I will send after half term regarding changes to school funding. Many of you are already aware that schools in Solihull are in the bottom 10 in the country for funding. We are already providing an education and support for our children and families on a shoestring. With promised cuts to come, we are extremely worried about the impact on schools in the borough.

Your voice counts so please try and get behind the school and the education of our future learners by sharing your views on funding schools in the future.

I thought it would be useful for you to know that following the car parking issues which unfortunately rumble on, the managing agents for the local shops have now put up "no unauthorised parking signs" at the entrance to the service area. They have advised us this is the first step that they are taking to prevent people from parking in the service area which is clearly not designed for the use of general public to park their vehicles. We cannot prevent any further action that the managing agents may take, so I respectfully ask that you adhere to the signs to make all our lives so much easier.

On the point of parking a family has made contact to say their vehicle has been damaged as a result of another car door being opened into the side of it. Can you please ensure that your children are supervised at all times whilst leaving school and getting into vehicles. I understand parking is very tight so if extra vigilance can be taken such incidents will not occur.

On a more positive note the daffodils are pushing their way through which means spring is in the air and whilst it is still cold the evenings are beginning to get brighter and the days longer. I hope you and your families enjoy the half term break.

WJ Hutchinson

Please note that if your children are ill and are not going to be in school, can you let the office know first thing in the morning so they are not marked as being absent without authorisation



Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE MESSAGE

over the last month Solihull has suffered from a significant rise in burglaries, the number and geographical spread means all residents should be vigilant and ensure they take adequate steps to ensure their properties are secured.



- Key times have been daytime in to early evening. Leaving a light on/set a timer if you are not home before 3.30pm.
- Set your house alarm if you have one fitted even if you are only popping out for a short while.
- Consider fitting anti-snap locks to exterior doors. Always check your doors and windows are locked before going out and remove keys from locks and keep them out of sight.
- Make sure garden furniture and bins are not left in a place that can be used for climbing.

Officers are on active patrols to combat burglaries if you see anything suspicious please call 101. If you believe a crime is taking place call 999.



SCHOOL TERM HOLIDAY DATES 2016 - 2017

AUTUMN TERM 2016

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

SPRING TERM 2017

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

SUMMER TERM 2017

Half Term	Monday 24 th April - Friday 26 th May
	Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June
	Monday 5 th June – Tuesday 25 th July

REMAINING IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS YEAR 2016 – 2017

Friday 30th 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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