



Monkspath
Junior & Infant School

Monkspath news

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MONKSPATH JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL

www.monkspath.solihull.sch.uk

May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Time races by so quickly here at school as I write to you as we reach the end of our penultimate half term of 2017. Since the return of the children from their Easter break, they have been kept very busy with an abundance of varied activities across school. The month of May sees the SATS testing taking place across both Yr6 and Yr2 and I am extremely proud of how well all the children have taken these tests in their stride. We only ever ask the children to do their best and they certainly have done this, so well done to all of them!

Our nursery children had a lovely interactive visit to Umberslade Farm which they thoroughly enjoyed. Many thanks to the parents who were able to help out on the day. Unfortunately the weather wasn't been too kind which meant that the Yr4 Cricket Festival was postponed. We are hoping to re arrange this so the children do not miss out.

School celebrated Unicef's "Day for Change" using a water theme and ironically the weather didn't let us down as it poured down all day long! However, this didn't put a stop to the children taking part in all of the activities as we had a Plan B in place. The Eco Council have been working hard this year with a part of HSBC called Water Explorers, they have carried out various activities and have written about this so some of the activities were based around this and others around The Right to clean water. I am sure the children have spoken to you about what they did! We are the top water Explorers team in the country and hopefully will be invited to the National finals in Sept! We were able to raise the sum of £503.37 for this very worthwhile cause.

This week fortunately the weather has been kinder to us as Yr5 have taken part in Bikeability and Yr6 have been enjoying lots of different activities as part of their healthy fortnight. They have all visited Tudor Grange School to take part in a Design Technology lesson as part of their transition to secondary school this week. We brought the seaside to Monkspath this week as Yr1 enjoyed a workshop on [Seaside Journeys](#) taking the children on an exciting journey through time. They visited seaside locations of the past century to discover how seaside holidays have changed.

Our Reception children dressed up for their Careers Day yesterday and got involved in various role play workshops. We were privileged to be visited by a policeman, fire fighter, a doctor and midwife, the captain of Birmingham City Football Club, a hairdresser and dance/drama teacher. Our children were very inquisitive asking lots of questions and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



I am delighted to say we have kept our Healthy Schools Award and I am committed to ensure the health and well-being of our children remains at the forefront here at school. As the warmer weather arrives I would ask that all children have a water bottle at school. The children can continue to fill their water bottles throughout the day. Please do not allow your children to bring in any other types of drinks. Please ensure your children are wearing long lasting sun cream and a sun hat to wear too!

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and enjoy the time off with the children if you are able to and I look forward to welcoming the children back to School on Monday 5th June. School closes today at the normal time of 3.30pm.

WJ Hutchinson



School is busy in the mornings but can I ask that as you come into school in the morning you try to use the allocated entrances appropriate to your child. We appear to be getting lots of older children use the Family Centre entrance which is causing traffic jams and our little children are becoming over whelmed with the increased volume of traffic.

Many Thanks



We would be grateful if you ensure our children have sunscreen on during warm days and a water bottle to drink from.

Thank You

We have Monkspath Sun Hats for sale at the office if you wish to purchase one.

LIFE READY AT MONKSPATH

I am writing to you about an important initiative that we have been developing in school during the past weeks. The Life Ready initiative is supported by Ofsted, Solihull Council and is part of a broader nation-wide campaign.

In adopting the “Life Ready ” agenda we are helping to develop the ‘young people of tomorrow’ so that they make the absolute most of their talents, can contribute fully to society and critically, can find gainful, continuous and rewarding employment.

There is no doubt that Solihull has much to offer our young ones. As an area it is enjoying vast developments and is thriving with new investors and business opportunities expanding at a rate. We want to ensure that our pupils at Monkspath School are well placed to make the most of the opportunities that will be arising locally in the future.

It is practically impossible to predict which new industries and commercial sectors or even which technical skills will emerge in ten or even twenty years’ time. What does seem certain though, is that ‘change’ will continue, quite possibly at an even faster rate than now. This means that equipping our youngsters with the ability to understand, question, communicate, analyse and to rise to future challenges is absolutely essential to their future happiness and prosperity. It is equally essential that we support our children in being good members of the community as well as being deemed ‘employable’ by their chosen business sector.

The Life Ready initiative fits extremely well with our School Values and our focus on BLP [Building Learning Power] and Growth Mindset. These approaches help our learners to become resourceful, resilient and tenacious and to expect the best of themselves as lifelong learners all skills and attributes that we firmly believe will help them through whatever life throws at them.

In order to move this Life Ready agenda forward in school there are two main thrusts to what we are doing. Firstly we must do everything they can to make sure our learners are prepared for the world of work. We are achieving this by developing well-rounded, worldly young people who are a credit to their community and who have the right skills for the ever-changing environment they will face. Secondly, we must help our learners to gain a good level of knowledge about the local economy, the sectors that are growing and the type of skills needed to enter different roles.

There are specifics in the world of work that we need to expose our children to, obviously in an age appropriate way.

We want our children to begin to develop an understanding of:

1. The wide range and depth of jobs in differing industries.
2. Whilst there are well known brand names and large
3. businesses who are employers there are equal numbers
4. of people work in smaller businesses.
5. Which firms and key industry sectors are represented in the local economy?
6. Who the major employers locally and what skills they need in employees?
7. Which industries are shrinking or static and which ones are growing?
8. The route to progression for many within an organisation comes from performing well and by demonstrating willingness and skill.
9. The importance of team work and leadership.



Life Ready skills are so important – but are not so easily taught. So a question – Can you help us with this important endeavour? One practical way would be to help us research the breadth of working roles that our families are currently involved in.

We would like to collate this as a source of information to support our Life Ready skills curriculum in the future. If you are willing to share this information with school please return the slip below to school.

*With very many thanks
W J Hutchinson*



Life Ready Audit

Name : Child/Children's names:.....

Job Role Title :.....

Sector of business or service:

Few words about what your working role entails:

I am happy for school to contact me in the future in support of the Life Ready curriculum and my working role. Yes / No

If yes please leave your name and contact details :



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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