



Monkspath news

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MONKSPATH JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL

www.monkspath.solihull.sch.uk

November 2017

Dear Parent / Carer,

What an eventful half term this is proving to be.

Year 2 have experienced their annual “trip” to Africa, the School Hall was transformed into an Airport Departure lounge and the children “travelled” to Africa. They were visited by the Animal Man who showed them a variety of creatures including: a parrot, a giant African frog, a desert hedgehog, snakes, spiders and a Meerkat!!!

Year 4 were visited by the Fire Service and Professor McGinty has landed his time machine to talk to the Year 4’s about the Romans and Year 3 about Ancient Greece.

Surpassing all this, however, is the visit to the school by an escaped Bull. During the time he was resting near the willow structure the children were kept safe and secure inside the school. They were thrilled and the presence of a large number of Police Officers on site certainly added to the excitement. The children took part in an early Assembly during which time the Bull jumped the fence again and left the premises hotly pursued by the Police. As you know, the situation became dangerous and sadly they were not able to re-capture him safely despite their best efforts.



The bull joins a long list of animal visitors to the school over the years, who can forget the swan that landed on the bird table reducing it to matchwood, the “dead” fox found by the children in the Wild Area who ran off when the RSPCA came to remove him, the ducks who took up residence in the Infant courtyard whilst they raised their ducklings and the family of foxes who lived under the temporary classroom which used to be situated on the Infant Playground. Quite a menagerie !

As you will see from the Christmas Events Calendar below there are still lots of exciting events to go before the Christmas break, not least the annual Christmas singing, please check to see when your child will be “performing” and we look forward to seeing you then.

Best Regards

Mrs W J Hutchinson.

Christmas at Monkspath

DECEMBER	
Thursday 30th	PTA – Non Uniform Day
Friday 1st	Yrs 3,4 and 5 – Theatre Trip – Alice in Wonderland
Monday 4th	Yr6 Theatre Trip – Christmas Carol (School Uniform must be worn) eve perf
Tuesday 5th	Yr6 VE Day
 <p>We look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas singing in the Hall</p>	
Wednesday 6 th	FS1 – Nursery - Sing-a-long – 10.30 am & 2.30 pm. (hall)
Thursday 7 th	FS2 Reception - Christmas Performance – Hall - 9.30 am.
Friday 8 th	FS2 Reception – Christmas Performance - 2.30 pm. (hall) Yr1 – St James Church visit pm Christmas Lunch Day PTA – Christmas Fair 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Monday 11 th	KS1 – Yr1&2 Parents invite – Singing in the Hall – 2.30 pm.
Tuesday 12 th	KS2(LOWER ONLY) – Yr3 & 4 Parents Invite– Singing in the Hall – 2.30 pm.
Wednesday 13 th	KS2(UPPER ONLY) – Yr5 & 6 Parents Invite - Singing in the Hall – 2.30pm Tea Time Club – Christmas Party – after school
Thursday 14 th	FS2 – Reception – Christmas Party – am
Friday 15 th	Monkeys/FS1 – Nursery – Christmas Party – am & pm
Monday 18 th	Bush Babies/Chimps – Christmas Sing-a-long – Family Centre am. KS1 – Yr1&2 – Christmas Party – am KS2 – Yr3,4,5 & 6 – Christmas Party – pm.
Tuesday 19 th	Re-arranged visit for Yr6 from Professor McGinty - WWII School closes for Christmas – 3.00pm

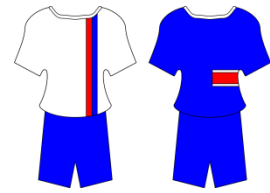
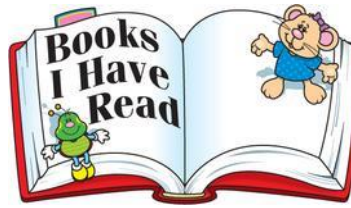


Keeping Warm at Playtimes

Now that the cold weather is with us please can you ensure that your child comes to school with clothing suitable to keep them warm during lunch and break times.

We try to let the children spend some time outside during the day to give them some fresh air, but rest assured that an assessment is made to ensure that the weather is not TOO cold.

All outdoor clothing **MUST** be clearly labelled with your child's name.



Please ensure your child **arrives at school with all of the items** they will need during the day i.e. PE Kit, musical instrument, drink, lunch, coat etc. We are frequently required to take items to classes during the course of the day and not only does it create extra tasks for the school staff but results in the class being interrupted during lessons. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Leaving School in the Morning

We have noticed that an increased number of parents are leaving the premises in the morning after dropping their child in class via the front door. This is creating a situation whereby we have children delivering registers etc. to the office whilst the Security Door is being opened by parents exiting the building. This is not acceptable as some of the children are from Year One or even Reception and could potentially get swept up in this people traffic. The first School Bell sounds at 8.55am and parents should leave school at this time via THEIR DESIGNATED DOOR (NOT THE FRONT DOOR) thus ensuring they are out of the building before 9.00am.

Please help us keep our children safe by adhering to this request.

Many thanks.



Lest We Forget.

The recent Poppy Day Appeal resulted in 3 very full and heavy collection tins. We will let you know the total as soon as we hear from the Royal British Legion. Many thanks as ever for your support.

As you know all communications are sent to you via ParentPay. Over the past few days some parents have advised that they have not received some notifications. This may be because the email address they have entered into their ParentPay Account has changed or that they have nominated an email address that can only be accessed by one parent and the information has not been passed on. If this is the case you can add a second email address to ensure that both parents have access to the information. Please remember that you will be advised of any unscheduled school closures through your ParentPay account so it is imperative that you keep the information up to date.

May we also remind you that School Dinner Money should be paid for in ADVANCE. The cost of a meal is £2.05 per day and your account should not fall into debt. We thank you for your co-operation in this respect.





Once again we are going to support this worthwhile cause to raise awareness around Solihull Age UK.

Solihull Age UK say that 60,000 people here in the West Midlands will spend Christmas alone !

We are very mindful that we will be asking for donations to be sent to school for the school fair and indeed Christmas itself is an expensive time of year for everyone.

However, if any parent would like to donate a new gift, it doesn't need to be expensive or elaborate , perhaps a box of biscuits, a hot water bottle, a jigsaw or some nice soap , anything that would be suitable for an elderly person and in its original packaging we would be very grateful if you can hand them into the office for them to be collected.

The last day for dropping any gifts to the office will be 6th December . The gifts do not need to be gift wrapped as Solihull Age UK will do this themselves.

The gifts will then be given to Solihull's vulnerable older residents at a Christmas lunch with any additional gifts being distributed to housebound elderly people.



Your generous support of the recent Children in Need collection has raised £789.00.

Many thanks to everyone who donated cakes for the PTA Coffee Morning and came to school wearing spots.

Safety on Dark Evenings

Are you and your children clearly visible as pedestrians or cyclists?

Please ensure that your child is wearing something light in colour or high visibility or reflective now that the evenings and mornings are so much darker.



Just a small addition to clothing could save a lifetime of heartache.

Be Safe Be Seen

SCHOOL TERM HOLIDAY DATES 2017 - 2018

AUTUMN TERM 2017

Monday 4th September – Friday 20th October
Half Term Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October
Monday 30th October – Tuesday 19th December
Christmas Holiday Wednesday 20th December 2017 – Tuesday 2nd January 2018

SPRING TERM 2018

Wednesday 3rd January – Friday 16th February
Half Term Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd February
Monday 26th February – Thursday 29th March
Spring Holiday Friday 30th March – Friday 13th April

SUMMER TERM 2018

Monday 16th April - Friday 25th May
Half Term Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June
Monday 4th June – Tuesday 24th July

Remaining In-Service Training Days – Year 2017 – 2018

Wednesday 3rd January 2018
Friday 29th June 2018