



Monkspath news

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MONKSPATH JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL

www.monkspath.solihull.sch.uk

Dear Parent / Carer,

The summer holiday is becoming a distant memory and the new academic year is well underway. We are especially pleased to see how all the children have settled so quickly and we are looking forward to all of the activities that are planned for the forthcoming year.

The new School Calendar is being emailed with this newsletter and we would ask that you take note of the dates which apply to your child. In particular the dates for the Curriculum and Parent/Child meetings, further details of which will be forwarded nearer the time.

We are looking forward to another exciting and busy year at Monkspath and look forward to seeing all that your children achieve and enjoy here as the year unfolds.

Best Regards

Mrs Hutchinson

With so many new parents and children joining school it's a good time to remind you all of certain day to day matters that are important to ensure the safety of the children and the smooth running of the school.



If your child has been unwell and has been prescribed medicine by the Doctor we are happy to administer the medicine until the course is complete once they are well enough to return to school.

PLEASE NOTE WE ARE UNABLE TO ADMINISTER MEDICINE THAT IS NOT PRESCRIBED BY A DOCTOR.

Emergency Contact Forms.

Your child will be bringing a new coloured Emergency Contact Form home shortly. Please can you complete this and ensure that you return it to school without delay in order that we can keep our records up to date. Many thanks.



No Nuts

May we remind parents / carers that the school operates a NO NUTS Policy. Many of our children are allergic to nuts, indeed we have had an incident in the past when a child had to go to hospital suffering from Anaphylactic Shock as she accidentally came into contact with a product containing nuts, even though she did not actually eat them. Even Peanut Butter and Nutella/chocolate spread can cause problems for children with a nut allergy. Please help us keep our children safe by ensuring that all food sent into school is nut free.



Thanks for remembering
this is a



Peanut/Nut
Free School



Cycle Helmets.

May we remind you that if your child is cycling to school they should ALWAYS wear a helmet.

Children should also dismount and walk with their bikes or scooters at the school gate and never ride them whilst on the school premises.

Please help us keep our children safe .

Secondary School Applications

The closing date for Secondary applications is 31 October 2017. Solihull residents need to apply online at www.solihull.gov.uk/enrol All other applicants must apply through the local authority that they live within. Any applications received after 31 October will be considered as late. More information can be found at www.solihull.gov.uk/admissions



Fireworks Display – 3rd November.

We are pleased to announce that the annual fireworks display run by The Farm Public House is taking place again this year. I am sure you will be aware of the fantastic aerial display which takes place annually with the fireworks being “set off” from the School Field. What you may not be aware of is the support the school receives from The Farm in return for them using our premises.

We look forward to another fabulous display this year.

ParentPay Account.

May we remind parents of the importance of activating your ParentPay Account. You should, by now, have received a letter giving you details of how to activate your account. For parents new to the school we should explain that this is the way by which we communicate about activities, events and school updates to you via email. It is also the means by which payments are made for school meals and additional activities. You should use your email address as your User Name and change the password to something more memorable!

Emergency Messages.



The office staff are receiving an increasing number of calls from parents asking for messages to be passed on to their children or class teacher. Obviously there are occasions when the unexpected happens and on such occasions we are happy to help. Wherever possible, however, please help us by ensuring that your “end of day” collection arrangements are advised to the teacher in the morning thus avoiding the need to telephone the school office except in **Emergency Situations**. The number of “end of day calls” for non-urgent messages are now becoming unmanageable and because of this we are at risk of missing passing on essential safety information.

Please also 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.

Important Information Regarding Financial Support for Families and School Funding

The government use a range of new measures and indicators in order to determine how schools are funded. The number of pupils **eligible for free school meals is a significant factor in this**. As the funding is based on pupils who are **entitled to free school meals** rather than those who actually take them, it is vital that we hold accurate information on this, even if your child is in Years FS2, Year 1 or Year 2 and already received a free meal.

In order that the school secures the **maximum amount of funding** to which all children are entitled we need this important information from you **whether you choose to take up the offer of free school meals or not**. We would like to reassure you that this information will be treated as strictly confidential and in no way are children on Free School Meals singled out or treated any differently.

You may be eligible for Free School Meals if you are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Jobseeker’s Allowance -income-based (JSA)
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

If you receive both income-based and contribution-based JSA/ESA you should still qualify if the amounts you receive are the same or if income-based part is higher. If however, contribution-based part is higher you will not qualify

- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an income that does not exceed £16,190
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit (Evidence of this benefit will be required)
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit (Please note this is a temporary qualification and we will need to be able to verify this entitlement)

Here is the link to doing the online application:

- <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/fsm>

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

- www.solihull.gov.uk

Nursery 30 Hours Re-checks

We have been made aware that HMRC haven't been sending reminders to all parents to check their 30 hours information every 3 months. This means that there are a high number of parents who haven't reconfirmed their information since their initial application. There will be no impact on funding for the Autumn term but it could impact on your entitlement for the Spring term if you don't check your details. You will need to log into your HMRC account and check the information (update where necessary) and then tick and submit to confirm the details. Please note that you should do this every 3 months.

I am sure that going forward HMRC will rectify this issue and all parents will begin to get reminders in the future.

If you want to find out about your 30 hours application you can ring the HMRC helpline on 0300 123 4097. The Family Information Service are happy to help parents who want information on the 30 hours but we cannot inform parents of their application status as we cannot view applications so we are signposting a high number of parents to this number so it would be helpful if you could do the same.

Many thanks.



Staff Vacancies

We currently have vacancies in our Monkeys Childcare for suitable applicants. If you have some spare time and would like to join our team please contact Mrs Lesley Pinner – Monkeys Manager/Co-ordinator.

Available times are:

BREAKFAST CLUB – 7.45 – 8.45 am.

LUNCHTIME – 11.30 am – 1.00 pm.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB – 3.15 – 5.30 pm.

SCHOOL TERM HOLIDAY DATES 2017 - 2018

AUTUMN TERM 2017

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

SPRING TERM 2018

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

SUMMER TERM 2018

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

In-Service Training Days – Year 2017 – 2018

Monday 4th September 2017
Tuesday 5th September 2017
Friday 13th October 2017
Wednesday 3rd January 2018
Friday 29th June 2018