



Monkfrith Newsletter
Autumn Term: Issue 10

Dear Parents,

A big thank you for last week. It is the first time we have been in the position of having no water in school and I know how inconvenient it was for lots of you. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Parent Consultations

It was lovely to see so many of you at parent consultations this week. Although it makes it a long couple of days for teachers, they really enjoyed the opportunity discuss the children and speak to you all properly. If you forgot or were unable to make your appointment, please contact the Office and we will try to arrange another time as soon as possible.

Remembrance

In addition to selling poppies for the last week in school, the children have been doing a range of different activities to commemorate Remembrance Day. In assembly on Friday, instead of our usual song, Year 6 recited a poem they had learnt by heart: Dulce Et Decorum Est by Wilfred Owen. It was very moving and the rest of school sat and listened beautifully.

The Governing Body

Last week we had our monthly finance committee meeting. We discussed a range of issues related to school finance, including the challenging nature of budgets and the difficulties that many schools are facing across the country.

Our Chair of Governors – Simone Roberts also came in last week. She popped into classrooms, met with me and checked our Single Central Record. This is the detailed record of all the checks we carry out on staff before they are allowed to work in schools. Simone monitors this in her role as the Chair and governor responsible for Safeguarding.

This week there is a Resources committee meeting ahead of the Autumn Term Full Governing Body meeting at the end of the month.

Book Fair

This week there will be the annual Book Fair after school on Tuesday to Friday. This year you will need to come into school via the Office rather than via the playground doors. This is to ensure that After School Club can continue as usual and all the children are safe. There are a range of books (and other things) sent by the Fair at a range of prices. We are not able to take credit or debit cards and it is really helpful if you have some change. The books are reasonably priced and if we sell over a certain amount we get commission to spend on books for the classrooms.

Be Bright Be Seen Day - Friday 16th November

This is a reminder to wear your own clothes on Friday. The brighter the better!

Children in Need – Friday 16th November

Last week, Mehr in Year 4 came to see me and asked if she could organise an event for Children in Need...

Blue Peter, on CBBC, is a children's TV show that has been on for 60 years. To celebrate, they are helping Children in Need. They told their viewer to host a 'Bring an Buy sale'. I saw this and thought it was a great idea for our school so I asked Miss Deasey and she agreed. On Friday 16th November after school she will have a bring and buy sale for books and cakes. You might be wondering what is a 'Bring and Buy' sale? Well, a 'Bring and Buy' sale is where people donate old things or crafts (we will be donating old books and new cakes). Hope to see you there. Mehr 4F.



If you have any old books or new cakes you can drop them into the Office next week. The sale will be on the bottom playground (weather depending) on Friday from 3.20pm.

Key Dates

21st November – Year 5 class assembly (9am start)

22nd November – KS2 Choir Concert in the Hall (3pm)

5th December – Recorder Concert in the Hall (2.30pm)

14th December – Christmas Jumper Day!

17th December – Reception Nativity for parents (2.30pm)

19th December – KS1 and KS2 Christmas Concert (9.30am)

19th December – Christmas Lunch!

19th December – Reception Nativity for parents (2.30pm)

21st December - KS1 and KS2 Christmas Concert (9.30am)

21st December – School finishes at 2pm. No After School Club

All these dates (along with others) are on the school calendar on the website. Thank you to the parent who told me the calendar on the website was not working properly. I have fixed the problem now.

Attendance Information

Please remember that Requests for Authorised Absence are only for **exceptional circumstances**. If you would like more information about what is considered an exceptional circumstance and the penalties for unauthorised absence, please go to <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/schools-and-education/parents.html>.

The Educational Welfare Officer comes to visit our school every term to review our attendance information. There is a particular focus on children who's attendance is **below 90%** (this does not include children with a particular medical need).

- 90% attendance = 1/2 school day missed every week.
- One school year at 90% attendance = 4 weeks of learning missed.
- Over 5 school years of school = 1/2 school year missed.

- All children nationally whose school attendance is 90% or below are considered to be 'persistent absentees'.

If you would like to know your child's attendance so far this term, you can ask your child's teacher at parent consultations.

Attendance for week commencing 5th November 2018

Key Stage 1		Key Stage 2	
Reception Oak	97%	3M	96%
Reception Willow	95%	3P	97%
1B	95%	4F	98%
1K	100%	4P	99%
2K	95%	5	95%
2S	100%	6	98%

Congratulations to 1K, 2S and 4P. Attendance was a fantastic 97.4% this week. Thank you! The website has the term dates and INSET days for 2019/20.

Tapestry Meeting for Reception Parents – 12th November 2018 at 7pm

The Tapestry Meeting for Reception parents will be held in the Reception classroom again. Please use Reception entrance. See you there.

KS2 Sportshall at QE Girls

Last Thursday Miss Pierides and Mrs Bee took 25 children from Year 4, 5 and 6 to compete in a Barnet Schools Sports event at QE Girls. It is a range of indoor athletic events where the children compete as a team. **The children performed fantastically and finished 3rd in the North Section.** We now go through to the final where we will be competing against the top 6 across Barnet! Well done to the team:

Year 6 – Sebastian, Jean, Jack, Philip, Jeslyn, Tomini, Grace, Michaela, Amelie, Sammy, Leyla.

Year 5 – Timo, Alex, Ned, Zac, Andrew, Damien, Emre, Joe, Charlotte, Ellie, Sabrin, Dimoula

Year 4 – Poshia, Philbert

Thank you to all the parents that helped with transport. Without your support we would not be able to go. Thank you!

Instrument Lessons for NEW students starting in the SPRING Term 2019

At Monkfrith School we offer individual lessons on the following instruments: trumpet, voice, piano, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone and recorder for children in Year 2 upwards.

Group tuition from Year 2 on the recorder is also taught at Monkfrith. Please ask at the school office for further information.

If you would like your child to start individual lessons in January, you can visit www.beatrust.org.uk to enrol. There is a lot of helpful information on the website, but should you need any further advice please leave a note at the school office for the instrumental teacher who will be able to answer your questions; your child may need a suitability test. Alternatively, you can call Barnet Education Arts Trust on 020 8959 4111.

IMPORTANT: The last day for signing up online for individual lessons is **Monday 10 December.**

NB If your child currently receives lessons from BEAT you will be automatically sent an invoice through the post.

FOMS News

QUIZ NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who came out for the Quiz Night on Friday. We hope everyone had as much fun as we did! Thank you to Carolyn (4P) for writing a stellar quiz and to Anthea (4P, 2S) for being our lovely quiz caller for the night. Congratulations to team '42' which consisted of Year 5 parents for showcasing their immense knowledge and winning the quiz! We are very pleased to announce that we raised £1264.50!! Thank you again to everyone who came out in support of the event.

CHRISTMAS CARD ORDERS

We will be sending off our order for Christmas Cards by the end of today. If there are any last minute orders, please drop them off to the office no later than 3pm today. If you are unable to drop off the order form, please email friendsofmonkfrithschool@gmail.com with your order, no later than 3pm today. There will be an opportunity to order more cards or additional items after this deadline, but additional fees will apply.

CHRISTMAS FAIR - Friday 7th December 3:30-6:30

We will begin to accept donations for the Christmas Fair this week! As a reminder, here are the items we will be collecting, and other ways to help support the Fair:

1. **TOYS** – including soft toys (for the Teddy Tombola), games and/or general toys. **NO BOOKS PLEASE.**
2. **SWEET JARS** – Please fill empty jars with pre-wrapped sweets or chocolates for our Sweet Tombola. **NO NUTS PLEASE.**
3. **PRESENTS** – Back by popular demand is our 'Present Room'. This is a secret room where the children can go in and pick out a present for an adult in their life, whether it be their parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle etc. Please donate any small gifts that would be suitable for an adult to receive. These presents can be candles, picture frames, mugs, boxes of chocolate etc.

We also have another Christmas Fair Planning meeting scheduled for this Friday 16th November at 9am. Please do come along if you would like to get more involved.

Thank you again for all of your support.

Best Wishes,
FOMS Committee

Parent Gym

This came in an email circulated to Headteachers at the end of last week...

Parent Gym is a philanthropic organisation who provide a free, evidence-based, six-week parenting programme. We help parents develop the skills they need to provide a nurturing family environment. This means children arrive at school confident, secure and ready to learn. We work with over 400 schools and children centres to date across the UK, including 18 in Barnet. For more information, please visit our website <http://parentgym.com/> or call us on 0207 368 5698 or email info@parentgym.com. Here is a short video clip of our work <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaOU2EWByg&t=1s>

Jude Deasey
Headteacher