



**Monkfrith Newsletter
Autumn Term: Issue 13**

Dear Parents,

Unfortunately I have no choice but to start this week's newsletter with something about parking.

Over the last three weeks I have spent an average of 1 hour each day listening to the concerns of residents and other parents about parking in and around school at the start and end of the school day. I have received emails and telephone calls as well as meetings as these people are justifiably angry and frustrated at the situation. It is also frustrating for me as I have spent about 5 hours of my week dealing with these issues, rather than working on improving school for our children.

I am including some of the specific complaints to show the scale of the problems:

- stopping on the zig zags both at the Knoll Drive entrance and the gate on Monkfrith Way
- stopping on the zebra crossing to let children out
- stopping in the middle of the road, getting out to help children out of the car and then taking them to the Reception gate, leaving the car in the middle of the road
- parking across the drives of local residents preventing them leaving their house
- driving and parking on the grass verges all the way along Knoll Drive and Brookside South which has turned them into mud flats
- trying to pull into the car park entrance and then reversing out onto Monkfrith Way
- cars parking on the corner of Knoll Drive and Cedar Rise on double yellow lines making it unsafe to cross the road
- sitting outside school at the start and end of the school day for up to 15 minutes with the engine running (which is against the Highway Code because of the dangers to health and then environment) <https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/emissions/idling/>
- parents becoming very aggressive and shouting when challenged on any of the above by staff and other parents.

I have written to Barnet Council to ask them to look at parking measures around school and I have also requested support from the Safer Neighbourhood Team. I am also considering other measures that we can take to ensure the safety of our children.

In the meantime, please drive and park responsibly and safely.

Funding Letter

Thank you to all the parents who have shown their support following the letter from Barnet Headteachers and Governors about school funding last week. It went out to thousands of parents across Barnet's primary and secondary schools. I wrote to Teresa Villiers (our local MP) several weeks ago and when I receive a response, I will share it with you. Several parents have emailed me to say that they found the Fair Funding for Schools website (run by parents) a useful place for ideas about what can be done. Here is the link if you are interested <http://www.fairfundingforallschools.org>.

KS2 Code Club

If your child attends Code Club on Wednesday morning at 8am, we are having an open session for parents on Wednesday 12th December. Come along, we will share a project and get you to help out! That will also be the last week of Code Club for the Autumn Term – we will start back in January.

Attendance Information

I have started to unauthorise leave requests and refer to Barnet's Educational Welfare Team.

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>.

Attendance for week commencing 26th November 2018

Key Stage 1		Key Stage 2	
Reception Oak	95%	3M	96%
Reception Willow	95%	3P	97%
1B	97%	4F	96%
1K	97%	4P	94%
2K	98%	5	97%
2S	98%	6	96%

Congratulations to 2K, 2D, 3P and Year 5. Attendance was a 96.5% last week. I hope everyone feels better next week.

The website has the term dates and INSET days for 2019/20.

After School Club on Friday 7th December

This Friday is our Christmas Fair and as a result After School Club will be held in Reception on this day. Please collect your child if you wish them to go to the Fair. You need to use the Reception Class entrance at the end of Knoll Drive. This is to ensure the safety of the children.

Christmas Fair and KS1 and 2 Choir

The KS1 and KS2 choirs will be singing at approximately 4.15pm.

Christmas Fair Entrance Arrangements

Reception – please collect from Reception gate as usual and then come into School via the Office.

KS1 parents – please collect from the KS1 playground as usual and then come into School via the door by KS1 playground

KS2 – please collect from the KS2 playground as usual and then come into School via the door by doors by the hall/dining room.

It will be very busy so please can I remind parents not to wait on the top playground as this makes it very difficult to dismiss children at the end of the day.

Guitar Lessons

Congratulations to the three children who have taken their Grade 1 guitar exams in the last few weeks. All three passed with merit! Well done to Isla (Y5), Simran (Y4) and Sofian (Y6)

Nuts

In the last few weeks there have been nuts or nut based products creeping into packed lunches. We have a number of children and adults with severe nut allergies in School. **Please do not send anything that contains nuts.**



Christmas Cards

If your child would like to use the Monkfrith Christmas Post Service then they can bring their Christmas cards and post them in our Christmas Post Boxes. Please make sure the name and class is written clearly on the envelope. They can start using the post boxes from Monday 3rd December.

Christmas Parties

Each class will be organising their Christmas parties in the last couple of weeks of term. There will be more details to follow from the Class Teachers via the Homework sheet.

5th December – Recorder Concert

If your child learns the recorder with Miss Porzi, please come along to our recorder concert at 2.30pm.

14th December – Christmas Jumper Day

If your child would like to wear a Christmas Jumper (along with their normal school uniform), please bring a £1. All money raised will go to Save the Children.

19th December - Christmas Lunch

This year a school Christmas lunch is open to everyone! A copy of the menu will be on the website later today. If your child usually has a special menu, there is a Christmas special menu, which you can find on the website.

If your child usually has school dinners, then you need not do anything. If your child usually has a packed lunch but would like a Christmas dinner, please text the Office to let them know. The cost is £2.35 and it will be added to your ParentPay. **You will need to let us know by Tuesday 6th December.**

17th December and 19th December at 2.30pm - Reception Nativity (and KS2 Choir)

This year we are able to offer 4 tickets per family in Reception. You can choose how you would like to spread them across the two performances. Each ticket costs £2.

Please print and complete the form at the end of the newsletter and return to the Office, with your money. If this is a problem, you can pop into the Office to complete a form. The tickets will then be sent to you via your child's book bag.

Please do not turn up without your ticket for the show

The Reception nativity is supported by the KS2 choir. If your child is in Year 3 and 6, they will be singing on 17th December and if they are in Year 4 and 5, they will be singing on the 19th December.

The deadline to request tickets is Thursday 13th December.

19th and 21st December at 9.30am – KS1 and KS2 Christmas Show

For the show this year we will be able to offer 2 tickets per family across the two shows. Each ticket costs £2. If we have space after people have requested their tickets we will let you know and you can request an additional ticket.

Please print and complete the form at the end of the newsletter and return to the Office, with your money. If this is a problem, you can pop into the Office to complete a form. The tickets will then be sent to you via your child's book bag.

Please do not turn up without your ticket for the show.

The deadline to request tickets is Thursday 13th December.

Costumes for KS1 and KS2

Below is the costume list for the show. The teachers will have spoken to your child about the costume already and if you have any further questions, please ask your child's teacher or put a note in the bookbag. **If you can send your child's costume in by Friday 14th December in a named plastic bag that would be really helpful.**

Year 1K and 1B – Any character from the nativity story (except an animal!)

Year 2K and 2S – Black, silver and/or gold clothes

Year 3P – plain bright colours (T shirts, trousers, leggings, dresses or skirts)

Year 3M – like carol singers (dark coloured bottoms), bobble hat and scarf

Year 4P – white tops and darker coloured trousers, leggings or skirts

Year 4F – green and gold tops and bottoms (if not then a darker colour)

Year 5 – Christmas Jumpers

Year 6 – black clothes

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

The Christmas Fair is THIS FRIDAY!!!! FOMS are very excited to be hosting this event on Friday and are really looking forward to it! We are planning a great event for adults and children alike and we hope everyone has a fun, enjoyable time.

We are still accepting donations of soft toys, general toys and games (no books please), sweet jars (filled with pre-wrapped sweets and NO NUTS), and adult presents for the Present Room. The final day to send in donations is on Thursday 6th December.

We will have our 'working coffee mornings' to prep for the fair this Thursday 6th December from 9am at school and on the day of the fair, Friday 7th December from 9am. This is the best way to get involved prior to the fair to help get things ready. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits of course while we sort, organise, label and wrap all of your generous donations.

Sign-up sheets went out to class reps for each class of parents to help with the fair. This is to cover the many stalls that will be at the fair, but it also includes sign ups to help set up on the day (from 9am Friday morning) and to help tidy up after the fair (from 6:30). If you can volunteer your time, please do! The fair cannot be a successful event without the help and support of our wonderful community. We are also accepting cake donations for the Cake Stall. Cake donations can be dropped off to the office from Friday morning.

SANTA'S GROTTTO - Sponsored by Aleco Estate Agents

The 3:30-4:30 time slot to visit Santa is now fully booked. Please email quickly to reserve your time slot between 4:30-6:30. Please email MonkfrithSanta@gmail.com to book your slot. If you have had your time slot for the grotto tentatively confirmed, please remember to send in your payment in a labelled envelope to confirm your slot.

FOMS are also pleased to report a sponsorship of our Food Stall by:

Worldwide TEFL Academy - Have you ever considered hosting students? Hosting is a great way to introduce new languages into your home and promote cultural awareness. It helps to reinforce language learning for children and you can earn tax free cash at the same time. All you need is a spare room! Our mini stay students stay between 2 and 4 nights per week no obligation you can host when you want. Feel free to contact Tom for more information: 07879228753 or 02036057383

Finally, thank you for all of the ongoing support that FOMS receives. We look forward to seeing everyone at the fair on Friday!

Rainbow Day this Friday 7th December. Children can wear their own clothes and bring in a bottle for the Bottle Tombola. Bottles will be collected at the gate in the morning.

Best wishes,
FOMS Committee

Jude Deasey
Headteacher