



Monkfrith Newsletter Autumn Term: Issue 2

Back to School

It was so lovely to see all the happy faces arriving at gate each morning last week. Year 1 have been incredibly sensible and confident finding their way to their new classrooms. Thank you to the volunteers from Year 6 for helping guide the way.

Inset Days

Each year schools are given 5 days to reflect and develop school practices. Last Monday the staff worked together to look at our achievement data from last year. Our results were very good and much higher than lots of other schools in Barnet and nationally, however we were discussing ways that we can be even better. If you want more information about our performance, it will be available on the website shortly. On Tuesday, all the adults who work in school were given a safeguarding refresher from a specialist trainer.

Meet the Teacher

This week you will have the chance to meet your child's teacher and find out more about the things they will be learning about, as well as the expectations your child's year group. The website will be updated with the information following the meetings.

...and have also been practising recognising and making numbers up to 20.



Times Tables

The National Curriculum expects that most children will know all the multiplication and division facts by the end of Year 4. There will (probably) be a new statutory check introduced in 2019/20 to measure this. All children practise their times tables in maths lessons from Year 1 and this is supplemented by weekly tests in KS2. These tests are just one of a number of ways that we work on this objective. We also value all the effort that so many parents put in to helping with remembering these important facts.

This year we will be making some changes to our 'Times Table Badge' system. There is a lot of debate about whether children need to 'know' their times tables and whether quick recall is really necessary. Our aim as a school is to make sure that children are confident and have committed their times tables to their long-term memory. By doing

Year 1 have been learning about dinosaurs...



this, they can spend less time and effort on working out the calculation and more on using their times table knowledge to solve more complex problems.

The weekly tests are 5 minutes and will now focus on both multiplication and division facts e.g. $6 \times 2 = 12$, $2 \times 6 = 12$, $12 \div 2 = 6$, $12 \div 6 = 2$.

Tests	Times tables to practise	Badge
1 – 3a	2, 3, 5, 10	Blue Star
4 – 6a	2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10	Silver Star
7 – 9	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Gold Star
10 – 12	1-12 (including decimals)	Platinum

At the start of the year, children will be asked to warm-up by having a go at a test they have previously passed before moving on.

Times tables tests will be introduced to Key Stage 1 later in the year when this part of the curriculum is covered. There will be more in the newsletter in the Spring Term about this. By the end of Year 2 children need to know the multiplication and division facts for at least the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Pupil Premium Funding

Pupil Premium funding was introduced in 2011. For children that are eligible it means the school gets an additional £1320 each year to help support their academic progress. It may be available if you or your partner are currently in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The Guarantee Credit element of State Pension Credit
- Support from the National Asylum Support Service (NASS)
- Support from the Local Authority Social Services Asylum Team (SSAT)
- Child Tax Credit, provided that you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit, and your annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) is £16,190 or less

If you think that you may be eligible then please go to <https://pps.lqfl.org.uk> or collect a form from the Office and we can check for you.

KS1 Choir

Does your child love singing? We're starting back next week, welcoming our old members, and new ones (Years 1 & 2), with lots of great songs. We meet on Tuesday lunch-times (12.30 - 1). Please note that the first session of term will be next Wednesday 12th September. Contact Ruth to put your child's name down, and for further information (07977 569076 or Ruth.wacholder@gmail.com).

KS2 Choir

If you are in Key Stage 2 and love to sing, please come along to Choir on Thursday morning at 8.15am. You don't need to let us know in advance, just turn up at the Office and join in.



Year 2 have started their topic: Wiggle and Crawl. Their headbands were bee-autiful!

Music Lessons

If your child learns an instrument, they will start their lessons this week.

Moat Mount

Year 4 are going to Moat Mount this week. Letters about kit lists went out on Friday. If you did not get a copy, they are available on the website under the Letters section. We are going to make sure that all the letters sent home this year are uploaded to the website.

FOMS

Friends of Monkfrith School (FOMS) will be having our first committee meeting of the year this Friday morning where we will start to plan our fundraising and community events for the year. If you would like to join the committee and be at the heart of planning events that support the school then please join us! If you would like to attend the meeting, or for more information, please email us at FriendsofMonkfrithSchool@gmail.com

Lastly, thank you for all the kind words and positivity this week – it is much appreciated. This is going to be a fantastic year!

Jude Deasey
Headteacher