



## Monkfrith Newsletter

### Spring 2020: 10

Dear Parents,

#### COVID-19

As I am sure you are all aware, the Government have told schools to remain open at this time. However this situation is rapidly evolving and may change in the coming days or weeks. I met with our Chair of Governors on Friday to discuss our planning and possible next steps.

As a School, as far as is possible in these unprecedented circumstances, we are continuing as usual. The school has adapted as many of our practices as possible to minimise the risk of infection:

- Children are being told to wash their hands on arrival at school, before break and lunch, after eating, after coughing or sneezing and before going home.
- Posters about good hand hygiene are displayed throughout school.
- Classes have also watched the resources suggested by the Department for Education in relation to handwashing.
- We have introduced additional cleaning measures during the school day.
- We will be further staggering lunch time to reduce the number of children in the dining room at any one time.
- We will be cancelling all school assemblies until after Easter.

On Friday we indefinitely postponed the Key Stage One Spring Show. This was a difficult decision to make because I know how hard the children and staff have been working over the last few weeks, however the potential risk seemed unnecessary at this time. We are working out how best to film a performance, so that this can be shared with parents.

We will also be cancelling all class assemblies and concerts this term (including the FOMS Easter Tea Party), along with any planned school trips. This includes the Year 1 local walk tomorrow. For the time being we will continue with swimming. Children will be made to wash their hands before they leave school, on arrival at the pool, after getting changed and then after they have changed and when they return to school. The coach company and the swimming pool have a number of measures in place as well.

#### What do we need from parents?

- The most up to date advice is on the website along with links to the advice that has been published for educational settings. If your child develops a cough or temperature (of 37.8 or higher), we would ask that you follow the advice from Public Health England and isolate for 7 days. Please also inform us of this.
- I have already been in touch with a number of parents who have children with underlying medical conditions, however if you have concerns please contact the Office.
- As you will see, we are now able to email from the Office again. Please ensure that we have the most up-to-date email address and contact numbers for you. If you know of a parent who did not receive the newsletter, please ask them to get in contact with us.
- The coming days will be very busy so please try and limit contact with Office unless it is an

essential.

The Government has indicated there may come a time when schools will be closed and we are preparing if this were to happen. These plans will be communicated later in the week.

I appreciate your understanding and kindly request that you follow the advice from Public Health England to minimise the risk of the infection spreading. More information is available via <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>.

Kind regards,

Jude Deasey

### Dance Festival

Last Monday, I took 11 children from Year 4, 5 and 6 to the Barnet Dance Festival at the Arts Depot. They had been working hard practising their dance, I Believe, since January. The day is long as the children have to arrive and rehearse their dance during the school day, then wait and watch all the other schools (including secondary schools and those who study at the London Studio) rehearse, before a finale practice with all the dancers from the night. The children then have to sit and eat their packed lunch/dinner before the evening performance in front of an audience.

As a teacher at our school, I felt overwhelming proud of our dancers. They listened attentively, tried their best, showed impeccable manners and were an absolute delight to spend such a long day with! Thank you to the parents who came along and supported them in the evening.



### Year 3 to the Barnet Environmental Centre

Over the course of two days last week, Year 3 went off to the Barnet Environmental Centre to learn about rocks. Both teachers return full of positivity about the children, their enthusiasm and attitude on the trip. Well done!

### Attendance

As you know, I am usually focused on great attendance, but in light of the current circumstances, if your child does have a slight temperature or a cough, please follow the advice and stay at home.

KS1		KS2	
Oak	96%	3B	99%
Willow	99%	3P	97%
1C	91%	4B	96%
1K	100%	4P	98%
2D	97%	5D	96%
2K	99%	5F	97%
		6	96%

<b>Average Whole School Attendance</b>	97%
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