



Monkfrith Newsletter

Spring 2020: 11

I would like to start with a huge thank you to everyone. First of all, thank you to everyone for all your support and positivity last week. It was by far the toughest week I have experienced in a school, so much uncertainty and sadness, but all the staff were buoyed by how kind and understanding everyone has been. The children were amazing last week. They washed their hands and got on with changes to their usual routines and did not make a fuss. I would also like to thank the staff who had a lot asked of them last week and just got on with it.

And now we step foot into a brave new world...

I have read so much (as I am sure some of you will have) about what home learning will be or could be like; everyone has their own perspective or way it will work for them. All I would like to say is don't worry too much. This is a really difficult time. The vast majority of children thrive with some routine or structure, but do what is manageable and realistic in your house. It will be different for every family. By far the most important thing is to read and talk about books. I am really hopeful that there will be more book reviews coming to share in the newsletter... This is the perfect chance share what you are reading as a family.

Teachers will continue to set work each day but they have been asked not to overload you with work or tasks to be done. Children should not spend all day looking at screen. I am also aware that there are so many things that people are providing on the internet via various platforms designed to help which is fantastic but also has the potential to be a bit overwhelming. Be selective. Although definitely do 9am with Joe Wicks! School is about English and Maths but it is also about developing social skills, creativity and learning about the world. Remember every child in the country is in the same position right now so don't worry about them 'falling behind'; there are more important things at this point in time.

When I logged into the classrooms this morning, I could see lots of children had already made a good start on their work. There was a mix of maths, spellings, reading and children sharing photos of their pets! Teachers will still be able to nominate children for certificates during the week and I will share these in the newsletter on the following Monday.

I was also hoping to introduce a new weekly feature to the newsletter where different families give tips about how they are making it work for them. I am sure lots of you are doing this via a Whatsapp group, but if you want to write a little summary of how your week has gone (maybe with a photo), I am sure it would be appreciated. It would also be lovely for me to see how everyone is getting on.

If you need to contact the Office, you can continue to send emails. Evie and Hayley are both working from home and I will be in School as we are required to provide emergency childcare for key worker children. We are all adjusting to huge, unprecedented changes so bear with us – we, like you, are doing the best we can.

Jude Deasey