



# Monkfrith School

## Autumn Term 2021

### Newsletter 3

A big THANK YOU to **FOMS** who have helped with the purchase of new cameras for all the year groups. It will mean lots more photos in the newsletter!

There is lots of information in this week's newsletter - apologies for the length!



Last week we welcomed our new **Reception** children. Ms Cooper and Ms Czurprynska were so impressed with how the children came into school and have settled. As you can see from the photos, they have been exploring lots of different activities and making new friends. This week they will be staying to have their first lunch at school!



**Year 1** have been focusing on **determination** and thinking about what they would like to try hard to get better at this year. They had some really good ideas from writing and counting to 100, to being a better artist and reading lots of books.

In **Year 2**, the children had a great time making fruit kebabs and learning about imperative verbs which we use in instruction writing. They have also been learning about the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo.





**Year 3** had a visit from Ranger Stu this week as part of 'Predator'. Ms Donaghy and Ms Shah were so impressed with the children's enthusiasm, questions and behaviour.

**Year 4** have been starting to learn about states of matter (solids, liquids and gases) and writing lovely character descriptions from Alice in Wonderland.



**Year 5** have been investigating minibeasts and practising their persuasive writing techniques. This week they are designing their Bug Hotels.

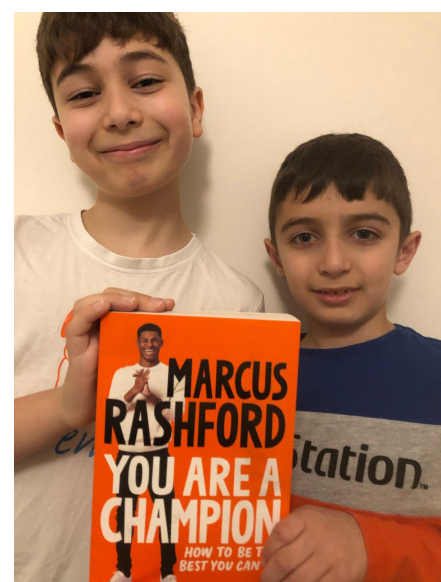
**Year 6** have started learning about adaptation and evolution linking to the Victorians. They looked at cacti and other plants.

## Monkfrith reads...

I am delighted to say that our first book review of the year is a book that links to our whole school value of **determination**.

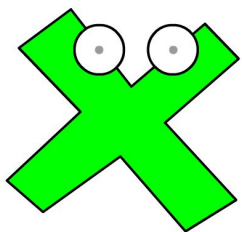
**Demetrios** in **Year 6** is reading... Marcus Rashford's 'You are a Champion'...

*This book is good because it teaches you how to be more determined about anything. It has many inspirational quotes from Marcus Rashford and his favourite athletes such as this one "there are so many doors that will open for you so don't worry if they haven't all unlocked yet". It teaches me that there's no best version of you and that you have to keep growing. I would recommend the book because even when you read the blurb you feel like you've already become the champion that you are. It's not just a book but it's a key to unlock the door to success!*

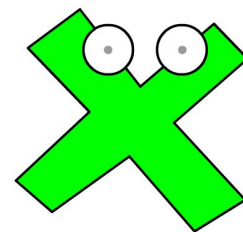


Thank you Demetrios (and Costandinos!). If you would like to share a book review in the newsletter, just email into the Office.

A big WELL DONE to **Emily** in **Year 3** and **Daniel** in **Willow** who completed the Wild World Heroes Summer Reading Challenge.



# 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 be a new statutory check to measure this. All children practise their times tables in maths lessons from Year 1 and this is supplemented by short weekly tests. These tests are just one in 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 all important facts.

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 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.

It is also important to remember that whilst some children can learn times tables very quickly, it can take other children a little bit longer. There is no pressure from teachers about 'passing the test', but a focus on **trying your best and doing a bit better each week**.

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

At the start of the year, children will be asked to warm-up by having a go at a test they have previously passed. If they have already earned all their badges, they will do other activities related to times tables to practice applying their knowledge.

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.

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

## Small request

If you are able to spare a box of tissues to send in with your child, we would be grateful.



## Statutory Testing

One of the consequences of the pandemic has been that schools have not been required to undertake any statutory testing. The Government have been clear that they intend for a full programme of testing to return for this academic year.

Here is a summary of what will happen for your information, but I would like to remind everyone that **children do not need to feel worried or anxious about these tests or assessments**. The good quality teaching that they receive in their classrooms, the support you give with homework and regular reading at home, along with trying their best is enough for most children. In some cases, we may provide some additional support to help with a particular aspect of learning.

**EYFS** - This is the first proper year of the Reception Baseline Assessment. If your child started in Oak or Willow Class last week, then they will take part in a short 1:1 assessment with their class teacher to see what they can do before starting school. These results have to be submitted to Government and will be used to help judge the progress they make over time. In addition to this, as we always do, our staff will be carrying out our own assessments and observations of the children to help identify their starting points and their next steps.

**Year 1** - In June of Year 1, children will be taking the Phonics Screening Check. This is a short 1:1 assessment carried out by their class teacher. It checks their ability to read words using the phonics that they have been taught in Reception and Year 1. The outcome of this, along with the class teachers' assessment of their overall reading ability, will be reported to parents in July.

**Year 2** - Schools have been asked to do an internal assessment of Year 2 phonics in the Autumn Term as these children missed their Year 1 phonics screening check last year. In May, children take part in Key Stage 1 tests for Reading, Maths and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. These results, along with the teachers' assessment of their work throughout the year, will be shared with parents in July.

**Year 4** - In June, the children will take part in the new Multiplication Screening Check. This is a new assessment for children in Year 4. It is a short online assessment of their times tables up to and including 12 x 12.

**Year 6** - In May, Year 6 will have their end of Key Stage 2 SATS. These include a range of tests for Grammar, Spelling, Reading and Maths. These results will be reported to parents, alongside your child's end of year report in July. Writing is judged by on the child's work throughout the year.

In January we will provide more information for parents who have a child in Year 2 and 6 about SATs.

### Kingswood for Year 5 and 6

We are proceeding with our Kingswood plans in the expectation that we will be able to go! If you have not returned your medical forms, please do so this week. You can make the payments via Arbor now.





## Meet the Teacher

Just a reminder about the online sessions for Meet the Teacher this week. Here are the links again. Sessions will be recorded and shared after the meetings.

### Year 1 Meet the Teacher

Wednesday, September 15 · 5:30

Google Meet joining info

Video call link:

<https://meet.google.com/yhy-ioxe-skx>

Or dial: (US) +1 316-413-3197 PIN: 827 963 229#

### Year 2 meet the teacher link

Monday, September 13 · 6:00

Google Meet joining info

Video call link:

<https://meet.google.com/jdy-puua-ghh>

Or dial: (US) +1 929-299-3178 PIN: 993 054 945#

### Year 3 Meet the teacher

Monday, September 13 · 5:30

Google Meet joining info

Video call link:

<https://meet.google.com/xoz-enho-gfv>

Or dial: (US) +1 240-428-7851 PIN: 745 019 046#

### Meet the Teacher Year 4

Wednesday, 15 September · 6:00 – 7:00pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link:

<https://meet.google.com/ktd-qwvn-ddq>

### Year 5 Meet the Teacher

Tuesday, September 14 · 5:30

Google Meet joining info

Video call link:

<https://meet.google.com/vwy-bant-ipo>

Or dial: (US) +1 862-930-5763 PIN: 689 166 228#

### Year 6 Meet the Teacher

Tuesday, September 14 15 6:00

Google Meet joining info

Video call

Link: [meet.google.com/mrh-kfwn-zgg](https://meet.google.com/mrh-kfwn-zgg)

## Year 6 Secondary Transfer - deadline 31st October

The online application system is now open at [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk). All parents must apply online; paper forms are not available. A step-by-step guidance on how to submit an online application is included in the attachments to this newsletter. If you need help, call the School Admissions Customer Services Team on 020 8359 7651 for support and guidance.

Parents of children in Year 6 who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) should already have received a letter from the SEN Team setting out the secondary phase transfer process for children with EHCPs. These children will be allocated a school place in February 2022. If you parents of children with an EHCP have not received a letter or require further information, they should contact [SENadmin@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:SENadmin@barnet.gov.uk)

Applications received after the 31 October 2021 deadline will be considered after all on-time applications have been processed and parents will not receive an outcome email on National Offer Day.