



Monkfrith School

Autumn Term 2023

Newsletter 1

Welcome Back!

I hope you have all had a enjoyable summer break however you were able to spend it I like the holidays but I am always excited for the start of the year and seeing the children again.

I would like to thank you on behalf of all the staff for the generous gifts that were received at the end of last term. We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday. Just a reminder that Breakfast Club starts as usual on this day.

In our INSET on Monday we will be reflecting on the things that went well last year and how we are going to improve further this year to do the best we can for your children. Information about this will be shared in the first few weeks of term via the newsletter. We will also be having a safeguarding update.

Staffing

We are welcoming Miss Mara this term who will be teaching Year 4, Miss Pankhurst who will be joining us as a teaching assistant in Year 2 and we are welcoming back Ms BH!

Mrs Sutton will be working Monday to Wednesday in her role as Deputy this year, with Mrs Whittington doing the role on Thursday and Friday.

Uniform

Please can all uniform be labelled, including shoes and coats. If you chose to write the name in Biro or with a Sharpie, rather than use sewn-in labels, please remember that they need to be rewritten regularly. We would like children to try and take some responsibility for their own clothing but it is near impossible for them to find a missing jumper or cardigan when it is not clearly marked. The amount of unnamed lost property we had at the end of last term was incredible. There were 6 black bags full of unclaimed, unnamed items including shoes, water bottles, hats, scarves and coats. It would be great if we could try and reduce the waste this year.

Morning Snack

Children from Reception to Year 2 have a piece of fruit/vegetable provided each day by the Government. These range from bananas or raisins to apples or cherry tomatoes.

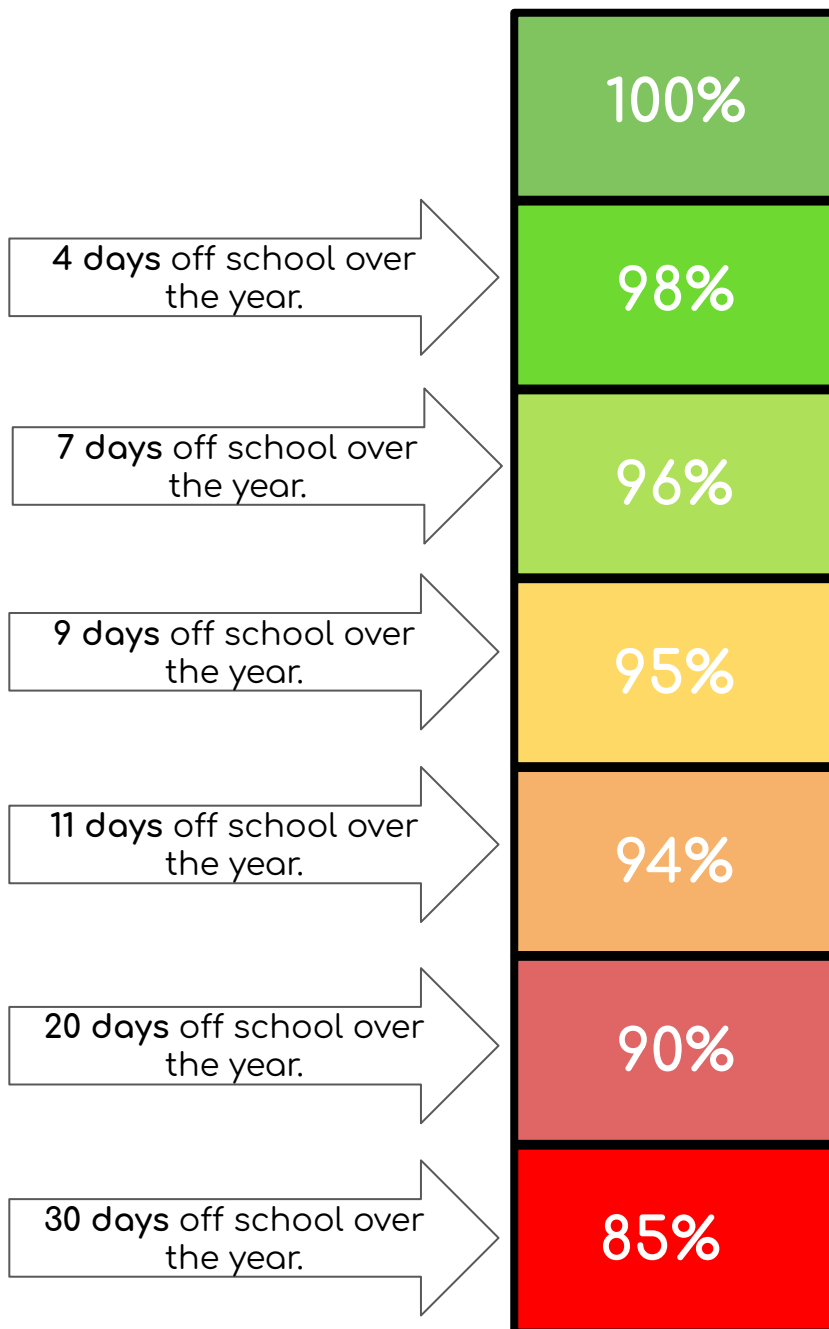
If your child is in Year 3 to 6, they can bring their own piece of fruit as a mid-morning snack. Please keep these small. If it is taking your child more than 10 minutes to eat it, then there is too much!

Only send fruit or a vegetable. Yoghurts, crisps, sweets, cereal bars etc are not acceptable alternatives.



Attendance and Punctuality

Children have the best chance of success if their school attendance is above 96%. Children who attend school regularly and on time are more likely to keep up with school work, develop good habits and important life skills and maintain friendships.



- Arriving late to school is very unsettling for children. They miss the important start to lessons if they arrive late. Punctuality is a very important life skill to have and it is essential that children learn to be on time at an early age.
- Absences will not be authorised unless there is a satisfactory explanation from parents that has been accepted. The Headteacher is only able to authorise a requested absence in exceptional circumstances.
- Religious observance days will always be authorised, but we are only able to authorise the official religious day(s).
- Holidays during term time will NOT be authorised and will be unauthorised if taken. I understand that holidays are less expensive in term time but this is not a sufficient or acceptable reason.
- Medical appointments are advised to be made after school or in the school holidays. We understand some children have emergency appointments and are under hospital care. These appointments are sometimes unavoidable so we would support and understand these absences.

All our lessons build on the day before so if your child misses one day it is like a missing brick in a building. Build the strong foundations of your child's education by ensuring that they are here every day!

Parking and Driving

There is limited parking in the immediate roads around school. Local residents have been very unhappy with some of the parking of some parents and I have been contacted by one of the local councillors during the holiday to ask me to remind . If you have to drive to school, please bear the following things in mind; lots of families and children walk to school and we are part of a community at Monkfrith and this extends to our neighbours. **Please ensure your driving and parking is safe, legal and considerate.**

This year we will be a Living Streets Travel Tracker School. Children will be able to receive badges if they walk, scoot or cycle to school regularly.

Please help us reduce traffic and pollution around our school site by leaving the car at home and choosing a healthier, more sustainable option:

Walking

Scooting or cycling

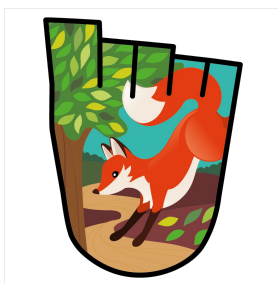
Using the bus

Park and Stride for the last half mile (10 minutes)

In September, the badge is the **Urban Fox**.

Did you know that foxes can make more than 40 different sounds which all have their own meaning?

- When fox pups are born, they are unable to see, hear or walk.
- Foxes are the only canines that can retract their claws like felines.



Dates for the Year

We have tried to set as many dates as we can in advance so that families can plan, but there will inevitably be some changes or additions which we will let you know about as soon as possible. The most up to date information about dates will be on the website calendar this year. This is one of my new year's resolutions!

4th September - INSET Day

5th September - First day for children (Breakfast Club as usual)

11th September to 13th September - Meet the Teacher

27th September to 29th September - Year 5 to Kingswood

27th September - 6K to Christ Church (am)

28th September - 6S to Christ Church (am)

9th October to 20th October - Year 5 Swimming (am)

12th October - Year 6 to the Ragged School

13th October - Flu Immunisation

23rd October to 27th October - Half Term

3rd November - Individual and Sibling Photos

24th November - Year 2 to the Transport Museum

29th November - Year 4 to the British Museum

4th December - INSET 2

21st December - Break Up 2pm

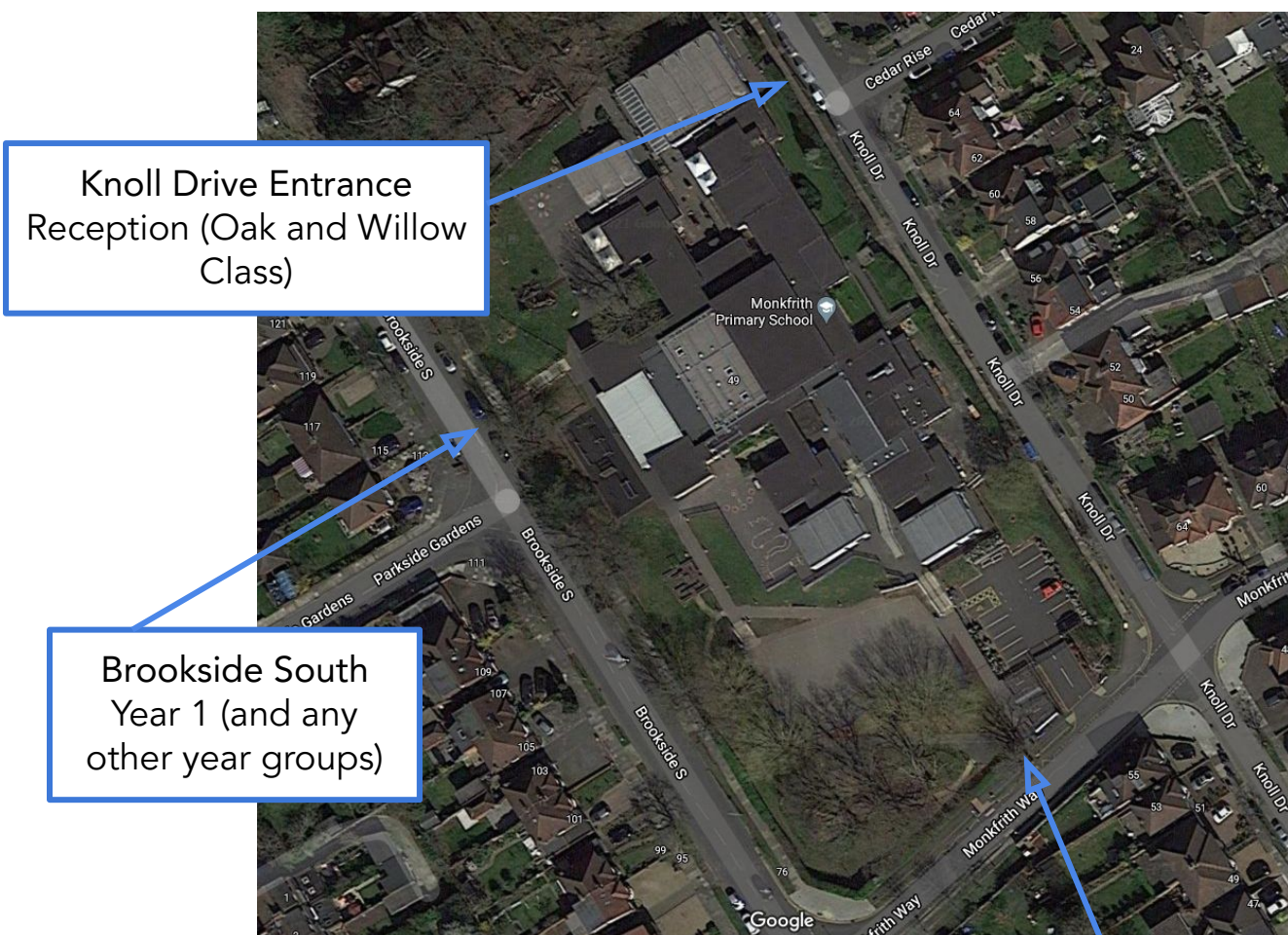
Start of the Day

The timings will not be changing. Reception children can be dropped off between 8.45am and 8.55am. Year 1 to Year 6 can be dropped off any time between 8.30am and 8.55am.

We will be continuing to use all three gates in the morning to help ease congestion around school. The Reception gate on Knoll Drive should only be used by children in Reception.

The gates on Knoll Drive and Brookside South will be available to all year groups. Children should then enter their classrooms either via their outside classroom door or one of the other doors.

We would prefer that children who are in Year 1 use the gate on Brookside South as this is the closest one to their classroom and this will be the quickest and easiest way into school for them particularly at the start of the year.



End of the Day

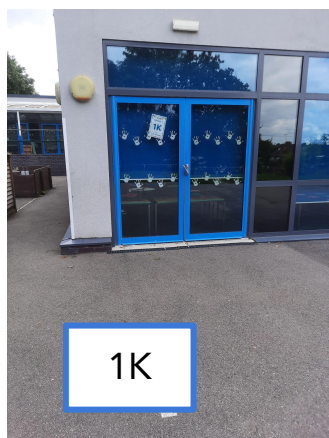
The timings will not be changing.

Reception children should be collected at 3.10pm. Year 1 and 2 should be collected at 3.20pm. Year 3 to 6 finish at 3.30pm

You can use **any gate** to enter or exit the school grounds. Dismissal may take a little longer, particularly at the start of the year, as the teachers are learning to match the right children with the right adult. Please be patient and wait in the correct place.

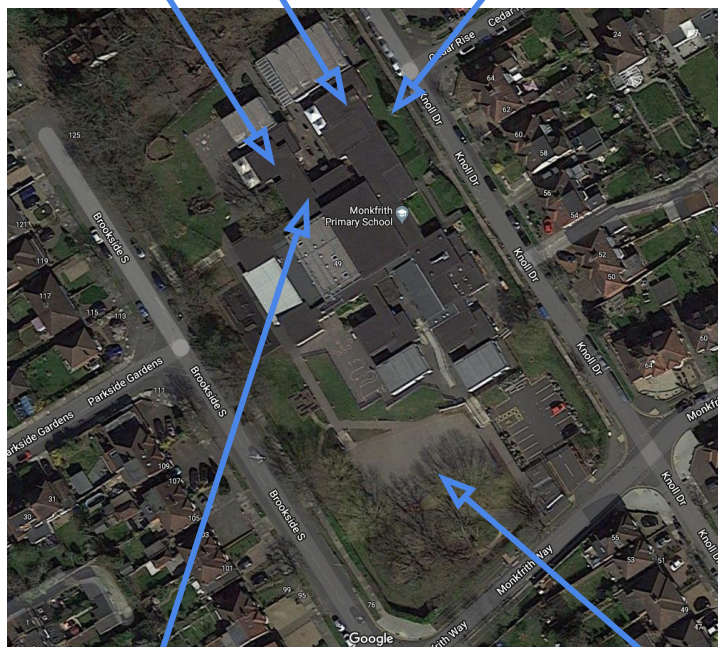
If your child is in Year 6 and is able to walk themselves home, please let us know via email.

Year 1 Collection
Point - KS1
Playground

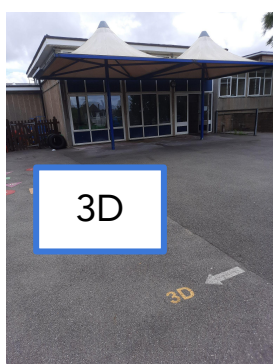


Oak
and
2P

Reception and Year
2C Collection Point



Years 3 Collection Point - KS1
Playground



Years 4 -6
Collection
Point - KS2
Playground



Meet the Teacher

We have arranged an opportunity for parents to come to a Meet the Teacher meeting in the first few weeks back, for children from Year 1 to 6. This is where you can find out more about your child's new year group, the learning that will be taking place and ask any questions. This should last approximately half an hour but is for adults only. If you are not able to attend, there will be a summary of the information shared afterwards on the website. Please use the main entrance on Knoll Drive.

| | 6pm | 6.30pm |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| Monday 11th September | Year 1 | Year 2 |
| Tuesday 12th September | Year 3 | Year 6 |
| Wednesday 13th September | Year 4 | Year 5 |

Year 5 and 6 Dance Club - Tuesdays 3.30pm - 4.20pm

If your child would like to join Dance Club on a Tuesday, please email the Office. There are a limited number of places. The first session will be on Monday 11th September. Pick up from the Office. Dance Club will be performing at the Barnet Dance Festival in March.

Choir for Year 4 - 6

KS2 Choir will be starting for children in Years 4 to 6 from Thursday 14th September. All children from those year groups are welcome to come along at 8.15am. Please arrive at the Breakfast Club door (via the car park).

PE Kits

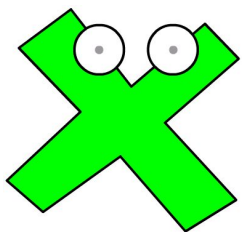
Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in from the start of term. The first PE sessions will be on Tuesday 5th September.

Water Bottles

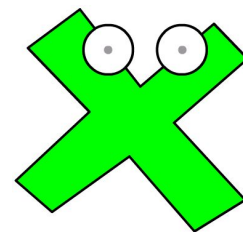
Please continue to send your child with a NAMED water bottle from September. Child can have it refilled throughout the day if they ask. Please do not send it in filled with something other than water.

Packed Lunches

If your child prefers to bring a packed lunch please ensure that it is a healthy. There should not be energy drinks, carbonated or flavoured juices, chocolate bars or Grab-bags of crisps. I would also like to remind parents that we are a nut free school, this includes peanut butter and Nutella.



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.

