



Monkfrith School

Autumn Term 2023

Newsletter 2

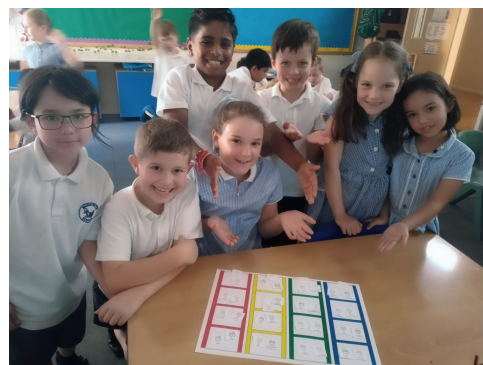
It has been a busy start back to the term! You can find out more detail about what your child will be learning this term at the Meet the Teacher meetings this week. There will also be a breakdown on the class page of the website by the end of the week as well as regular updates in the newsletter throughout the term.

The Reception Team were out making home visits to meet the new families joining school. The children will be starting school this week!

Year 1 were able to take some of their learning outside this week as they adjust to life in KS1. They are using.



In **Year 2** the children were introduced to their new topic, **Scrumdiddlyumptious**. In maths, the children were revisiting the learning they did about place value last year.



Year 3's topic is called **Predator** and the children began by finding out about food chains. This week they will be learning about fossils.

In **Year 4**, they have a science focused topic this half term - **Potions**. They will be learning about the states of matter and use Alice in Wonderland as their class text. As it is the start of the year, they also revisited Zones of Regulation. Information about Zones of Regulation was sent out attached to last week's newsletter and it available on the website.





The children in **Year 5** made the most of the beautiful weather and got stuck in to their 'bug hunt'. Year 5's learning this half term is focused on the topic, **Beast Creator**. They also began their class text Kensuke's Kingdom.

In **Year 6**, they are reading Streetchild by Berlie Doherty this half term as they are learning about the Victorians, in their topic, **Revolution**.



Just One Tree Day - 13th October 2023



We will be having a green-themed non uniform day to join in with over 500 other schools around the world for Just One Tree Day.

Children can bring £1 and wear something green (alongside their own clothes or their uniform, whichever they would prefer).

Just One Tree is a not for profit social enterprise based in Barnet that plants trees to combat climate change
You can find out more information at <https://www.justonetree.life/>



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).

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.

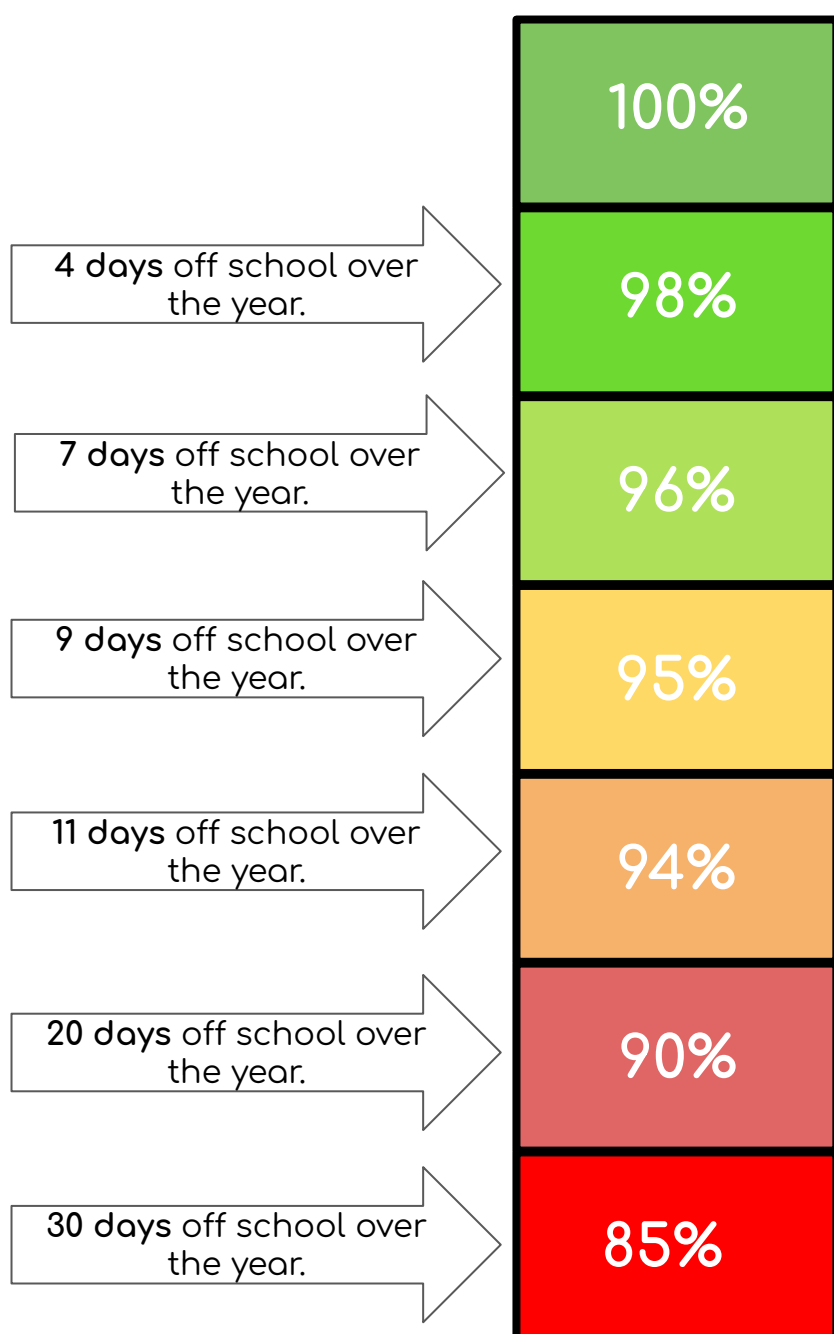
	6pm	6.30pm
Monday 11th September	Year 1	Year 2
Tuesday 12th September	Year 3	Year 6
Wednesday 13th September	Year 4	Year 5

Attendance and Punctuality

Children have the best chance of success if their school attendance is above 96% and we had a great start with attendance last week! 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.

Week commencing:

4th September 2023



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!

Whole School	97.8%
1C	98%
1K	99%
2C	94%
2P	98%
3DW	100%
3F	97%
4M	98%
4P	97%
5LD	99%
5S	99%
6K	92%
6S	97%

Parking and Driving

We have had a number of complaints already about the parking of parents in and around school at the start and the end of the day. I am including some of the photos that I have been sent. In each case not only did it cause inconvenience to a number of families and members of the public, it was also unsafe.

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.



Thank you to those of you who have taken the time to complete the FOMS survey. If you have not go around to it yet or missed the email last week, here is the link.

<https://forms.gle/frjfxdu89SJbiEkM7>

Year 6 Secondary Transfer - deadline 31st October

The online application system is now open at 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.

Applications received after the 31 October 2023 deadline will be considered after all on-time applications have been processed and parents will not receive an outcome email on National Offer Day.

Dates for the Term

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

Just One Tree Day (Own Clothes Day £1)

23rd October to 27th October - Half Term

3rd November - Individual and Sibling Photos

13th November - Year 1 to The Ragged School

24th November - Year 2 to the Transport Museum

29th November - Year 4 to the British Museum

4th December - INSET 2

13th December at 9.30am - Reception Nativity

14th December at 2pm - Reception Nativity

18th and 19th December at 9.30am - KS1 and KS2 Christmas Concert

21st December - Break Up 2pm

Dates for the Year

The calendar on the website is now being updated more frequently and has lots of dates for the year ahead already including term dates, INSET Days and trips that have been organised.

Here are the term dates for this year:

8th January - First Day of Spring Term

12th to 16th February - Half Term

19th February - INSET 3

28th March - Break up 2pm

29th March to 12th April - Easter Holidays

15th April - First Day of Summer Term

13th May - Year 6 SATs week

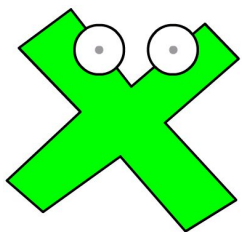
19th May to 24th May - Year 6 to the Isle of Wight

27th May to 31st May - Half Term

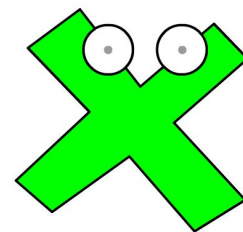
3rd June - INSET 4

5th July - INSET 5

24th July - Last Day of Term 2pm



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.

