

MONKFRITH SCHOOL

Autumn 2 2025



This week we have been welcoming our new Reception children to Monkfrith. Over the summer, our Reception outside area has been undergoing an overhaul - with the support of FOMS. Thanks to the money provided by FOMS we have been able to resurface part of the space with astroturf which enables us to have different equipment on offer. FOMS have also funded the purchase of resources that have meant we can create new water play spaces, a new construction area and role play space.

Thank you to everyone who helped or contributed towards the fundraising last year.

One of the projects that FOMS have agreed for this term is to help replace the KS2 climbing frame. When our Pupil Council members are selected, they will be involved in the design process.



This half term, Year 5's topic is called Beast Creator. They have been out exploring all the places in school where bugs might be found as they begin to think about different habitats and conditions in which different minibeasts thrive. Year 1 has been revising the phonics they learned in Reception, and in their art lessons, they have been identifying and using the primary colors. In Year 2, the children have been writing descriptions of cake as part of their Scrumdiddlyumtious topic. Year 3 has been learning all about how different fossils are formed in their science lessons and planning their narratives about dragonflies. Year 4 has been writing about Alice from Alice in Wonderland and carrying out their jam tart taste testing in Design and Technology. In their history lessons, Year 6 has been learning about the Victorian workhouses and the short-term and long-term impact of the Great Exhibition.

Monkfrith reads...



Reading and books are a fantastic way to support all aspects of your child's learning—vocabulary, imagination, empathy and understanding of the world. The children will read or be read to every day at school and encouraging regular reading at home is so important.

At 'Meet the Teacher' this week, teachers will have talked about listening to your child read aloud (even if they are in Year 6!) but even if you have a slightly reluctant reader at home, doing some shared reading (maybe you each read a page or a paragraph). When children read, they are not only recognising letters and sounds. They are also bringing together different skills that work like pieces of a puzzle:

Fluency – reading smoothly

- This is about being able to recognise words quickly and automatically.
- A fluent reader doesn't have to stop and sound out every word, which leaves their brain free to focus on the meaning.

Prosody – reading with expression

- Prosody is what makes reading sound natural, like talking.
- It's about using the right rhythm, intonation, and emphasis (e.g. making your voice rise at the end of a question, or pausing at a comma).
- This helps children show they understand what's happening in the story.

Comprehension – understanding the text

- The ultimate goal of reading is making sense of what's on the page.
- Comprehension involves vocabulary knowledge, background knowledge and the ability to connect ideas across sentences and paragraphs.



Book Reviews

In May last year, we did a Reading Survey with the children. When they were asked how they choose a book, lots of children said that they really valued recommendations from another child, so this year we are giving children (and families) the opportunity to contribute a book review to the newsletter.

If your child has read a book that they enjoyed and want to share, then all they need to do is write a little bit about the book, what they enjoyed, and who they think might like it (along with a photo). This should then be emailed to the Office ready for adding into the newsletter in the coming weeks.

Miss Deasey reads....

The Grand Hotel of Feelings Lidia Brankovic

I came across this book while I was browsing in a book shop over the holidays. It is a fantastic picture book to read at home together. At the Grand Hotel different feelings come to stay. Each feeling is unique and has different needs but there is room for everyone. The illustrations are fantastic too! If you want to talk to your child about their feelings, big or small and how they be managed, this is a great place to start.



Year 6 Bikeability

We have been offered some dates for Level 2 Bikeability for Year 6 in November. On Monday morning, you will receive a link to a Google form that you can complete to sign your child up (spaces will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis). There are only 24 slots across the year group, and you will only be able to sign up via the form (please do not message the Office). After all the slots are filled, we will create a waiting list. Please check with your child that they would like to do it before signing up.

The sessions will be in school time from Monday 24th November to Friday 28th November, and your child will need a bike and helmet. The children will need to be able to ride their bike already. Further information will be sent on Monday.

These sessions are free to schools but funded by Barnet. It may be that we are offered additional sessions later in the year, but there is no guarantee.

Class Assembly Dates*

Class Assemblies are an opportunity for the children to share their learning. We aim to start at 9.05am. Parents are welcome to come along and watch!

Wednesday 22nd October - 6P
Wednesday 19th November - 4B
Wednesday 26th November - 4P
Wednesday 3rd December - 6K
Wednesday 14th January - 5S
Wednesday 28th January - Year 1
Wednesday 18th March - 3F
Wednesday 25th March - 3S
Wednesday 20th May - 5LD
Wednesday 10th June - 2M
Wednesday 17th June - 2CW
Friday 19th June - Reception

*In exceptional circumstances it may be that a date needs to change. We will inform classes as soon as this is possible.

Parking and Driving around School

When you are dropping off or picking up, please remember to do so in a way that does not impact the safety of other families who are walking.

Lots of our Year 6 children are now starting to walk to and from school as they build their independence before secondary school.

Please help keep them safe.



The Basketball Bulldog Club is providing a number of inclusive SEND basketball sessions. [Please see here for information.](#)

The sessions take place every Thursday, 5pm to 6pm at Copthall Leisure Centre.

Start of the year check

- Check your contact details (particularly phone, email and address are up to date. You can edit this yourself (although in some cases, the change might need to be authorised by the Office team before it takes effect.
- Check that we have a minimum of 2 contacts for your child. This is a safeguarding requirement.
- If you are claiming some benefits and think you may now be entitled to Free School Meals, a way of helping increase our school funding and therefore helping us to support the children better, then please visit: <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/> to check.



Useful information for parents and carers



BACPAC: Barnet Autism Course for Parents And Carers An Online Parent/Carer Training Course, Autumn Term 2025.

A comprehensive training and support programme for parents/carers of children aged 6-19, with a diagnosis of Autism.

This course is available free of charge to families living in Barnet.

A 6-session online training course, covering topics including:

An overview of what it means for your child to be Autistic

Communication

Sensory needs

Understanding emotional regulation/'behaviour'

This course also gives parents/carers an opportunity to learn together online and share experiences

BELS Mini BACPAC Programme (0-6yrs) For Parents and carers, Autumn Term 2025.

Professionals and parents will deliver modules designed to increase your knowledge and skills with understanding Autism and using practical strategies to support your child.

The criteria for accessing the free programme:

A Barnet Resident

Child has a diagnosis of Autism

Child is 0-6 years old

KS2 Dance Club - Tuesdays between 3.30pm and 4.30pm

This is open to up to 16 children in Year 5 and 6. Places are offered on a first come, first served basis. (a waiting list is created with any additional children).

We are able to offer this as a free club. Children will need a change of clothes and a small snack. Collection is at the Office.

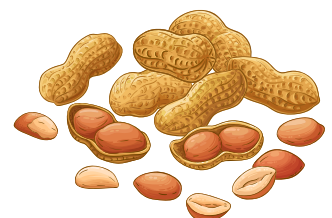
They work on different dance styles and then begin to prepare for the Barnet Dance Festival which takes place in the Spring Term so they need to commit to the club. If you would like your child to attend, please email the office.

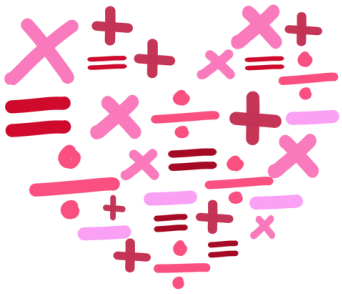
KS2 Choir - Thursday at 8.15am

This is open to all children in Year 4 and above. It is free and everyone is welcome. All you need is enthusiasm!

Monkfrith is a nut free school

We have a number of children in school who have nut allergies. It is really important that if you send in food, for example in a packed lunch that there are **no nuts (this includes Nutella sandwiches)**.





Times Tables (Year 3-6)

The National Curriculum expects that most children will know all the multiplication and division facts by the end of Year 4. In June, children in Year 4 take the government's Multiplication Screening Check, which is an online test to check whether they know their times tables.

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 reduces the demand on their working memory.

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 focus on both multiplication and division facts e.g. $6 \times 2 = 12$, $2 \times 6 = 12$, $12 \div 2 = 6$, $12 \div 6 = 2$.

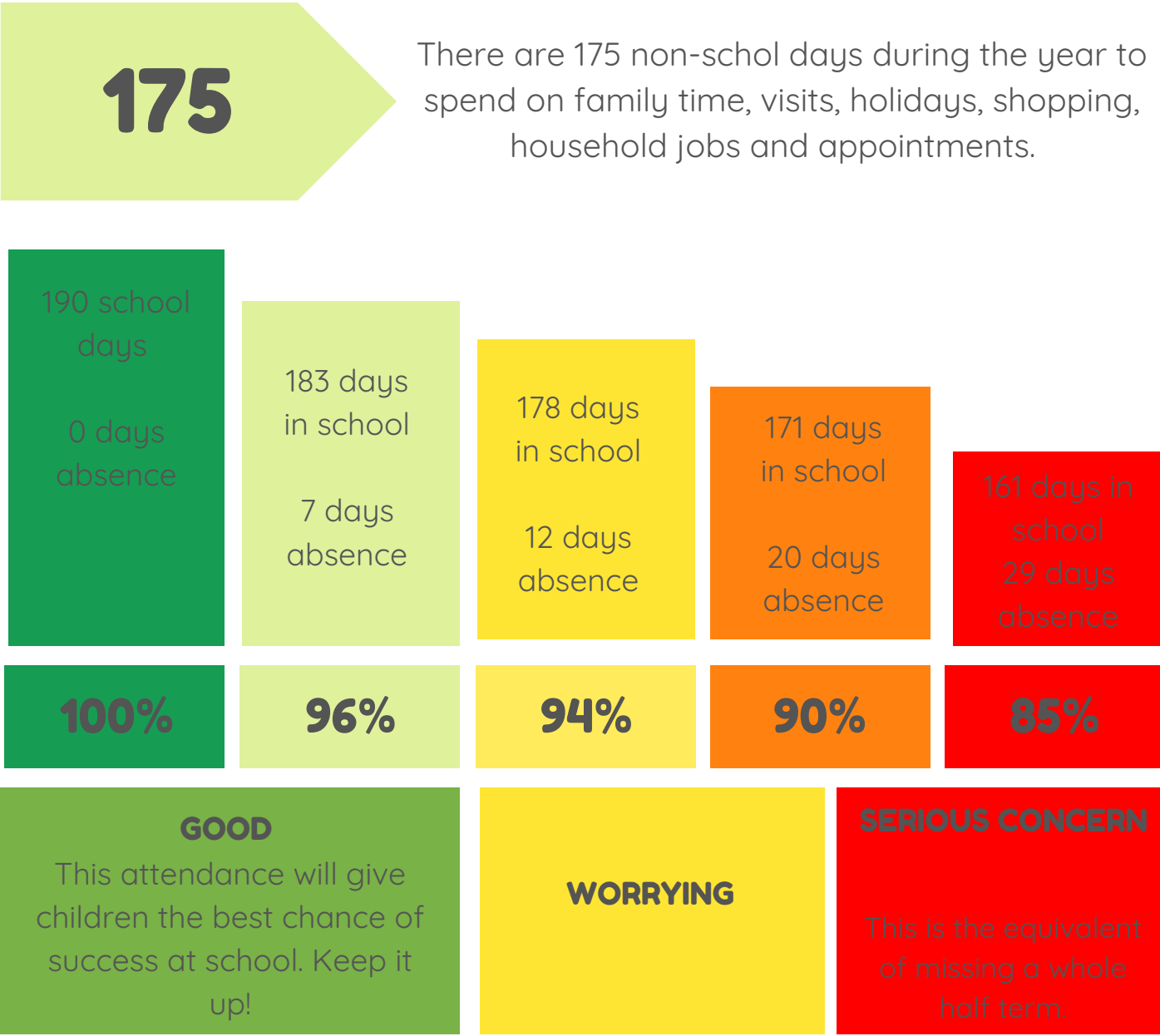
At the start of the year, children will be asked to warm-up by having a go at a test they have previously passed. If they have already earned all their badges, they will do other activities related to times tables to practice applying their knowledge.

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

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

365 DAYS IN A CALENDAR YEAR



Attendance this week

Oak	99%	2M	99%	5S	97%
Willow	100%	3S	99%	5LD	99%
1C	96%	3F	98%	6P	94%
1K	100%	4B	98%	6K	95%
2CW	100%	4P	99%	Whole School	98%

Dates for 2025/6

Autumn Term 2025

Wednesday 24th September - Year 3F to the Barnet Environmental Centre

Thursday 25th September - Year 3S to the Barnet Environmental Centre

Monday 29th September - 6K to Christ Church (am)

Wednesday 1st October - 6P to Christ Church (am)

Wednesday 1st October to Friday 3rd October - Year 5 at Kingswood

Parent consultations will be in the week commencing Monday 20th October

Friday 24th October - Flu Vaccinations

Monday 27th October to Friday - 31st October
HALF TERM

Monday 3rd November - Year 5 Swimming (2 weeks)

Tuesday 4th November - Year 3S to the Science Museum

Wednesday 5th November - Year 3F to the Science Museum

Monday 24th November - Friday 28th November - Level 2 Bikeability (Year 6)

Friday 5th December - Christmas Fayre (after school)

Friday 19th December - End of Term 2pm finish

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5th January - First Day Back

Wednesday 21st January - Science Workshops for Year 5 and 6

Thursday 29th January - 2CW to the Transport Museum

Friday 30th January - 2M to the Transport Museum

16th February to 20th February - Half Term

Wednesday 4th March - Year 6 to St Paul's Cathedral

Monday 9th March - Year 4 swimming (2 weeks)

Friday 27th March - Break up at 2pm

Monday 13th April - INSET Day

Tuesday 14th April - First Day of Summer Term

Thursday 16th to 17th April - Year 4 Bikeability

Wednesday 22nd April - Year 5 to the Portrait Gallery

Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May - KS2 SATs week

Sunday 17th May to Friday 22nd May - Year 6 to the Isle of Wight

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May - Half Term

Monday 1st June - INSET Day

Dates for 2025/6

Autumn

Autumn 1

INSET - Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September to Friday 24th October

Half Term

Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October

Autumn 2

Monday 3rd November to Friday 19th December

Spring

Spring 1

Monday 5th January to Friday 13th February

Half Term

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February

Spring 2

Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th March

Summer

Summer 1

INSET - Monday 13th April

Tuesday 14th April to Friday 22nd May

Half Term

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Summer 2

Monday 1st June to Monday 20th July (children's last day Friday 17th July)

INSET - Monday 1st June

INSET - Monday 20th July