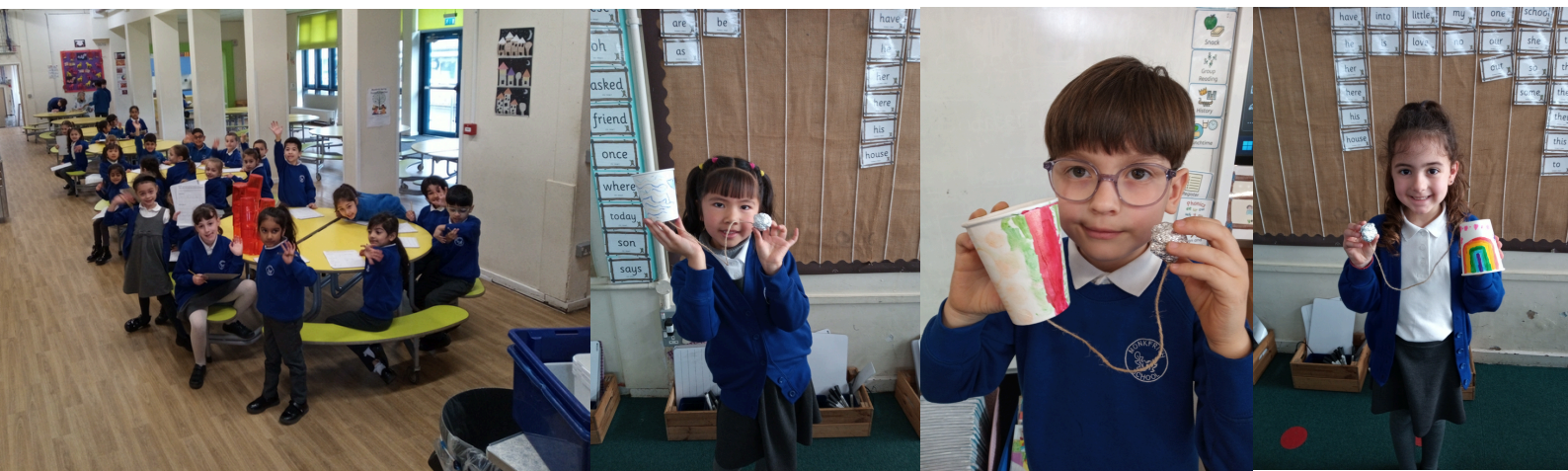


MONKFRITH SCHOOL

Spring 11 2026



The last 25 days have flown by as we come to the end of the Spring Term. In that time we have fitted in ten trips to the swimming pool with Year 4, five football matches, two football tournaments, a set of parent consultations, two trips, three workshops, a dance festival, two performances of A Savannah Story, a class assembly and World Book Day! And that is in addition to all the usual learning that takes place. Thank you to all the hardwork of the staff who have helped make this happen! We have an INSET day on the first day back of the Summer Term where we will be thinking about learning, inclusion, relational behaviour and RE! We look forward to seeing you as usual on Tuesday 14th April. Enjoy your holidays!



Year 1 have mapping school by taking a tour of the building as they finish off their School Days topic. In their Design and Technology lessons they have been creating a Victorian inspired toy – the cup and ball!



Year 2 has been measuring and investigating volume and capacity in Maths. They have also been creating posters inspired by Greta Thunberg's activism. In Year 3, the children were completing their Hokusai paintings and evaluating their painting techniques while completing their writing about the course of a river. On Wednesday, 3S shared their learning in their class assembly. They spoke confidently and knowledgeably—very impressive!

In our assembly on Wednesday afternoon, we said a sad goodbye to Mrs. Sutton, who has stepped away to spend more time with her family. We also welcomed back Mrs. Powell so we could say goodbye to her too. Mrs. Powell retired at Christmas, but we did not get to say the goodbye we would have liked. I am sure that you will join me in thanking them both for their dedication to the children of Monkfrith.

Year 4 were at Tolmers Scout Camp on Thursday and Friday this week on their first residential trip with school. The children have taken part in some team building challenges, raced pedal cars, tried archery and climbing and spent time being free and playing in the woods! We will share more photos soon...



A huge thank you to the staff who have helped to make the trip possible: Miss Pierides, Ms BH, Miss Bennett, Mrs Holmes, Miss Cowan, Mrs Whittington and Mrs Pill.

KS2 Marathon



Thank you for all the interest in taking up our allocation of places for the London Mini Marathon on Saturday 25th April. We filled out 25 places in minutes. I will confirm if your child secured a place or is on the waiting list in the next couple of days, along with some more details. If you are offered a space but change your mind, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can offer it to one of the many children on the waiting list.

In Year 5 the children have been learning about water and air resistance and completing their non chronological reports. In Year 6 the children have been finishing their recounts of their trip to St Pauls' Cathedral as well as doing some revision of the key grammar that they have learnt so far.

From Primary to Secondary School Transition Conference

Virtual event, presented by Barnet Specialist Inclusion Service

For: Parents/Carers of Year 5/6 children with Additional Needs, with or without an EHCP, transferring to a mainstream Secondary School in Autumn 2026 or 2027.

When: Wednesday 6 May 2026

10am to 1.30pm

Online via Zoom

For further information and a link to sign up please see link that was sent earlier this week.

On Tuesday morning , **KS2 Choir** had a special rehearsal in preparation for the Barnet Music Festival. Just a reminder that if your child already attends choir, and would like to take part in the Music Festival they need to attend rehearsals on a Thursday morning at 8.15am. We have to learn a number of songs or parts of songs so regular attendance is essential. We will be performing on the 9th June. Details about tickets will be shared at the start of next half term.

KS2 Dance Club

Dance Club will be open for new members from Tuesday 14th April. It runs after school (until 4.30pm) every Tuesday. If your child is in Year 4 and 5 and would like to join, please email the Office. This club is offered free of charge.

What are we learning next half term?

Reception	Reception will be starting the term learning about minibeasts and lifecycles (including having a minibeast experienced funded by FOMS!) They will then move on to London landmarks.
Year 1	Their topic is called Splendid Skies . The children will be learning about weather and seasons in Britain and around the world. They will learn about continents and oceans and create their own wind sock to measure the wind direction.
Year 2	Their topic is the Scented Garden. They will be learning about the life cycle of a plant and what plants need to grow well. They will also be sewing their own puppet!
Year 3	Year 3 will be finding out all about Rocks, Relics and Rumbles. They will be learning about what the Earth is made of and how volcanoes and earthquakes occur.
Year 4	It is a musical inspired topic for Year 4 as they study Playlists. They will find out all about the science of sound, the ear and music.
Year 5	In Year 5 the children will be studying the topic - Allotment. They will be learning about lifecycles, flowering plants and doing their own planting. Year 5 will also be visiting the National Portrait Gallery this term.
Year 6	Our Year 6 topic is Gallery Rebels and will give them lots of opportunities to practice their artistic skills. In the week commencing the 11 th May, the children will sit their End of Key Stage Statutory Assessments and then the following week they will head to the Isle of Wight for a week of fun with their friends on their final residential.



Times Tables Tests

The National Curriculum expects that most children will know all the multiplication and division facts by the end of Year 4. There is a 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.

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 so their tests focus on applying what they know confidently.

Tests	Times tables to practise	Badge
1 - 6	2, 5, 10	Blue Badge
7-9	2, 5, 10 (with inverse)	Purple Badge
10-12	2, 5, 10 (with missing number)	White 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 Star

Understanding the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Within school we carry out assessments to make sure we are teaching effectively and that the children are making progress. In some year groups there are statutory assessments that all schools are required to administer and the Summer Term is the time of year where these take place.

In June, children in Year 1 take part in the national Phonics Screening Check. This is a short, informal assessment designed to help teachers understand how well children are learning to read using phonics.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read by linking sounds (phonemes) to letters or groups of letters (graphemes). For example, children learn that the letters c-a-t make the sounds /c/ /a/ /t/, which blend together to read the word cat.

What does the check involve?

The check consists of 40 words that children read one-to-one with a teacher. Some of these are real words, and some are “nonsense” or made-up words (often shown with a picture of a friendly alien). These made-up words are used to check that children are using their phonics skills to decode, rather than relying on memory.

How long does it take?

The check usually takes around 5-10 minutes per child and is carried out in a relaxed, supportive environment.

Why is it important?

The check helps teachers identify children who are confidently using phonics and those who may need a little extra support. It is not something children can “revise” for, and there is no need for them to feel any pressure.

What happens after the check?

You will be informed of your child’s result at the end of the school year. If a child does not meet the expected standard, they will receive additional support in Year 2 and will have another opportunity to take the check.

How can you help at home?

- Encourage your child to read regularly and make it enjoyable
- Use the phonics newsletters that are sent each week to help revisit and practice
- Practise sounding out and blending simple words
- Praise effort and build confidence
- Share stories together to develop a love of reading

The Phonics Screening Check is just one small part of your child’s learning journey. Our aim is to support every child in becoming a confident, enthusiastic reader.

supersonic
The Basics 4 Group 7
Phonic Flashback

x	y	z	zz	qu	ch	sh	th
ng	ai	ee	igh	oa	oo	oo	ar
or	ur	ow	oi	er	ure	ear	air

Adjacent Consonants Polysyllabic Words
Read, Build and Write

sandpit	giftbox	waiting	treetop
armchair	raindrop	floating	fabric

Super Sentence Read and Write

The driftwood is floating.	Look up at the moonlight.
She is sleeping in her bed.	The children are in the sandpit.

Tricky Words

then	them	that	this
------	------	------	------

Future Phonic Focus - Choose to Use

ay	ea	ie	oe	ue
----	----	----	----	----

supersonic
The Higher Levels - Switch It Group 5
Phonic Flashback

y	y	ch	ou
---	---	----	----

Focus on Phonics

y	y	ch	ch	ou
---	---	----	----	----

Switch It Read, Build and Write

y	y	ch	ch	ou
---	---	----	----	----

Super Sentence Read and Write

We can get and shoot high into the sky.	The girap was not dry and made it gummy.
The chef can make us a cheap and tasty lunch.	The archerms play a chess in Chicago.
I see a discount coupon to get the mould spray.	If the gars of wail gets wet, we need to let it dry.

Tricky Words

who	any	many	more	eye
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Challenge and Extend

The kind chef hurt his shoulder. He sat down on his sofa and looked out of the window at the sky field.
I had to rescue my baby brother and my nephew from a giant wasp when I heard a gnat from the meadow.
The shy chef used a coupon to get a cute crystal animal for the lady in uniform at the chemist.

Spring 2026 Round Up

It's been a fantastic term for FOMS with some brilliant fundraising events along the way. A huge thank you to everyone who has taken part, volunteered, or supported us – we really couldn't do it without you! We've loved welcoming our new Reception families in June and October, hosting a fun Quiz Night in November, celebrating at the Christmas Fair, dancing at the school disco at the start of March, and putting together our Easter Surprise Bags. Thanks to your support, we've raised an amazing £9K since the start of the school year.

We're really excited to be funding some great additions for the school. Thanks again for all your support – it makes such a difference to the school and the children!

Spotlight on our projects

A new climbing frame

We're thrilled to announce that FOMS is funding an exciting new climbing frame for the Key Stage 2 playground! This fantastic addition will give our children even more opportunities to be active, adventurous, and have fun during break times.



Science Dome

Our children will soon get to explore the wonders of science with a brand-new Science Dome experience! This immersive, inflatable planetarium will bring the solar system, stars, and planets to life right in our school hall. We can't wait to see our young scientists discovering the universe in such a fun and interactive way!

Reception ZooLab Workshop

FOMS is helping bring ZooLab to our children, giving them the chance to meet and learn about a range of fascinating exotic insects up close. These hands-on sessions inspire curiosity, teach respect for wildlife, and make science come alive in the classroom!



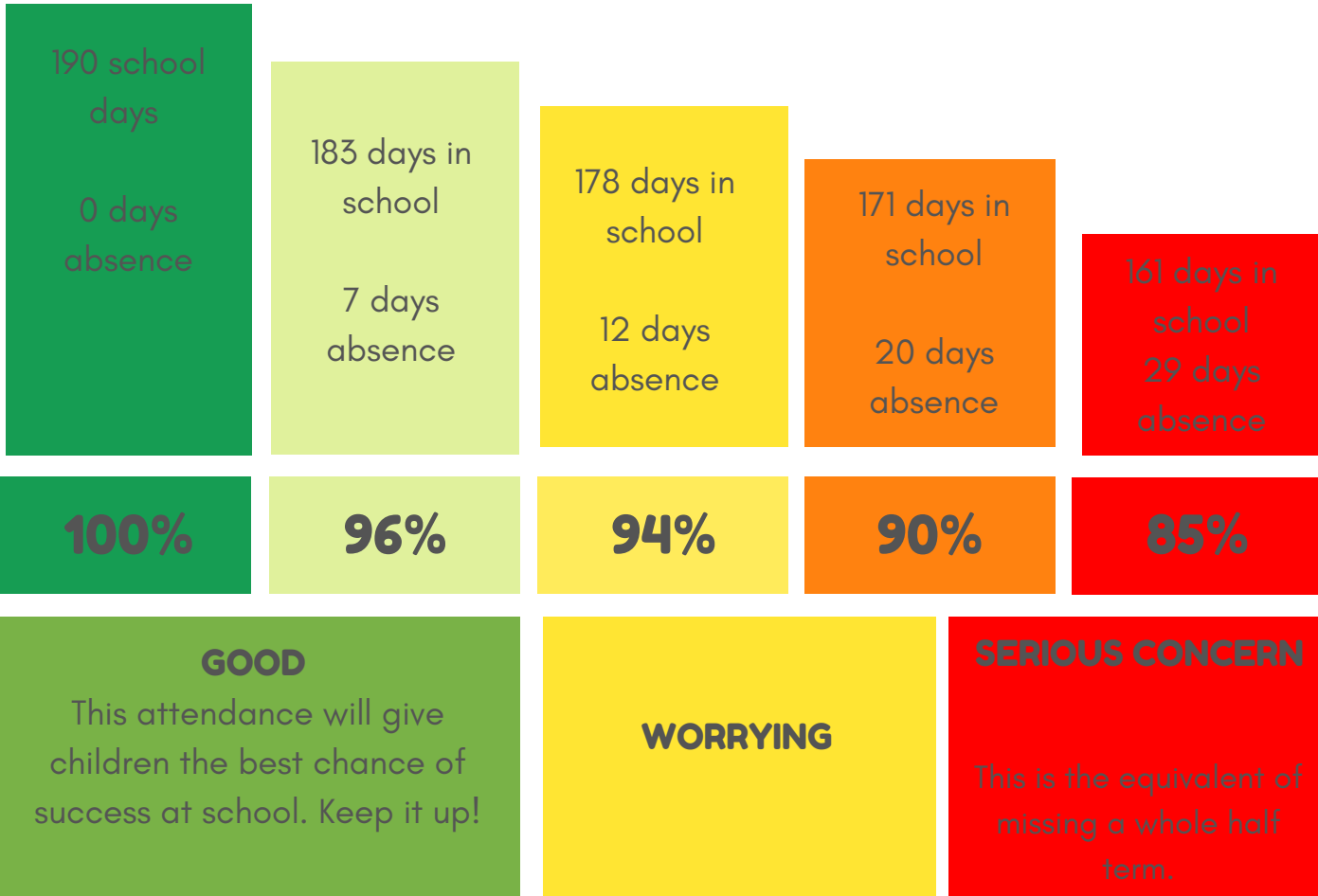
Summer Fair 2026 - Save The Date!

Get ready for a day of fun, games, and community spirit! Our annual Summer Fair is coming soon and we can't wait to see everyone there. Mark your calendars and join us for an unforgettable day of family fun!



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Each day is really important in your child's learning journey. Getting here on time helps them ease into the day calmly and makes sure they don't miss out on important learning.



Attendance this term

Oak	94%	2M	97%	5S	95%
Willow	96%	3S	95%	5LD	96%
1C	93%	3F	97%	6P	97%
1K	93%	4B	95%	6K	95%
2CW	96%	4P	97%	Whole School	96%

Dates for 2025/6

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 5S to the National Portrait Gallery

Monday 27th April/Tuesday 28th April - Reception Hearing and Vision checks

Wednesday 29th April - Year 5LD to the National Portrait Gallery, 3F Class Assembly at 9am

Thursday 7th May - SCHOOL CLOSED POLLING DAY

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

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

Wednesday 20th May - Year 5LD Class Assembly

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

Monday 1st June - INSET Day

Tuesday 9th June - Barnet Music Festival

Wednesday 10th June - 2M Class Assembly

Friday 12th June - Class Photo Day

Monday 15th June to Friday 19th June - Sports Week

Wednesday 17th June - 2CW Class Assembly at 9am

Friday 19th June - Reception Class Assembly at 9.15am

Saturday 20th June - FOMS SUMMER FAIR

Thursday 25th June - Provisional KS1 Sports Afternoon

Friday 26th June - Provisional Reception Sports Morning

Tuesday 30th June - Provisional KS2 Sports Afternoon

Friday 3rd July - INSET Day

Monday 6th July - Year 2 to London Zoo

Tuesday 14th July - Year 6 Show (6P)

Wednesday 15th July - Year 6 Show (6K)

Friday 17th July - 9am Year 6 Leavers Assembly, Children break up at 2pm, Year 6 Leavers Disco

Monday 20th July - INSET Day