

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! We hope that you have had a fabulous Christmas Holiday and a lovely New Year! We warmly welcome all of our new families to life at Monkleigh School. We look forward to you and your family being part of our Monkleigh Family.

Welcome back to families who already have children in the unit or who have younger children starting with us.

Welcome back to all of our wonderful Sunflowers, Caterpillars and Butterflies. Our fabulous Foundation Stage Unit has now been official for five years! It has been quite a journey and we are thrilled with our thriving and nurturing unit. We continue to develop, evolve and improve and are completely committed to providing the best possible start for your children.

Mrs Emptage and Mrs Hinchliffe are the Class teachers in the Foundation Stage Unit, they plan the learning for all children within the Unit and work with all of the adults to ensure excellent progress and development for all. Mrs Emptage works in FSU on a Monday, Thursday and Friday and Mrs Hinchliffe works in FSU on a Tuesday and Wednesday. They are key workers for Butterflies.

Mrs Beer works across the unit but are mainly based with Butterflies. Mrs Beer works on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Nikki is a keyworker for Sunflowers and will be working alongside Sarah and Anela in the Sunflower Room. Alice, Julie and Chloe will be mainly based with the Caterpillars, Chloe also works with the Butterflies.

We are looking forward to an exciting term of learning. Our FSU curriculum page on the Monkleigh School Website has a number of informative links.

<https://www.monkleigh-primary.devon.sch.uk/classes/class-r>

Please visit the link below for the Parent Information Booklet and other supporting documents:

https://www.monkleigh-primary.devon.sch.uk/images/FSU_Information_Booklet_Updated_October_2025.pdf

You will also find a blog which is updated weekly and shows the most up to date learning and experiences that have been on offer for all three age groups - scroll down the page below all supporting documents and you will find this. The links on FSU Curriculum Page give an overview of the learning which will take place each week for Sunflowers, Caterpillars and Butterflies. The overview provides information about key books that we will be reading and songs that we will be learning.

There is a section which shows possible, experiences, visits and visitors. If you have any particular interests or skills that you would like to share with our children or you know of someone please do get in touch as it is lovely to have visitors.

You can find the detailed overviews of our learning here:

Sunflowers

https://www.monkleigh-primary.devon.sch.uk/images/Spring_1_Sunflowers_2026.pdf

Caterpillars

https://www.monkleigh-primary.devon.sch.uk/images/Spring_1_Caterpillars_2026.pdf

Butterflies

https://www.monkleigh-primary.devon.sch.uk/images/Spring_1_Reception_Traditional_Tales_2026.pdf

Please ensure that the children have coats, full waterproofs, wellies and a change of clothes in school every day. They will also need to bring their book bag and a named water bottle into school every day. Please put a keyring on your child's book bag so that it is easy to identify - it is important that your child can recognise their own belongings. Please make sure that books are in book bags every day. We are working hard to promote independence and would ask that you are mindful when preparing packed lunches. Will your child be able to access their packed lunches and clear up independently? We are always on hand to help if needed.

All children in Caterpillars and Butterflies take part in a PE lesson on a Monday. Please make sure that Caterpillars and Butterflies come into school wearing their PE kit - please see the parent information booklet for further information regarding uniform:

https://www.monkleigh-primary.devon.sch.uk/images/FSU_Information_Booklet_Updated_October_2025.pdf

Butterflies and Caterpillars take part in outdoor learning on a Thursday afternoon, Caterpillars will have an additional session on a Tuesday morning. Please make sure that children wear their PE kit with a plain long sleeved top underneath. They will need full waterproofs and wellies - named please.

Snacks - all children in Caterpillars and Butterflies are provided with a fresh fruit snack and milk. This is normally apples, bananas, carrots or tomatoes. If you would like to send your child in with a different fresh fruit snack please feel free. Sunflowers need to provide their own. We are asking for a snack donation - a packet of savoury snacks - crackers, breadsticks, rice cakes (not chocolate topped - due to allergies) per child which will be shared with your child's friends to supplement the fruit snack.

The Morning Routine - We ask that you drop off your child and collect them from the front school gate. Nikki and Alice will be meeting the children at the gate. Children who are new to Caterpillars will be supported to take their belongings to the conservatory, where they will be greeted. The children will then play in the conservatory to help them settle into the morning.

Communication - your child's keyworker is your initial port of call. They are contactable via dojo and will catch up with you at the end of the session, when possible. Nikki and Alice will happily pass any messages onto them. If you have any questions please initially direct them to your child's keyworker. Mrs Emptage and Mrs Hinchliffe are the keyworkers for all of the Butterflies. Please

be assured that you can contact Mrs Emptage or Mrs Hinchliffe at any time - this applies to parents of children in all groups.

On a Monday, we will communicate the story and song of the week via dojo. During the week, your child's keyworker will post at least one Wow moment to your child's portfolio. Butterflies will be learning how to post their own work. On a Friday there will be a summary of the learning from the week posted on Dojo, to our FSU Facebook page and on the school website.

If you ever have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us via dojo.

We look forward to an exciting and successful year for all of your children.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 9th February 2026 1:30pm - 2:30pm Caterpillar Progress and Play Afternoon

Tuesday 10th February 2026 3pm - 6pm Butterflies Parent's Evenings

Friday 13th February 2026 10:30am - 11:30am Caterpillar Progress and Play Morning

Friday 13th February 2026 Family Groups Pyjama Day

With Best Wishes from everyone in the FSU Team