

Dear Parent

Welcome to the new year of Monkleigh FSU! 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.

We have a wonderfully nurturing and highly experienced and skilled team.

Mrs Kate Emptage and Mrs Helen Hinchliffe are the class teachers and are responsible for all of the children within the Foundation Stage Unit. They plan for and work with all pupils and adults working within the unit. They teach Butterflies and work with children across all ages every day.

Mrs Emptage teaches on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays and Mrs Hinchliffe teaches on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Mrs Emptage is also in school on a Tuesday working in other classes.

Mrs Becky Beer works with Butterflies Monday to Wednesday and Miss Sarah Turner works with Butterflies Thursdays and Fridays.

Miss Nikki Troke and Miss Julie Williams work with the Sunflowers every day between 9am – 1pm. Nikki works with Sunflowers in the afternoon.

Mrs Alice Harries, Miss Chloe Mayne and Miss Anela Butler work with Caterpillars. We would like to welcome Miss Anela Butler to our team - she will be with us while Mrs Baker is on maternity leave.

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

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

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/Sunflowers_Autumn_1_Overview_Me_and_My_Community_Final_2024.pdf

Caterpillars

https://www.monkleigh-primary.devon.sch.uk/images/Monkleigh_FSU_Curriculum_Overview_Autumn_1_2025.pdf

Butterflies

https://www.monkleigh-primary.devon.sch.uk/images/Autumn_1_Butterflies_Overview_Me_and_My_Community.docx.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_June_2025.pdf

Butterflies and Caterpillars take part in outdoor learning on a Thursday afternoon, Caterpillars will have an additional session on a Tuesday morning which will take place until October half term. 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 by Anela. The children will then play in the conservatory to help them settle into the morning.

Communication - your child's keyworker (you will have received a Dojo message informing you of who this is) 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.

Some Dates for your Diary:

Thursday 18th September - FSU Open Afternoon from 1 - 2:30pm - please spread the word to family and friends who need a wonderful provision for their children. There are further details on the FSU Facebook page.

Tuesday 23rd September 5:00pm - Parents of Butterflies - Supporting your child's learning meeting.

Monday 21st October 1:30 – 3:00 Parents of Caterpillars Progress and Play Afternoon.

Tuesday 21st October Parents of Butterflies – Parent's Evening 2pm – 5:30pm.

Friday 25th October 10:30 – 11:30 - Parents of Caterpillars Progress and Play Morning.

Friday 4th December and Friday 11th December - Wear Christmas Jumpers to School

Tuesday 9th December - Whole School Christmas Dinner - remember to book your child's dinner - full school uniform.

Monday 15th December - whole school Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church (tbc) all FSU children are invited to dress up as a nativity character - it will be a crib service style where children will sing a song, can be part of the nativity scene or sit with their parents. There will be an afternoon and evening service - we don't expect little ones to attend the evening service.

Wednesday 17th December 1:30 – 3:00 Sunflowers, Caterpillars and Butterflies Christmas Party. Children in school on that day will need to bring a party packed lunch. Any children who do not attend on a Wednesday are welcome to attend 1:30 - 3:00pm please ensure they have eaten before coming to the party.

Yours Sincerely

The FSU Team