



25/06/20

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

This week there has been an air of excitement as the children both at home and in school have been taking part in our **Virtual Sports Day** events. Mrs Wilson has been setting daily challenges and the children have not disappointed us! We've been inundated with photos and daily scores which are all being tallied up ready to announce the winning team tomorrow!



From the
Head
Teacher



I'd like to thank our FOMS committee who have set up a Crowdfunder page to raise money for this event by inviting you to celebrate sports day with us and hosting a cream tea in your garden. If you are able to take part and/or donate please head to <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/virtual-sports-day-cream-tea> and make a donation. Don't forget to send in photos of you eating your cream tea!

Also this week, we have been able to offer a handful of additional spaces to children to create a new "green bubble". This green bubble will come into school on Fridays only commencing Fri 3rd July. This means we are now at full capacity under the current guidelines.

We are very sorry that we won't be able to see those still at home until September, but we are looking forward to that day when we can hopefully welcome you all back.

Remember if you are struggling at all, just contact your key worker, or any other member of staff and we will do all we can to help.

Free School Meals - are you eligible? ****Please check! It's quick and instant****

If your salary is reduced as a result of the impact of Corona Virus, you may be eligible for support through the welfare system, including Universal credit. In addition, if you are on a low income, you may be entitled to claim for free school meals (even if your child is not currently in school due to the virus). The free school meals team has a platform that enables you to make a quick application online where your eligibility can be assessed and an outcome can be given straight away. Free school meals apply for the duration of your change in circumstances, this will also entitle you to Pupil Premium, which is financial help with other school related things and this benefit stays with your child for 6 years even if your circumstances change. To check if you're eligible please click on the online portal and let us know as soon as possible if you have a successful claim so that we can arrange to **get a weekly food voucher (even during the Summer Holidays)** to you, and more.

Year 6's All Year 6's transitioning to GTS should check out this link if they have not already done so. There is a short video clip from Helen Whiterod (Transition Lead) and lot of information <https://gts.devon.sch.uk/information/transition.html>



FROM THE OFFICE



Remember that school office staff are currently working from home during this time so although school is open to some pupils, the school reception area, phone lines and office are not currently manned. We are still working and check email regularly so if you have any queries, please avoid phoning and email admin@monkleigh-primary.devon.sch.uk instead. We will try and assist you as soon as we are able to. Thank you.

SPORT

We're absolutely delighted with the huge response from the children! It's been brilliant to see all the photos coming in of the sporting challenges. Even the parents have been taking part! Keep those photos coming in...



It's all still to play for and the results are very tight at the moment.

We will announce the winning team tomorrow lunchtime! Good luck teams

I know a lot of you are planning on having your well deserved cream tea tomorrow. Don't forget to head over to our Crowdfunder page to make a donation to FOMS if you can <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/virtual-sports-day-cream-tea>



We're looking forward to welcoming the children back when it is safe to do so and merging with Class R. Infact, the Pre-School staff are back in school getting started on making our new space super exciting for the children! Mrs Evans and Mrs Emptage have been added to dojo, and new starter packs have been delivered. Please do not hesitate to ask us if you have any questions. Thank you.

FOMS - Please join us in raising money for the school this week by hosting a cream tea in your garden to mark Monkleigh Sports Day.



All you have to do is, have a cream tea in your garden - send in a photo to us - donate via our Crowd Funder page.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/virtual-sports-day-cream-tea>

Please get the whole family involved as it's really important to raise vital funds for the school. If any of our parents

have not already joined our closed Facebook page - please do so. We'll share the link to the Crowd Fundraising page. and we'll keep the page regularly updated with this event and other fundraising ideas throughout the year.

FOMS 50:50 winners. The committee at FOMS will be pulling the winning tickets for previous months (not drawn due to Covid-19) and future months via a zoom meeting at the beginning of July, to ensure fairness and transparency. We will announce the winners on the newsletter and Mrs Amanda Reeves will keep the winners' money safe until she sees them in September.

NHS Every Mind Matters - this is a great toolkit for looking after your mental health during these challenging times. Take a look here: <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

Looking after your mental health

Having good mental health helps us relax more, achieve more and enjoy our lives more. We have expert advice and practical tips to help you look after your mental health and wellbeing.

Coronavirus and wellbeing

- 10 tips to help if you're worried about coronavirus >
- How to fall asleep faster and sleep better >
- Looking after children and young people >
- 7 simple ideas to tackle working from home >
- Mental wellbeing while staying at home >
- What you can do if you feel lonely >



I will of course continue to keep you updated. In the meantime, look after each other and stay safe everyone.

Karen Reeves (Head Teacher)