



Monkleigh Primary Newsletter

A place to Smile, to Share, to Succeed



Friday 16th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

From the Headteacher

Queen Elizabeth II

Our School council laid flowers in the Churchyard in remembrance of Queen Elizabeth II and signed the remembrance book on behalf of all the school. We had a special assembly last Friday when the children were able to share their feelings and thoughts and we have another special assembly today led by a representative from the Church.

It was a strange coincidence that on the day that the Queen very sadly died, we received a card from the Queen and a letter from her lady in Waiting thanking all the children in class 2 for the lovely cards and letters that they sent for her Jubilee celebration. This would always be a very special letter to receive but even more so now and will be kept safe and cherished at school.

School closed - A reminder that school will be closed on Monday 19th Sept for the Queen's funeral.





BALMORAL CASTLE

To: The Pupils at Monkleigh Primary School

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for the letters, pictures, and photograph of your splendid artwork which you sent to Her Majesty on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee.

The Queen was glad to hear from you and, although unable to reply to you personally, Her Majesty greatly appreciated the nice things you said.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in response; as I am sure you will understand, The Queen has received a large volume of post in recent months and as a result, it has not been possible to reply to you until now.

I am to thank you again for your messages of good wishes to Her Majesty in this, her Platinum Jubilee year.

Lady-in-Waiting

6th September 2022

No Nuts in school - A reminder that we are a nut free school, no nuts or nut products (e.g. peanut butter) in school please as we have children who have severe nut allergies. Thank you for your understanding.

Salad Bar - We have reintroduced our salad bar, offering a big selection of salad items that the children can help themselves to, the children are loving this and eating lots more salad!
Our fish and chip Fridays will now be served with our super salad bar as well.

Fortnightly newsletter - Newsletters will be sent out every fortnight moving forward.

New Governors - we are delighted to welcome Lyn Bennett & Jane Clarke to our Governing Body

[Jeans for Genes](#) - Friday 23rd Sept (not Mon 26th as shown in last week's Dates for your Diary section!)

Children can wear jeans to school on this day with school uniform on the top half. Donations will be collected at the school gate. Suggested £1 donation.

Children attending GTS open morning should not wear jeans to their visit, but can change into them when they return to Monkleigh.

[Tempest Photography - Individual photos](#) Friday 21st October (you can also have family groups taken)

Children will still have Forest School on this day, but will need school uniform with them (we will update you with timings once they have been confirmed)

Free School Meals

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals, known as Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). However, parents and guardians are encouraged to apply for **free school meals** (FSM), as this can help their child's school to attract additional '[pupil premium](#)' funding to support learning. You can apply at any time.

Children whose parents are getting any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Do I need to apply for pupil premium? (based on free school meal criteria)

You only need to apply if you have a child in reception, year 1 or year 2 and both of the following apply:

- you do not have an existing free school meal claim
- you are in receipt of any of the qualifying benefits (see [School meals](#) for a list of the qualifying benefits).

How to apply

Through the [Citizen Portal](#) which is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision.

Parents and carers can also ring the Education Helpline on **0345 155 1019**

Attendance / Absence requests - Please see the letter at the end of this newsletter regarding attendance and absence requests. Devon schools have been instructed to distribute to all parents.

Karen Reeves

★ STARS OF THE WEEK ★

<u>CLASS 1</u>	<u>CLASS 2</u>	<u>CLASS 3</u>
Jack G	Reuben N-M	Barney

From Mrs Beer in the Office

Data collection forms - sent home this week via Pupil Post. Please check / amend as necessary, sign and return (even if there are no changes to be made)

ParentMail details - please ensure that your contact details are up to date in ParentMail - if you have a new number **you will need to change this yourself** when you are logged in. (Go to settings; personal details - then amend)

Class Dojo - please do not use dojo to message the office - all contact needs to be via phone or [email](#) please.

Fees for Pre-school / B&T Club etc - to see a breakdown of how these have been calculated please refer to last week's newsletter (office section)

Di Beer

Sport: - Please remember PE shoes everyday.

We have a few festivals over the coming weeks. I will post on dojo any details (it will only be a reminder to wear a PE kit etc) the week before.

Any questions please dojo or message me sport@monkleigh-primary.devon.sch.uk

B&T Club

Pick up after school. - On some occasions at T club, staff will be on their own with the children, they cannot therefore bring children to the gate if you arrive early to pick up as the other children can't be left on their own.

- The member of staff will bring the children to the front of school from 4.20pm so that they are ready to be collected any time from 4.20 pm- 4.30pm but won't be able to bring children out any earlier.
- Children who are at T tea club as their siblings are attending a club until 4pm can be brought out at 4pm if necessary, as the club member of staff can collect them and bring them to the gate.

Thank you for your understanding, our priority is keeping all the children supervised and safe.

AfterSchool Clubs

Here are details of the clubs that will take place this term (all will finish at 4pm - don't forget to book B&T for siblings)

Day	Club	Dates	Open to years	Price
Mondays	Keep Moving	26 Sep; 3, 10, 17, 31 Oct; 7, 14, 21, 28 Nov; 5 Dec	1 to 6	£10 (can be paid in 2 instalments)
Wednesdays	Football	21,28 Sep; 5, 12, 19 Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Nov; 7 Dec	1 to 6	£10 (can be paid in 2 instalments)
Thursdays	High 5	22, 29 Sep; 3, 13, 20 Oct 3, 10, 17, 24 Nov; 8 Dec	3 to 6	£10 (can be paid in 2 instalments)
Thursdays	Art & Craft	22, 29 Sep; 3, 13, 20 Oct	1 to 6	£5

All clubs are available in the ParentMail Shop

Dates for your diary:

Mon 19 Sep	Queen Elizabeth II's state funeral - School will be closed
20-23 Sep	GTS Open Morning Tours - 09:00 - 10:50 - let us know if your child is attending one of them
Wed 21 Sep	Football Club starts
Thu 22 Sep	Butterflies parent meeting High 5 Club starts Art & Craft Club starts
Fri 23 Sep	Our preferred day for GTS visits - make sure you inform us if your child is attending Wear Jeans to school day (Jeans for Genes) - £1 suggested donation please
Mon 26 Sep	Butterflies local walk GTS Open Evening - 18:00-20:00
Wed 5 Oct	Full Governing Body meeting in school (3:45pm)
Fri 21 Oct	Tempest Photography - Individual/family group photos

MONKLEIGH PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Karen Reeves



16th September 2022

Dear Parents/carers

Regarding Holidays and Avoidable Absences in Term Time

We believe that in order for a pupil to fully benefit from their education, good attendance is crucial. It is the policy of our school to celebrate achievement and full attendance is a critical factor to a productive and successful school career.

As of September 2013, an amendment to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 came in to force and greater clarity was introduced to the issue of schools authorising absence requests. These changes reinforced the Government's view that every minute of every school day is vital and that pupils should only be granted authorised absences by the school in 'exceptional circumstances'.

A family holiday is not normally considered by the Government to be an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore will not be authorised by this school.

I must take this opportunity to remind you, that should you choose to take your child out of school without the authorisation of the school, then Parental Responsibility Measures could be instigated. This could mean receiving any of the following;

- A Penalty Notice
- A summons to the Magistrate Court which could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a term of imprisonment for up to 3 months.

Schools are required to notify the Local Authority if a pupil has a number of unauthorised absences. Unauthorised absences can be acquired when;

- 1) Leave has been requested, but the circumstances are such that the school is unable to authorise the leave and it is taken anyway.
- 2) Leave is not requested and/or the school has grounds to believe that the child has been taken out of school for an avoidable reason (example – a family holiday). Only the Head teacher can authorise an absence. This year there have been occasions when schools have been notified that the pupil is sick, but the school later discovers and reasonably believes that the reason given for the absence is not genuine.
- 3) A child continually arrives late after the registration period has closed.

This school will be notifying the Local Authority in all of the circumstances listed above.

Should a Penalty Notice be issued as a result of unauthorised absence then one notice will be issued to each parent/carers for each child involved. Currently, each Penalty Notice is for £120, which is reduced to £60 if paid within the first 21 days. If a Penalty Notice goes unpaid after 28 days, then court proceedings will be initiated.

We understand the disappointment that the refusal of a leave request may cause and we apologise, but as you can appreciate this policy represents the school's responsibility and commitment towards providing your child's education and supporting their future life opportunities. We hope you will support us by ensuring that your son/daughter obtains the maximum benefit from their time at school by attending punctually for the 190 days each year that the law requires (unless prevented from doing so by an unavoidable circumstances).

Thank you for your anticipated support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Head Teacher