



Monkleigh Primary Newsletter

A place to Smile, to Share, to Succeed



Friday 16th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

From the Headteacher

Thank you to all those who attended our FSU and KS1 nativity. It was a bit of a squash in class 2 but we managed and it was a wonderful production, all the children did so well and it was just what is needed to get everyone in the Christmas spirit!

Thank you also to everyone who has watched the KS2 recording of the readings and carol service, I am sure you will agree that our older children also did a wonderful job.

The end of the term has been marred somewhat by the inclement weather and the horrible bouts of illnesses that have been doing the rounds. Hopefully these nasty bugs will have disappeared by January and we will be back up to full strength with all staff and children well and back to school.

Epiphany.

We were hoping to have repeated our procession from the school, to the church to collect lanterns and then up to the garage for the lighting of the tree this year, however weather, time and illnesses were against us so instead we (Rev. Marisa with the school and garage) thought we could lift everyone's spirits in January by celebrating Epiphany.

Friday 6th January is Twelfth Night, and also Epiphany, when we celebrate the three kings.

There are three particular traditions that we can incorporate into our event::

1. The blessing of households - including the school, the garage and the pub.
2. A procession of Kings - our tea light procession.
3. Making a Galette des Rois cake (which is usually decorated with a Crown) - drink and refreshments at the garage.

We may also sing 'Bumping on a Camel'; 'We three Kings'; and 'I saw three ships come sailing in'

It's also Plough Sunday that weekend, so we could sing 'We plough the fields and scatter' and bless our local farmers.

The procession will leave the school at 3.30pm on Fri 6th January, all children need to be accompanied by an adult, they will not be the responsibility of the school at this time.

I would like to thank all of you for your ongoing support for the school and for you and your wonderful children helping to make Monkleigh school the special place it is.

I wish all of you and your families a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

We shall look forward to seeing everyone back in school on the 5th January.

Karen Reeves

From Mrs Beer in the Office

Absence calls - I don't think I've ever had to take so many calls as I have this week to tell me that children are poorly! Sadly, though, there are occasions when it becomes apparent that some feel the need to not be truthful. I want to have a good relationship with parents, but that becomes difficult if I discover that parents are being untruthful. Most importantly, it is unfair to children to expect them to lie to us, when we encourage everyone to tell the truth.

[Holidays Activities and Food programme](#) - There are several opportunities for your children in the local area - please take time to click on the link and see if there's something that interests you.

Nursery sessions have been added to the register for next half term. *A reminder that fees are payable half termly in advance*

Di Beer

Attendance so far...

Class average for this week:

Butterflies: 81.44%; Class 1: 85.03%; Class 2: 69.28%; Class 3: 83.92%

School average for the week: 79.19%

Again, thank you for being responsible and keeping poorly children at home – we hope they are all feeling a lot better soon 😊
(Attendance will not have been affected if your child couldn't travel due to the ice earlier in the week)

School average for the term so far: 94.76%

Class 3 Residential to Torquay - Feel free to chip away at the payments for PGL - you can pay as little as £5 a time.

Forest School - Class 1, 2 & 3 every Friday.

Please remember that all children need to wear long sleeved tops, full length trousers and hair tied back. Ideally waterproofs and wellies, this will keep them dry. The children also need their school uniform to change back into after Forest School. Any questions regarding Forest school please message Mrs Hobbs via dojo.

Sport: - Please remember PE shoes everyday and a dry pair of socks.

Lots of events are coming up, please keep checking Dojo.

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

Dates for your diary:

Wed 28 Dec	Deadline for ordering school dinners / B&T Club for first day back in Jan
Thu 5 Jan	School re-opens
Mon 9 Jan	Butterflies "scoot"
Mon 16 Jan	Yr 5/6 High Five

Historical Extracts (taken from the old School Logbooks)

Dec 19th 1902	<i>The attendance this week has been very poor - a number of the children having been absent with bad colds. Closed school this afternoon for Xmas holidays</i>
Dec 15th 1933	<i>As the children are invited to a Christmas Party at "Petticombe" by General and Mrs Thomas registers were closed at 1:30 today instead of at 1:45</i>
Dec 19th 1956	<i>During the last fortnight attendance has been very low owing to an outbreak of whooping cough. An average of 13 out of 27 has resulted. School breaks up today for the Christmas Holiday</i>
Dec 21st 1993	<i>The School Christmas Party was held this afternoon. Dinner was eaten at school and Games took place in the Village Hall. Father Christmas came with his dog and gave each child a present</i>

