



Monkleigh Primary Newsletter

A place to Smile, to Share, to Succeed



Friday 3rd February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

From the Headteacher

Exmoor Zoo - Far from being closed this Wednesday we in fact had a very exciting day with a visit from Exmoor Zoo. All the children thoroughly enjoyed this and got to see many different animals and learnt a lot about them. It was a great experience. A big thank you to Mrs Hinchliffe our science coordinator, for organising this.

Next Week - We have a busy week next week, with class 1 off on their trip to Burton art gallery, every class has had or will have the chance to experience some different form of art work that we can't do in school with some experts in the art studios at Burton art gallery. These are proving really wonderful and are really extending the children's art skills. A huge thank you to Mrs O'Donoghue, our art coordinator for organising these visits.

On Monday morning we have class photos and then we finish the week with year 3 and 4 off on their residential to Skern Lodge and we wish them an exciting time away.

Buddies - Many of you will remember our Friday afternoon Buddies.

We will be starting these again and doing one at the end of each half term. This is a time when children from different classes get to buddy up and share a book or carry out an activity. The children love it and it really gives them a chance to get to know children in different classes.

Strike action - There will be further strike action in the coming weeks and the schools position remains the same and I am not anticipating it affecting Monkleigh, however we would like to reiterate that we do support many of the reasons for the strike action.

School staff did want to make it clear that they did not feel it was right to disrupt the schooling for our children, that this was not fair on them. Though obviously everyone would like more money we would not strike over this.

However we all felt strongly that the message actually needs to be that schools need more funding to support our children, the Government have recently given a small pay rise to school staff but have not funded this, it has come out of the schools budget, school staff feel very strongly that this is wrong as it impacts the money we have to spend on our children. We also feel that the support from outside agencies and for SEN is not acceptable and that schools are being asked to do more and more with less and less money. We have just heard that there will be no visits to any school by the educational psychologist this year as they do not have enough and are only dealing with the backlog of assessments. These are the type of people schools turn to for further help and support and they are no longer there, leaving it all for school staff to do and impacting the children that we want the very best for.

As always we will continue to provide what we feel is outstanding teaching, learning, care and support for your children and do all we can for all children and families despite the situation.

Electronic devices - A reminder that electronic devices - tablets, phones etc are not allowed in school. If some arrive by accident or need to come into school in order to be taken somewhere after school, we will hold them in the office until the end of the day. This includes smart watches that have games and photo capability on them.

Thank you

Dojo - Dojo is an excellent way to communicate between school and home.

However please do be aware that when staff are teaching they do not have access to Dojo and will only be able to check it at breaks between teaching. Therefore if it is an urgent or important message for example about pick up, if the message is sent just before pick up time staff may not see this, so please don't rely on it. By all means Dojo but if it needs to be read and actioned in a short period of time and you have not had a response please also phone the school.

Thank you

Karen Reeves

Attendance so far...

Class average for this week:

Butterflies: 90%; Class 1: 93%; Class 2: 87.94%; Class 3: 94.67%

School average for the week: 91.54%

School average for the term so far: 93.6%

School average for the school year so far: 94.47%

From Mrs Beer in the Office

Free School Meals vouchers - a reminder that there will be no FSM vouchers distributed for Feb half term (the most recent vouchers covered Christmas period and Feb half term). [Check eligibility if your circumstances have changed.](#) (make sure you inform us, if you are confirmed eligible).

Ordering dinners - don't forget the 8 day deadline for ordering. Half term is looming, please make sure you have ordered w/c 20 Feb in plenty of time!

Packed lunches / School Dinners - if a dinner has been ordered, but you choose to send your child with a packed lunch, please be aware that your account is not credited. The kitchen orders food based on known bookings. (We will credit your account if a child is off ill)

Online forms - Sorry, but there is a limit to how many times I am prepared to chase things up! Ongoing *I won't be chasing for responses.* No response? Assumption will be made that you have everything in hand. (Class 3 - apologies that there have been 2 forms sent out this week - please ensure both are completed and submitted by 9am Friday 10th Feb. Any pre-ordered hot school dinners will be credited).

ParentMail payments - some are still carrying out multiple transactions (adding 1 item to basket, checking out, then doing this multiple times). As previously explained, we are charged for every transaction. Sadly, if this keeps happening, it may result in us having to increase the cost of meals etc.

Letter box - it appears that someone tried to wrench the letter box off the wall outside school 😞. If anyone has seen anyone hanging off it, or appearing to be trying to take it off the wall, please let me know.

Di Beer

Forest School

FSU Butterflies every Thursday afternoon.

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, a dry pair of socks and full PE kit for any after school sports clubs.

Our High 5 team had an amazing morning at GTS finishing 4th. Good luck Monday to our Football team.

Hope our Year 3 & 4 Flashmob dojo clips put a smile on your faces! We had such fun making those up and trying to keep them a secret.

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:

Mon 6 Feb	Class Photos Burton Art Gallery Workshop - Class 1
Tue 7 Feb	Tennis Taster - Yrs 1/2/3
Thu 9 Feb	Skern Lodge Residential -Class 2
Fri 10 Feb	Skern Lodge Residential - Class 2 Deadline for Class 3 Burton Art Gallery form - 9am
Sun 12 Feb	Have you ordered dinners / B&T Club for 20 Feb onward?
13-17 Feb	Half term
Mon 20 Feb	School re-opens Burton Art Gallery Workshop - Class 3 (payment item in ParentMail Shop)
Wed 22 Feb	Edukid call Class 3 - Torrington Museum trip
Mon 27 Feb	Butterflies trip
Wed 1 Mar	Full Governing Body meeting
Fri 3 Mar	Class 3 Tag Rugby
Tue 14 Mar	Butterflies trip
Fri 17 Mar	9am - Deadline for booking B&T Club Film event (ParentMail Shop) <i>(book via Shop - this is separate to normal B&T Club - cancel T Club booking if nec.)</i> Class 2 visit to Northam Burrows
Mon 20 Mar	Butterflies art trip
Fri 24 Mar	Class 3 - High 5
Sat 25 Mar	Gymnastics competition
Mon 27 Mar	B&T Club Special event - Film Club
Tue 28 Mar	Class 3 Football
Fri 31 Mar	Last day of term

Historical Extracts (taken from the old School Logbooks)

<i>Feb 12th 1908</i>	<i>Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday Feb 10th, 11th & 12th the school has been totally disorganised by a shower of stones, coke & mud thrown by someone <u>outside</u> the school. Rev. H. W. Millett came in on Tuesday morning & stones & mud came in while he was in school. The policeman was sent for & he came & watched all Wednesday morning. A few stones were thrown then but it ceased at half past eleven & did not recur again.</i>
<i>Feb 9th 1923</i>	<i>Wednesday being a very wet day. Several of the children were absent. "A child" absent all week because she had no boots to wear.</i>
<i>Feb 8th 1926</i>	<i>"A child" is excluded from attending school as her uncle who resides in the same house has the scarlet fever</i>
<i>Feb 8th 1937</i>	<i>The School Dentist visited the school today and examined, and where necessary, treated the teeth of the children</i>
<i>Feb 1st 1970</i>	<i>An Aldis projector and screen delivered this week</i>
<i>Feb 7th 1985</i>	<i>The rector visited the school with the Bishop of Madagascar. The bishop gave an interesting account of his work to the children</i>
<i>Sat 2nd Feb 2013</i>	<i>Put Yurt up!</i>