



Monksdown Mail

Where Children Come First

Friday 4th March



Our school's child protection officers are Mrs Price, Mrs Stewart and Miss Makin.

Doorways to Reading

The children and staff at Monksdown certainly celebrated World Book Day in style this year. Thank you for the effort everyone made dressing in their pyjamas and lounge wear. The entrance doors to the classrooms really set the scene for a magical, fun filled day promoting reading.



Dates to Remember

Monday 7th March
3.15 pm Cross Country
Race Sefton Park

Year 2
Visit to Croxteth
Park Tuesday 8th
March

**Year 1 Visit to The
World Museum**
Thursday 10th March

Friday 11th March-
Newspaper Team Visit
to Goodison Park

**Science Week 14th-
18th March**

Parents' Evenings
Tuesday 6th and
Wednesday 7th April
3.00 pm– 6.00pm

Dear Parents/Carers

With news and conversation becoming saturated with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it can be a confusing and scary time for our children. Due to social media and online outlets, our children have access to more news sources than ever. Many will have questions of how the invasion may affect them and the rest of the world. Here is how we will be tackling any questions at school and how you can address any concerns at home.

Being open and honest

Lying is counterproductive as children have to know above all else they can trust their parents and teachers. Be careful not to over-explain the situation or go into too much detail as this can make children unnecessarily anxious. Look at a map and show your children where the countries are. If they have been on holiday to a country in Europe you could say ‘remember how long it took us to get to France? This place is even further away’ to make them feel a little safer.

Try to seem calm, even if you don’t feel it

Children often look to their trusted adults for pointers as to how they should feel. Model calmness and be aware of overhearing. Be mindful about how you are speaking about the news to other adults and who may be listening.

Listen

It is imperative to listen to what children think about what’s going on, and how they feel about it if they are feeling anxious or worried.

Don’t bring it up if children seem uninterested

Some children will be fascinated by the Ukraine conflict and want to know more, some will be worried, but others may show no interest at all – and that’s fine.

Maintaining normality helps children feel secure

Children respond to order at home and in school, even if the outside world feels chaotic. They may think, “If I’m going to school, and doing my swimming lesson at the same time each week, things can’t be that bad”.

Newsround is a great resource to help educate children using child appropriate vocabulary and imagery: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60536983>

If you have any queries or concerns, please don’t hesitate to ask your class teachers.



Progress Prizes

Two children in each class were awarded with a gold coin to spend in our book vending machines. These children have been recognised for their hard work and effort in the month of February. Well done!

	READING AWARD	PROGRESS AWARD
N. AM	Arlo Webster	Layla-Grace Hall
N. PM	Kailen Stuart	Kyren Ledden
R.1	Luca Shimka	Matilda Brearley
R.2	Connor Williams	Jake Mawdsley
R.3	Hollie Nethercote	Lily May Mogan
1.1	James Gardner	Nikodem Drazek
1.2	Kelly Chen	Eva Wheeler
1.3	Johnny Walker	Dennis Nutu
2.1	Aleem Raja	IvyLeigh Lawless
2.2	Anastasia Susinska	Lacey-Ann Burgess
2.3	Bin Wang	Jayden Chen
3.1	Polly Costain	Joshua Oxtan
3.2	Hadi Nadeem	Ruby Clark
3.3	Zachary Mokhtar	Ava Williamson
4.1	Charlie McCreadie	Alexandru Ruse
4.2	Jonah Lake	Igor Siennicki
4.3	Rose Ward	Gabriella Narkeviciute
5.1	Jamie-Scott Chadwick	Ruby Devine
5.2	Noble Azubuike	Denas Kuliesius
5.3	Freya Wong	Kieran James
6.1	Angelina Themistoklopoulos	Ruby-Mae Johnson
6.2	Dianna Ekwu	Lacey Jennings

It's a Boy

Please meet Charlie James Jones who arrived six weeks early on 21st February weighing 4 lbs 8 oz. Both mum and baby are doing really well and look forward to coming home soon to be with daddy and Louie.

Congratulations to Ms Gough and family. We can't wait to meet him.



Goodbye and Thank You



We said goodbye to Joanne Gledhill before half term after working at Monksdown for over twenty years as both a cleaner and lunchtime assistant. Joanne will be missed by the children.

Rounders just won't be the same!



Here are our top achievers:

- 1st - Kendra Pinto
- 2nd - Artin Karanian
- 3rd - Taylor Steer
- 4th - Aniela Suverjanu
- 5th - Hana Tariq
- 6th - Fortune Azubuikwe
- 7th - Reece He
- 8th - Maja Chrostek
- 9th - Nancy Williams
- 10th - Summer Mills

Awesome Attendance!



Head Lice

This is a gentle reminder to continue to check your child's hair for head lice and treat if necessary. Thank you.

Attendance Raffle

Please continue to join in with our attendance initiative for this half term . This is how it works:

- Children who are in school every day for one week will receive one raffle ticket to place into the raffle pot.
- The raffle will be drawn each Friday 8th April .
- This means that if children are in school every day for the 6-week period, then they will have 6 raffle tickets put into the pot – meaning 6 chances of winning!

The lucky winner will receive Four Tickets to see

Diversity at the M&S Bank Arena on Saturday 30th April 2022. Be in school every day to be in with a chance of winning!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

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CENSORSHIP

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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