



# Monksdown Mail

## Where Children Come First

Friday 25th November



Our school's  
Designated  
Safeguarding  
Leads :

Mrs Price, Mrs Stewart

Dear Families of Monksdown,

I hope you have all enjoyed a good week and are ready to enjoy the weekend. Are you prepared? A question we ask ourselves often, and especially around this time of the year as we approach the first Sunday of Advent. I can feel the buzz already as school prepares for the many activities and events in the run up to Christmas. I know the children are so looking forward to welcoming you all next month to see their performances.

### Trees of Green, Red Roses too.....

What is all that about you may be wondering? This week has been Art Week at school. The children have been studying the work of famous artists such as Van Gogh and Frida Khalo as inspirations for their creations. The theme has been "What a Wonderful World" and I am looking forward to seeing the children's work displayed around school as part of our Christmas Wonderland.



## Our Stars!

- ★ NAM: Frankie Rankin
- ★ NPM: Nevaeh Blackburn
- ★ R.1: Winnie Xu
- ★ R.2: Harley Dunn
- ★ R.3: Oliver Krzewinski
- ★ 1.1: Mylah Hill-Murray
- ★ 1.2: Brody Lawrence
- ★ 1.3: Amelia Gorczynska
- ★ 2.1: Louie Holland
- ★ 2.2: Dylan Deary
- ★ 2.3: Amber Williams
- ★ 3.1: Skyler McGivern
- ★ 3.2: Isla O'Connell
- ★ 3.3: Isabella Highton
- ★ 4.1: Alex Luga
- ★ 4.2: Grace Flynn
- ★ 4.3: Piper Bamber
- ★ 5.1: Daniel Walker
- ★ 5.2: Thomas Tasker
- ★ 5.3: Mariam Diab
- ★ 6.1: Esther Oyewale
- ★ 6.2: Christina Chen
- ★ 6.3: Brooke Baker

**Flu Immunisation  
Catch Up  
Friday 2nd December**



**Please refrain from  
smoking/vaping on  
the school grounds.  
Thank you.**

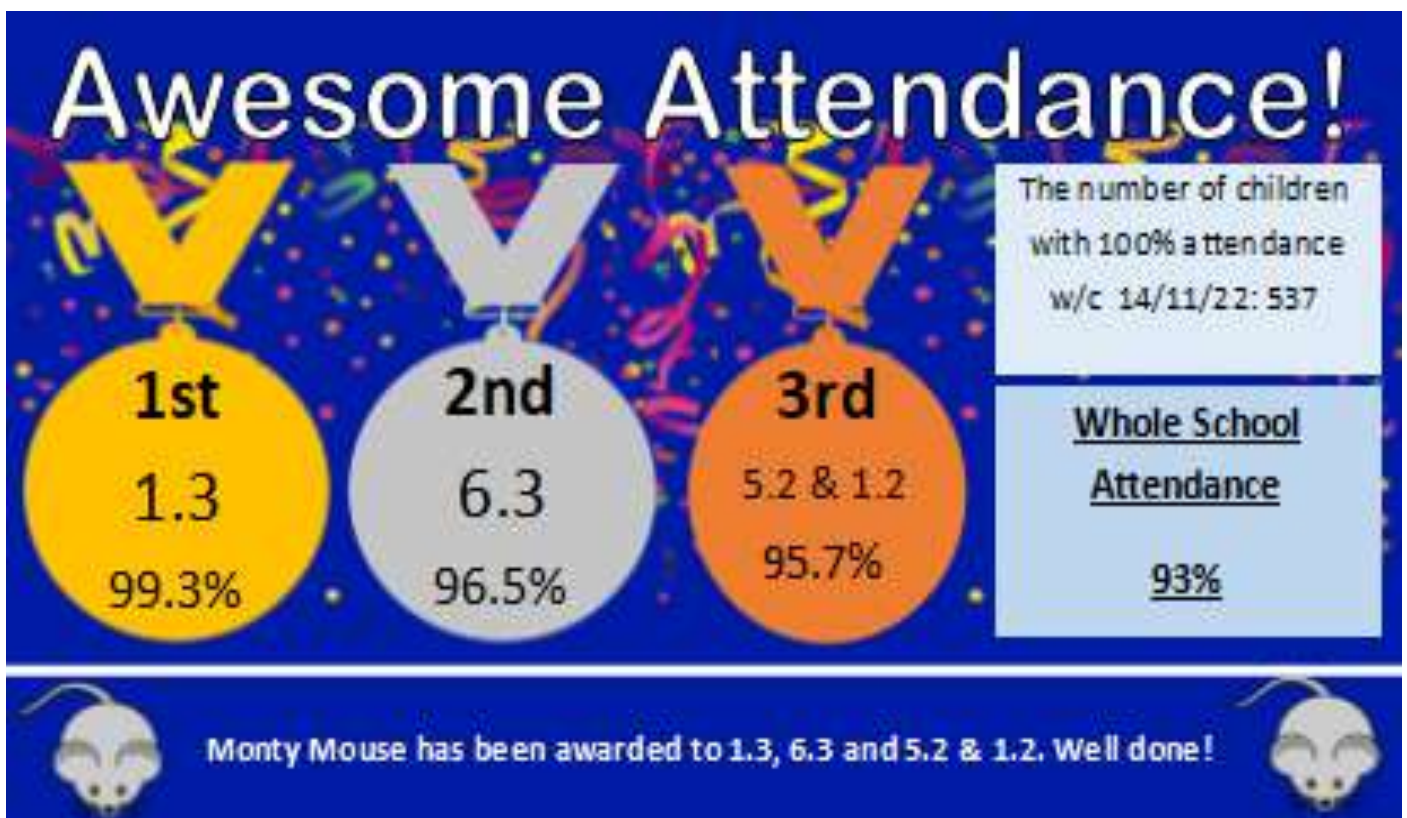


## Star Celebrations

The school council have been busy designing a brand new Star of the Week certificate for the children and arranging a very special teacher star of the week. The council wanted to find a way of thanking the wonderful staff at Monksdown and approached Mrs Price with the idea of having a Staff Star of the Week and a staff shout out board. Nominations will be collected on a Friday and certificates will be handed out on a Monday.



If any parents would like to nominate a member of staff on behalf of themselves or their child please place your nomination in an envelope and either ask your child to add it to the nomination box or pass it to Mrs Ferrigan.



## Please complete..

To help us monitor and generate further income through school meals eligibility, we would appreciate all parents completing this form <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims> regardless of your circumstances. Once this form is completed, your child's eligibility is automatically updated if your circumstances change.

Look at the benefits:

- A free school meal for your child, which is good for their health and could help their learning.
- Savings for you, worth over £350 a year.
- Extra money for the school through Pupil Premium.

Remember. Just registering your child for Free School Meals means that our school receives the extra money even if you don't take up the free meal. No-one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are receiving.

If you would like help completing the form, please contact the school office or email at the address above. All information given will be treated in the strictest confidence.



Get help to buy food and milk - (Healthy Start)  
If you're at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4 years old, you could get help to buy milk, fruit and vegetables.

If you qualify you get:

£4.25 each week of your pregnancy from the 10th week

£8.50 each week for children from birth to 1 year old

£4.25 each week for children between 1 and 4 years old

Complete this form to register

<https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/apply-for-healthy-start/>



**We have lots of surplus food to give each Tuesday Morning on the KS2 playground. Please bring a carrier bag to take home some goods.**

## Save money and get help with your fuel bills

Small changes to how you use your energy will help you save on your bills. Find out how and where to get help. Please click [here](https://www.liverpool.gov.uk/housing/fuel-bills-and-energy-efficiency/save-money-and-get-help-with-your-fuel-bills/).

<https://www.liverpool.gov.uk/housing/fuel-bills-and-energy-efficiency/save-money-and-get-help-with-your-fuel-bills/>





## Dates for your diary

Christmas Activities and Events	
Monday 5th December	Year 5/6 Futsal Team
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2.00 pm	Christmas Performance Years 1 and 2 ( Parents/ Carers invited two tickets per child)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2.00 pm	Christmas Performance Years 1 and 2 ( Parents/ Carers invited two tickets per child)
Wednesday 7th December	Reception Trip to Windmill Farm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch Years 3-6
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch Reception, Years 1 and 2
Friday 9th December 3pm—5pm	Year 2 Christmas Movie Night
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day Nursery
Tuesday 13th December 1:00pm	R1 Christmas Singing and Cookery with Mrs Wright Parents/Carers Invited
Wednesday 14th December 1:00pm	R2 Christmas Singing and Cookery with Mrs Wright Parent/Carers Invited
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2.00 pm	Year 6 Carols around the Christmas Tree (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Thursday 15th December 1:00pm	R3 Christmas Singing and Cookery with Mrs Wright Parent/Carers Invited
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2.00 pm	Year 5 Carols around the Christmas Tree (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 10.30 am and 2.00 pm	Nursery Performances (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party Day Reception, Year 1 and 2 – Party Clothes/ Non Uniform Day
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2.00 pm	Year 4 Carols around the Christmas Tree (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party Day Nursery - Party Clothes/ Non Uniform Day
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2.00 pm	Year 3 Carols around the Christmas Tree (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party Day Years 3-6 Party Clothes/ Non Uniform Day
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2.00 pm	School closes for Christmas holiday



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING



Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

## 1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

## 2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

## 3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.

## 4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

## 5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying do take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.

## FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

**Childline:** talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at [www.childline.org.uk/get-support/](http://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/)

**National Bullying Helpline:** counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting [www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html](http://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html)

**The NSPCC:** the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at [www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/) and can be reached on 0800 800 5000

## 6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

## 7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with a screenshot to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

## 8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people failing victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

## 9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details in the central panel below.

## 10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



# Monty the Mouse



## Incentives

Meet Monty— He is awarded to the highest attending three classes every week. attendance. Children with the highest attendance will look after Monty for a week. Monty will bring with him some chocolate friends.

Children with 97% attendance will receive a certificate each term.

Children with 100% attendance will have the chance of winning some family experience vouchers for the cinema, theatre or Chester Zoo.

Classes with 100% attendance for the whole week will be rewarded with golden time, fun and games with the mentor or a special breakfast.

Children with improved attendance will enjoy a special breakfast.

**PLUS, LOTS OF OTHER AWARDS AND REWARDS.**

## Contact Details

We do understand and appreciate that children pick up illnesses and it is not always easy to decide whether to send them into school or not. If your child is too ill to attend school then please contact us before the start of the day by sending a message using [Study Bugs App](#), sending an email or telephoning the school office on **0151 226 1606**.

## Attendance Team

**Our Attendance Team are here to help. We are a group of professionals who want to do our best to support you to get your child into school as often as possible. We are here to help and answer any attendance related queries that you may have. If you need help getting your child to school, please contact a member of the Team who will be more than happy to help.**



As you know, attendance at school is vital for all children.

There is a distinct link between those children who attend, and those who make the most progress.

## Attendance YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE

We want to work together to ensure your child is able to attend school as often as possible. We rely on you to get your child to school every day to enjoy learning and be with their friends. We want to work in partnership with you to make a difference.

## Did you know?

12% MORE SCHOOL DAYS		12% days to spend on family time, sports, hobbies, shopping, recreational jobs and other appointments				
100 DAYS IN EACH YEAR	100 DAYS OF EDUCATION	95 DAYS OF EDUCATION	90 DAYS OF EDUCATION	85 DAYS OF EDUCATION	80 DAYS OF EDUCATION	75 DAYS OF EDUCATION
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	
GOOD best chance of success, but your child off for a long time		WORRYING less chance of success, but your child off for a long time		SERIOUS CONCERN best chance of success, but your child off for a long time		

### Good Attendance

- 100% = 0 weeks learning missed
- 95% = 1 week 4 days learning missed

### Poor Attendance

- 90% = 3 weeks 4 days of learning missed
- At this level of absence your child will be classed as a persistent absentee.

At this level of absence the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) would be involved.

- 85% = 5 weeks 3 days of learning missed

If your child is absent from school for 1 week they would miss about 5 hours of Maths and 5 hours of English!

## What should I do if my child is absent?

By law, schools must record absences and the reason given. You must contact us as soon as possible, on the first day of absence, with a reason for absence. The easiest way to do this is via the [Study Bugs App](#). If no reason is recorded your child will receive an unauthorised mark.

## Attendance Procedures

- We do not authorise absences without a good reason.
- If we have not heard from you then expect a telephone call or text message from us.
- We monitor attendance carefully and we will write to you if your child's attendance becomes a concern.
- If attendance problems continue we will ask you to meet with us to discuss the way forward and see how school can support you and your child.
- If all measures fail to lead to an improvement in attendance, we will refer your child to the EWO and this may ultimately lead to legal action being instigated.

## Punctuality

Please make sure your child arrives at school on time each day. Doors open at 8.50am ready for lessons to begin at 8.55 am.



## Do you know how much learning children miss out on?

Minutes late per day	Equal days worth of
5 Minutes	3.4 Days
10 Minutes	6.9 Days
15 Minutes	10.3 Days
20 Minutes	13.8 Days
30 Minutes	20.7 Days

## How can you help?

- Ensure your child arrives on time.
- Prepare packed lunches, school bag and breakfast items the night before.
- Make sure you set an alarm at a reasonable time to ensure you have enough time for getting everyone up and ready.