



Monksdown Mail

Where Children Come First



Our school's
Designated
Safeguarding
Leads :

Mrs Price, Mrs Stewart

Friday 2nd December

Dear Families of Monksdown,

Concert season is fast approaching along with the end of term celebrations— all the dates are on page 2 so please do make a note of them and join in when you can. We are sending home printouts for your fridge.

We have lots going on and need the children to attend school every day. Thank you to families for arriving at school on time each day—this makes such a difference to your child and means they are ready to start learning promptly. Please remember that children should be in school by 8.50am when the classroom doors open. Lessons commence at 8.55am. Some advanced warning the school gates will be locked at 9.00am starting from January so please make sure you leave home in plenty of time.



Victory for Empire House

The staff took time out of their busy schedules on Monday evening and headed over to the Astroturf for a nail biting penalty shoot out. There was definitely some fierce competition as the teams battled it out. The final between Royal Court and Empire certainly kept the two Mr Corrigan's on their toes. Reds against Blues is something we in Liverpool are used to watching and this time it was Blues who scored the winning goal.

Choral Delights

The Year 4 choir took to the stage at St John Bosco Academy to sing a rendition of the famous Christmas classic Happy Christmas - War is over. It really was "a good one" and "without any fear" they shone in my eyes.

Whatever you are doing this weekend, I hope it is enjoyable for you all, I'm sure lots of Christmas decorations will be lighting up the houses in Norris Green.



Treat Yo'elf to a Christmas Dinner

If your child would like a Christmas Dinner and they are not entitled to a free school meal, please send £2 in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class.

Better in a Sweater

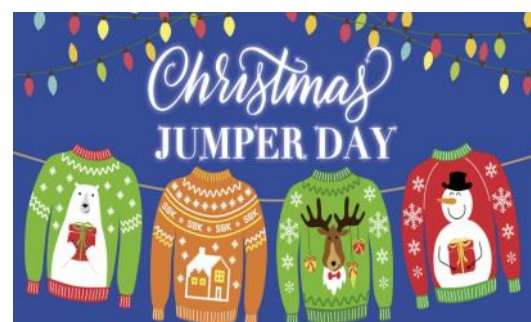
Children are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper on the following dates:

Years 3-6 - Thursday 8th December

Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 - Friday 9th December

Kindest Regards

Mrs Price



Dates for your diary

Christmas Activities and Events

Tuesday 6 th December 2.00pm	Christmas Performance Years 1 and 2 (Parents/ Carers invited two tickets per child)
Wednesday 7 th December 2.00pm	Christmas Performance Years 1 and 2 (Parents/ Carers invited two tickets per child)
Wednesday 7 th December	Reception Trip to Windmill Farm
Thursday 8 th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch Years 3-6 Please order your child's lunch
Friday 9 th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch Reception, Years 1 and 2
Friday 9 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Nursery
Friday 9 th December 3.00-5.00pm	Year 2 Christmas Movie Night
Tuesday 13 th December 1:00pm	R1 Christmas Singing and Cookery with Mrs Wright Parents / Carers Invited
Tuesday 13 th December 3.00-5.00pm	Year 1 Christmas Movie Night
Wednesday 14 th December 1:00pm	R2 Christmas Singing and Cookery with Mrs Wright Parent / Carers Invited
Wednesday 14 th December 2.00pm	Year 6 Carols around the Christmas Tree (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Wednesday 14 th December 3.00pm-5.00pm	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Movie Night
Thursday 15 th December 1:00pm	R3 Christmas Singing and Cookery with Mrs Wright Parent/Carers Invited
Thursday 15 th December 2.00pm	Year 5 Carols around the Christmas Tree (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Thursday 15 th December 10.30 am and 2.00pm	Nursery Performances (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Friday 16 th December	Christmas Party Day Reception, Year 1 and 2 – Party Clothes / Non Uniform Day
Friday 16 th December 2.00pm	Year 4 Carols around the Christmas Tree (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Friday 16 th December	Christmas Party Day Nursery - Party Clothes / Non Uniform Day
Monday 19 th December 2.00pm	Year 3 Carols around the Christmas Tree (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Tuesday 20 th December	Christmas Party Day Years 3-6 Party Clothes / Non Uniform Day
Wednesday 21 st December 2.00pm	School closes for Christmas holiday

Cobalt Christmas Card Competition

The below children have won the COBALT Christmas Card Competition.

Lucas Campbell - 3:3

Kornelia Gorczynska - 6:1

Congratulations to the runners up:

Connor Cowan - 6:3

Ophelia Clarke - 5:3

Jovina Ramesh - 4:1

Febe Wong - 3:3

Autumn Colligan - 1:3



Wellbeing Top Tip—Be an Optimist!

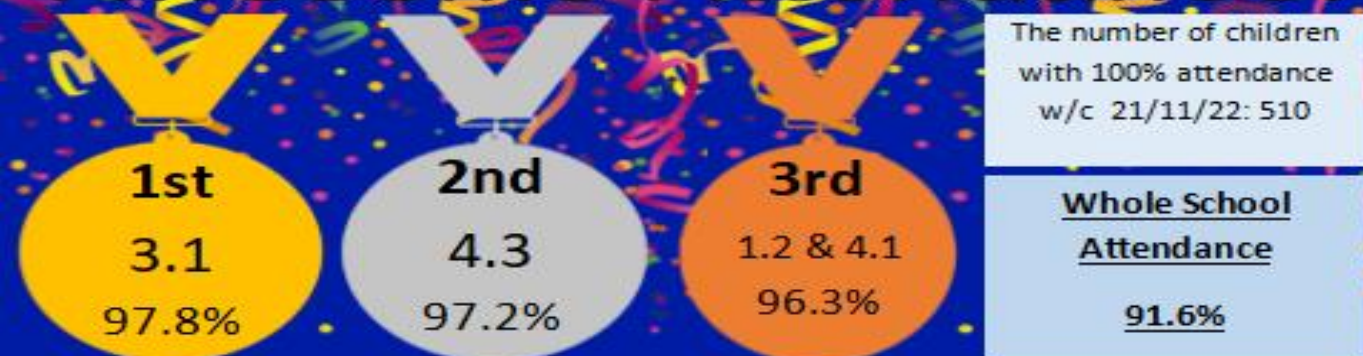
Focus on the good things in life even when you are going through a hard time. It can really help you keep things in perspective and even when something bad happens, it can help you to move on. It is good to be an optimist when...

- Something sad has happened, such as, a friend moving away
- You are in a new place or things have changed for you
- Something goes wrong and you are frustrated

Tips for being an optimist. When something bad happens, acknowledge it as a bad thing, but also look for the good in the situation. Sometimes there may not be good things right in front of you but if you try not to think about it and carry on then you may find the good.



Awesome Attendance!



Monty Mouse has been awarded to 3.1, 4.3 and 1.2 & 4.1. Well done!

Progress and Reading Award Prizes

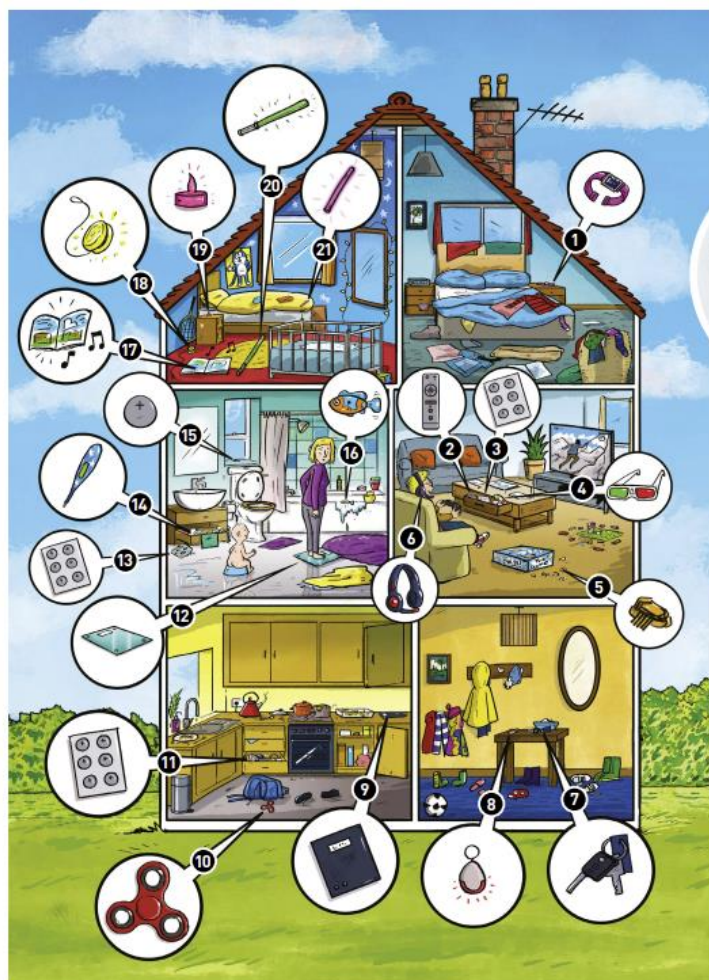
Two children in each class were awarded with a gold coin to spend in our book vending machines. These children have been recognised for their hard work and effort in the month of November. Well done!

	READING AWARD	PROGRESS AWARD
N. AM	Meadow - Rae Skinley	Sonny McStein
N. PM	Daisy Chen	Vicky Chen
R.1	Christina Dillion-Lloyd	Michelle Lin
R.2	Amity Taylor Owens	Vada Dennis
R.3	Cecelia Ritson	Jack Madigan
1.1	Noah Faron	Dawid Silwa
1.2	Leo Madine	Amr Babiker
1.3	Armita Timareh	Hallie Curran
2.1	Sydney Wright	Quinton Yip
2.2	Florentyna Kryś	Johnny Walker
2.3	Sophia Chadwick	Katie Kilcourse
3.1	Lena Dymek	Bin Wang
3.2	Grace Allen	Jakub Ulita
3.3	Ava Williams	Bonnie Brierley
4.1	Kaiden Stead	Tyler McKeown
4.2	Nathan Williams	Emily Hall
4.3	Mayah Aadum	Piper Bamber
5.1	Connor Pinto	Jenny Roberts
5.2	TBC	TBC
5.3	Ethan Ward	Riha Maheshwari
6.1	Jacob Sadowski	Kornelia Gorczynska
6.2	Libbi-Jo Deary	Karolina Vlachova
6.3	Ameera Award	Eric Li

What have these things got in common...



...that could kill your child?



A: the button battery that powers them.

If your child swallows a button battery, it can get stuck in their food pipe. It can then burn through to the main artery and badly harm or even kill them. This can happen very quickly.

Crawling babies up to pre-schoolers are at most risk.



Which batteries are most dangerous?

Lithium coin cell batteries are big enough to get stuck and strong enough to kill. They are slightly bigger than a 5 pence piece.

Smaller button batteries can still cause harm, especially if they are new.

Where are they?

Your child can find them in things like:

- small remote controls
- car key fobs or key finders
- musical cards and books
- light-up toys and novelty items
- nightlights
- digital scales
- thermometers
- old toys in the toy box

They may also find spare batteries that are stored within reach or have fallen from the pack.

Even used 'flat' batteries still hold enough charge to be dangerous.

Check your home

Hunt around your home for button batteries.

Keep products well out of your child's reach if the battery compartment isn't secured.

Store spare and 'flat' batteries well out of reach too.

Beware of bargains from online marketplaces or local discount shops. They may have button batteries your child can get to easily.

Has your child swallowed one?

There may be few symptoms. So trust your instincts. Don't delay. Get them to A&E or call 999 for an ambulance.

Don't let them eat or drink and don't make them sick.

More help from the safety experts

• capt.org.uk/button-batteries

• @ChildAccidentPreventionTrust



Button batteries – where are yours?

+BIPBA-
British and Irish Portable Battery Association



Button batteries, particularly big, powerful lithium coin cell batteries, can badly hurt or kill a small child within two hours, if they get stuck in the food pipe. Know where yours are, so you can keep your children safe.

Five top tips

- Hunt around your home for button batteries – in products as well as spare and 'flat' batteries.
- Keep products well out of children's reach if the battery compartment isn't secured.
- Store spare button batteries in sealed containers in a high cupboard.
- Remember that 'flat' or 'dead' batteries still hold enough power to badly hurt a child. So put them out of children's reach straight away and recycle them safely and as quickly as possible.
- If you think your child has swallowed one, don't delay. Trust your instincts and take them to A&E straight away or call 999 for an ambulance. Don't let them eat or drink and don't make them sick.

1. Fitness tracker
2. Remote control
3. Spare batteries
4. 3D glasses
5. Robot bug toy
6. Gaming headset
7. Car key
8. Key finder
9. Kitchen scales
10. Light up fidget spinner
11. Spare batteries
12. Bathroom scales
13. Spare batteries
14. Thermometer
15. Flat battery
16. Robo fish
17. Musical greeting card
18. Light-up yo-yo
19. Tea light
20. Light saber
21. Flashing wand

For more help



• capt.org.uk/button-batteries

• @ChildAccidentPreventionTrust

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/>



THANK YOU

YOUR POPPY SUPPORTS THE ARMED FORCES
COMMUNITY PAST AND PRESENT

Thank you for supporting the Poppy Appeal.

MONKSDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Raised

£485.00

To find out more about how your donation helps,
visit rbl.org.uk

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

AGE RATING

18

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chat, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'intimacy levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches intimacy level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

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.



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#WakeUpWednesday



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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?

365 DAYS IN EACH YEAR	175 NON SCHOOL DAYS		175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments.			
	10 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence	47 days absence	
	190 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR	180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	170 DAYS OF EDUCATION	161 DAYS OF EDUCATION	152 DAYS OF EDUCATION	143 DAYS OF EDUCATION
	100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
	GOOD Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start.	WORRYING Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress.		SERIOUS CONCERN Not fair on your child.		

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, schools 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.