



Monksdown Mail

Where Children Come First



Our school's
Designated
Safeguarding
Leads :

Mrs Price, Mrs Stewart

Friday 20th January 2023

Kung Hei Fat Choi

The Year of the Rabbit

May we wish all of our families a Very Happy Chinese New Year. We will be celebrating in school on Monday 23rd January 2022 with a Chinese themed special lunch. (Other options will also be available) If you pay for dinners, please pay via School Money or by sending £2.00 in a sealed envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class.

Science Deep Dive

We welcomed a group of Deputy Heads and Curriculum Lead teachers from three of our local schools to observe and share good practice in Science this week. Collectively, they visited classes, looked at books and spoke to the children. Our visitors commented on how passionate the children spoke of their learning and noted there was clear progression across the school.

ASD Training and Coffee Mornings

It has been fabulous to see so many of you attending the meetings held this week to support children with SEND.

There are two more sessions next week:

Tuesday 24th January 9.15 - Autism in Motion Coffee Morning

Thursday 26th January 9.15am - Training for parents and carers session 2 - Social Behaviour

Monksdown Pantry

I am excited to let you know that our food pantry is now officially open. The pantry is located on Key Stage One Playground at the rear of school.

Opening Times ; Tuesdays - 8.45 am - 9.15 am and 2.45pm-3.15 pm

Every Wednesday morning we will be accepting any donations of non perishable food such as tins, packet or dried foods, nappies, household cleaning or washing items and new, unused toiletries. Please place these in the blue trolley in the main entrance Thank You.

Have a lovely weekend . Kind Regards Mrs Price

Our Stars!

- ★ N: Moayad Albukhari
- ★ R.1: Michelle Lin
- ★ R.2: Alan Parzecki
- ★ R.3: Kyren Ledden
- ★ 1.1: Igor Zgorski
- ★ 1.2: Zeynep Sayili
- ★ 1.3: Harlow Rankin
- ★ 2.1: Mera Benesa
- ★ 2.2: Neive Aldrige
- ★ 2.3: Christopher Kuliesius
- ★ 3.1: Xuan Gao
- ★ 3.2: Luna Orme
- ★ 3.3: Jesse Parker
- ★ 4.1: Sofia O'Brien
- ★ 4.2: Mason Song
- ★ 4.3: Grace Babalola
- ★ 5.1: Charlie Kelley
- ★ 5.2: Ruby Brooks
- ★ 5.3: Rose Ward
- ★ 6.1: Rosa O'Connell
- ★ 6.2: Ruby Devine
- ★ 6.3: Dawid Krzyzak

Dates to Remember

Mental Health Week
6th—12th February

HALF TERM
Monday 13th February -
Friday 17th February

Monday 27th March
3.15-6.00pm Parent, Carer /
Teacher Meetings

Tuesday 28th March
3.15-6.00pm Parent / Carer /
Teacher Meetings

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 24th January

Autism in Motion Coffee Morning for parents and carers 9.15am

Thursday 26th January

ASD training for parents and carers session 2 Social Behaviour

Friday 27th January

Year 6 Height and Weight
LSFA Matchday 12.15pm-3.15pm

Tuesday 31st January

Year 6 Height and Weight

Wednesday 1st February

Festival of Reading Year 3

Thursday 2nd February

Festival of Reading Year 5

6th—12th February

Mental Health Week

Friday 10th February

Finish for half term break 2pm

Monday 20th February

Return to school

Thursday 2nd March

World Book Day— dress up as a word

Monday 27th March

3.15-6.00pm Parent, Carer / Teacher Meetings

Tuesday 28th March

3.15-6.00pm Parent , Carer / Teacher Meetings

Friday 31st March

2.00 pm School finishes for the Easter Holiday

Book Swap

The school council will hold a book swap every Wednesday morning before school. Children can bring their old books along and swap them for a new book they have not yet read. This will take place in the hut on the Key Stage 2 playground . Let's share the love of reading !



Election of Parent Governor



We are accepting nominations, from parents, to fill a vacancy for Parent Governor on the Governing Body.

The successful candidate will become a full member of the Governing Body and serve for 4 years.

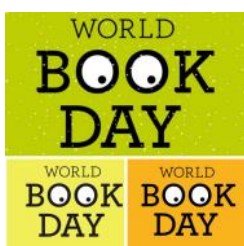
Further details are available from the School Office.

Wellbeing Top Tip of the Month

- This is a great time of year to think about giving back and doing something kind for others. Helping someone else not only makes a difference in their lives but can give us a sense of purpose and fulfilment. Doing kind acts has proven to reduce stress and improve emotional wellbeing. There are lots of ways to help others that don't cost anything:
- Giving up your seat on the bus
- Opening the door for someone
- Volunteering at a homeless shelter
- Choosing a toy/gift to donate to someone in need
- Finding a way to bring joy to someone else will bring us happiness in return.



World Book Day



On Thursday 2nd March we will be asking the children , and staff , to come to school dressed as a word . Here are some examples to inspire you .



It's maths but not as you know it!



Number Day 2023

Friday 3rd
February

#NumberDay
and
@NSPCC.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Call us free on

0800 1111

We are a healthy school

We are seeing an increasing number of lunch boxes containing sweets and chocolate bars which are not allowed in school. Remember, foods high in fat and sugar should be restricted, items such as sweets, fizzy drinks and other high sugar drinks should not be included at lunchtime. Fluctuations in sugar levels across the school day can cause disruption in energy levels and lack of concentration. KS1 have free choice of fruit everyday and therefore do not require snacks in school. KS2 children should only bring fruit for mid morning snacks.



Awesome Attendance!



The number of children
with 100% attendance
w/c 09/01/23: 546

Whole School
Attendance

94.2%

Monty Mouse has been awarded to 3.1, 2.1 and 2.3. Well done!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TWITTER

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages (tweets) of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs – often linked by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are said to be 'trending'. Twitter users can engage with other people's posts by liking, retweeting (sharing) or tweeting back (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion, he has implemented several major changes to the platform.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS

Tweets are public by default, meaning that anyone can view and interact with posts, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may therefore connect and communicate with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person's Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT

Twitter has recently introduced a 'view count' feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven't reacted to it). Previous research has found that unfavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of insecurity, jealousy and low self-esteem – leading to an obsession with increasing their numbers.

TROLLS AND BULLYING

The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction; to disrupt conversations; to spark an argument; or to harass the recipient. Such trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of both the target and anyone who witnesses it. Encourage your child to come to you if they experience such behaviour on Twitter, or if they see it taking place.

PAID-FOR VERIFICATION

Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner – usually a celebrity or a major organisation – had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter Blue subscription to receive the tick, with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account's authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES

In late 2022, Twitter stated that their 'policy enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of violative content: freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach'. No policies have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage an environment where some toxic content remains online.

HIJACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter's most recognisable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort a hashtag's meaning: an initially innocent search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with 'trending' hashtags, as people know that using them will get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE

To reduce some of the fear of your child's tweets being seen and shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that your child has to give approval for another user to view their posts. You can change Twitter's privacy settings so that your child can't be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won't be shared.

FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they've seen is true; remind them to watch out for scams and think about the message's possible motive. Emphasise that it's not a good idea to retweet something if they aren't sure it's correct.

ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or spammy behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and blocks them from responding to your child's tweets. The autoblock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child's again for seven days.

EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS

Previously, any user could reply to anyone else's tweets. However, the new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts – either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). This improvement has given users extra control, providing them with more protection from trolls and online abuse.

PAUSE BEFORE POSTING

It's important that young people think about what they're about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed 'nudges': little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These nudges promote more positive online behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE

If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The 'mute' feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from a specific account (or which include certain words) out of your child's timeline. The other user won't know that they've been muted.

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

BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the 'blue tick' system, it's essential that young Twitter users understand what this means. In terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone who your child only knows online is still a stranger, regardless of how long they've been communicating for. Remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

Source: <https://blog.twitter.com/common-thread/en/topics/stories/2022/how-twitter-is-nudging-users-healthier-conversations> | https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/product/2022/twitter-blue-update
https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2022/twitter-2-0-our-continued-commitment-to-the-public-conversation | <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=213&context=etd>



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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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
	190 days for your child's education	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.