



# Monksdown Mail

## Where Children Come First

Friday 27th January 2023



Our school's  
Designated  
Safeguarding  
Leads :

Mrs Price, Mrs Stewart  
and Ms Grice

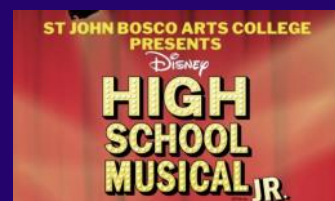
Dear Families of Monksdown,  
I hope this newsletter finds you all well.

Our Chinese New Year celebrations began with a wonderful video presented by the children followed by a delicious themed lunch. The kitchen served a selection of traditional Chinese dishes for all to enjoy. Everyone tucked in and there were clean plates all round. A group of children ventured into the City Centre to visit China Town. Their eyes lit up as they described the bustling atmosphere and the traditional Chinese Arch standing at 15 meters tall and adorned with over 200 dragons.



## Thank You

A big thank you to St John Bosco for inviting us to their production of High School Musical. The choir thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and came back to school inspired and full of enthusiasm.



## Dates to Remember

Wednesday 1st February  
School Closed to Pupils

Friday 3rd February  
Dress up as Digis Day

Mental Health Week  
6th—10 th 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

## Election of Parent Governor

We are accepting nominations from parents /carers 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 and application packs are available from the School Office. The closing date is Wednesday 1st February 2023.



## Strike Action

You may be aware from media coverage that the NEU Teaching Union have declared strike action. This will take place on **Wednesday 1st February 2023**. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government and not because of any issues at our school.

We have over 20 teachers in the NEU and after a thorough risk assessment we have had to make the difficult decision to **close school to all pupils** on that day.

Any absences on strike days will be authorised.

We will provide a packed lunch, for the strike day, for any child who would like to take one home (this is not just for children who are on free school meals). Lunches will be available at 'hometime' on Tuesday 31st January and needs to be pre-ordered for catering purposes. Please return the letter sent out .

I understand that this situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect. Monksdown Primary School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching.

We are working closely with our staff union representative to keep up to date with the situation and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

Please also note there are three further days of strike action planned and further information regarding school closure or partial closure will be shared with you nearer the time.

**Tuesday 28th February**

**Wednesday 15th March**

**Thursday 16th March**

## Monksdown Pantry

Our food pantry is now officially open and up and running . The pantry is located on Key Stage One Playground at the rear of school.

**Opening Times : Tuesdays - 8.45am - 9.15am and 2.45pm-3.15 pm**

Each 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.



# Dates for your diary

**Tuesday 31st January**  
Year 6 Height and Weight

**Wednesday 1st February**  
School Closed to Pupils

**Thursday 2nd February**  
Festival of Reading Year 5

**Friday 3rd January**  
Number Day—Dress up as a Digit

**6th—12th February**  
Mental Health Week

**Friday 10th February**  
Dress to Express  
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

## Wellbeing Top Tip of the Month

Give Yourself a Compliment! Do you ever catch yourself being overly critical of yourself, or thinking mean thoughts about yourself? Being overly negative or telling ourselves we are no good can really damage our self-esteem and can stop us from trying! Giving yourself a compliment and practicing positive self-talk is crucial to achieving a healthy mind set, boosting our self-esteem and giving us the confidence to accomplish our goals. Give yourself credit for the things you do well, don't take them for granted or brush them off as nothing. Starting your day with positive self-talk focuses your attention on positive things and improves our overall wellbeing. Here are some examples you could try:

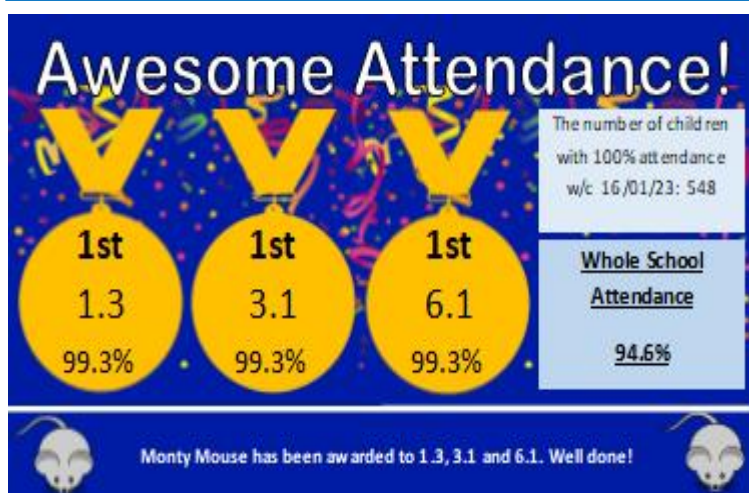
- I'm proud of myself for trying
- I forgive myself for my mistakes and I'm going to learn from them
- I'm doing my best and that's all that matters
- 3 things I did well today are...
- I am strong, I am smart, I am enough



## 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 January. Well done!

	READING AWARD	PROGRESS AWARD
N. AM	Moayad Albukhari	Eva Railton
R.1	Eric Zhen	Mitchell Williams
R.2	Micah Aadum	Evan-Taylor Jenkins
R.3	Luca Jones	Oliver Krzewinski
1.1	Hollie Nethercote	Izabela Golda
1.2	Lori Jennings	Georgia Nevin
1.3	Sara Kilic	Sam Griffin
2.1	Maximus Graham Faulkner-Brown	Matthew Whitmore
2.2	Sonny Walker	Hamzat Adisa
2.3	William Mahmoud	Darcey Griffin
3.1	Maria Piekarek	Molly Taylor
3.2	Alexa-Leigh Blakemore	Elsie-May Clegg
3.3	Summer-Lea Shaw	Elizabeth Chelkowski
4.1	Abdulmalik Adebayo	Lusy Leshaj
4.2	Arthur Smith	Armin Timareh
4.3	Hudson Forster	Caglar Ozturk
5.1	Max Madine	Rachel Pang
5.2	Abdoulaye Toure	Lottie Watson
5.3	Franciszek Krys	Hana Tariq
6.1	Maja Parzecka	Hanly Ganapathy
6.2	Christina Chen	Lucy Bierman
6.3	Freya Wong	Esme Oxtan



## 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!







## Dress up as Digits!

**Friday 3rd February 2023**

Take part in number day by coming to school dressed in any outfit that is number related.

Lots of

fun-filled day of maths activities and games planned.

## Children's Mental Health Week

6th– 10th February

We will certainly be shining the spotlight on our children's mental health during the week. This year's theme is "Let's Connect ". Children and staff may dress as "wacky " as they wish for school on **Friday 10th February** . Let's dress to impress!

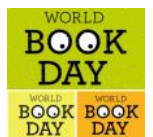


## World Book Day



On **Thursday 2nd March** we will be asking the children, and staff, to come to school dressed as a word.

Here are a few examples to inspire you .





# 12 Top Tips for BUILDING CYBER RESILIENCE AT HOME

As a society, we're increasingly using technology and tech services in the home. Digital assistants which can adjust the heating or turn lights on and off; streaming services for shows and movies on demand; games consoles; smart speakers; phones; laptops ... the list goes on. As we introduce each new gizmo to our homes, however, we increase the level of threat from cyber criminals. It's essential, therefore, that we learn to become more cyber resilient in relation to the devices and digital services that the people in our household use.

## WHAT IS 'CYBER RESILIENCE'?

Cyber resilience focuses on three key areas: reducing the likelihood of a cyber attack gaining access to our accounts, devices or data; reducing the potential impact of a cyber incident; and making the recovery from a cyber attack easier, should we ever fall victim to one.

### 1. PASSWORDS: LONGER AND LESS PREDICTABLE

The longer, less common and predictable a password is, the more difficult it becomes for cyber criminals to crack. The National Cyber Security Centre's 'three random words' guidelines are ideal for creating a long password which is easy to remember but hard to guess.

### 2. AVOID RE-USING PASSWORDS

When you use the same password across different logins, your cyber resilience is only as strong as the security of the weakest site or service you've signed up for. If cyber criminals gain access your username and password for one site or service, they'll definitely try them on others.

### 3. USE A PASSWORD MANAGER

A good way to juggle different passwords for every site or service you use is to have a password manager. This software stores all your passwords for you, so you simply need to remember the master password. LastPass, Dashlane, 1Password and Keeper are all excellent password managers.

### 4. BACK UP YOUR DATA

Keep a copy of your data using OneDrive, Google Drive or another reputable cloud-based storage solution. If it's extremely important or sensitive information, you could even decide to keep more than one back-up version – by saving it to a removable USB drive or similar device, for example.

### 5. ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

Multi-factor authentication is where you need access to your phone (to receive a code, for example) or another source to confirm your identity. This makes it far more difficult for cyber criminals to gain entry to your accounts and your data, even if they do manage to get your username and password.

### 6. CHOOSE RECOVERY QUESTIONS WISELY

Some services let you set 'recovery questions' – such as your birthplace or a pet's name – in case you forget your password. Take care not to use information you might have mentioned (or are likely to in future) on social media. More unpredictable answers make cyber criminals' task far harder.

### 7. SET UP SECONDARY ACCOUNTS

Some services provide the facility to add secondary accounts, phone numbers and so on to help with potentially recovering your account. Make sure you set these up: they will be vital if you're having trouble logging in or if you're trying to take back control of your account after a cyber attack.

### 12. STAY SCEPTICAL

Cyber criminals commonly use various methods, including emails, text messages and social media posts. Be cautious of any messages or posts that are out of the ordinary, offer something too good to be true or emphasise urgency – even if they appear to come from someone you know.

### 11. KEEP HOME DEVICES UPDATED

Download official software updates for your household's mobile phones, laptops, consoles and other internet-enabled devices regularly. Security improvements and fixes are a key feature of these updates – so by ensuring each device is running the latest version, you're making them more secure.

### 10. CHANGE DEFAULT IOT PASSWORDS

Devices from the 'Internet of Things' (IoT), such as 'smart' home appliances, are often supplied with default passwords. This makes them quicker to set up, but also less secure – criminals can identify these standard passwords more easily, so change them on your IoT devices as soon as possible.

### 9. CHECK FOR BREACHES

You can check if your personal information has been involved in any known data breaches by entering your email address at [www.haveibeenpwned.com](http://www.haveibeenpwned.com) (yes, that spelling is correct!). It's useful if you're worried about a possible attack – or simply as motivation to review your account security.

### 8. KEEP HAVING FUN WITH TECH

Consider our tips in relation to the gadgets and online services your household uses. Protect yourself and your family, and don't let the bad guys win: devices are not only integral to modern life but also a lot of fun – so as long as you keep safety and security in mind, don't stop enjoying your tech.

## Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East.





# 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.