



Monksdown Mail

Where Children Come First



Our school's
Designated
Safeguarding
Leads : Mrs Russell
Mrs Price, Mrs

Stewart

Friday 21st April 2023

Dear Families of Monksdown,

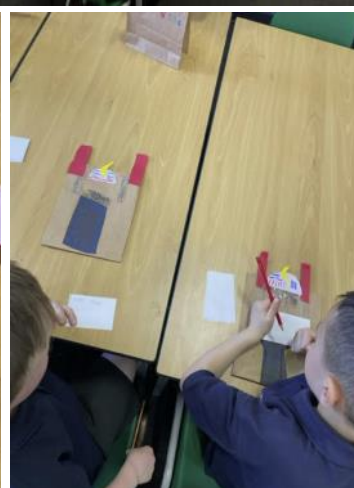
I hope you all had a very happy and restful Spring break and enjoyed spending time with friends and family. We are all looking forward to some warmer weather and sunshine in the next few weeks so that we can enjoy more of our learning experiences outdoors! It is a very busy term coming up with several bank holiday weekends in May. The term dates are on the school website and this term's diary dates are all included in this newsletter — please do check them carefully and make a note of those that involve you or your children. There are some printed copies in the school reception should you wish to take one. It is especially important to remember when we break up for half term and the summer as I am not able to authorise any holidays during term time. Attendance at Monksdown continues to be a high priority and we need every child coming to school every day. Our children's attendance champions have launched our Attendance Tournament. The details of this are also included in this newsletter.

Many of our families will be celebrating Eid this weekend and I would like to wish you every happiness and joy for a peaceful time.



Our Stars!

- ★ N: Mia Zhen
- ★ R.1: Divisha Kala
- ★ R.2: Michael Murphy
- ★ R.3: John Clegg
- ★ 1.1: Raitis Grinvalds
- ★ 1.2: Poppy Maher
- ★ 1.3: Leah Lynch
- ★ 2.1: Poppy Leigh
- ★ 2.2: Louie Nevin
- ★ 2.3: Alfie Kelly
- ★ 3.1: Rozalia Durrant
- ★ 3.2: Alexa Blakemore
- ★ 3.3: Riley Lowndes-Nurse
- ★ 4.1: Tyler McKeown
- ★ 4.2: Darcey-Rose Haigh
- ★ 4.3: Sophie Davis
- ★ 5.1: Max Madine
- ★ 5.2: Chloe Kilcourse
- ★ 5.3: Kendra Pinto
- ★ 6.1: Thomas McGowan
- ★ 6.2: Daisy Wood
- ★ 6.3: Elise Vasak



PE Kits

It is really important that your child has appropriate clothing to wear for PE in school. The children should bring their kit into school and leave it in their locker or on their peg depending on their age and take it home at half term for washing.



Spring has Sprung !

Our Reception Easter bonnet parades were a delight to see. Such outstanding creations which made judging extra difficult. Thank you to those who supported the Easter raffle. There were lots of happy faces when the draw took place.



The Sky's the Limit

This Sunday is the day we have all been waiting for! Four crazy, I mean brave members of staff are jumping out of a plane to raise money towards the purchase of a second mini bus in order for our children to access more enrichment opportunities. We understand that money is tight at the moment, but if you could donate as little as £2 it would make such a huge difference. Please follow the QR code to donate. Thank you so much.



Good luck to all involved.



A Right Royal Occasion

Friday 5th May

Please join us for a celebratory picnic lunch to mark the coronation of King Charles.

Although this is not a non uniform day, children are invited to dress up their uniform in any way they wish - socks, hair accessories, ties, ribbons, hats etc..

Nil Points

If you hear your children “Making their Minds Up” whist “Saving all their Kisses for you” and holding a “Puppet on a String” it’s because will be celebrating all things Eurovision during the afternoon on Friday 12th May and hosting our very own version of this Global event.

Monksdown
Does
Eurovision
May 2023
EUROVISION
SONG CONTEST
UNITED KINGDOM
LIVERPOOL 2023



Don't Argue with us...we're on the debating team !

This group of youngsters , who are arguably the best in Liverpool , competed against many other schools in the debating competition held in Calderstones Park Mansion House.

Their voices were certainly heard , they spoke honestly, passionately and openly and were awarded medals and certificates for their achievements. Noble came away with the prize of “Top Debater” and believe you me he gave even the organisers a run for their money !



Summer Term Attendance Tournament

Well done to the children who achieved 100% attendance in Spring Term. Lots of rewards and certificates were given out during our Celebration Assembly.

Our Children's Attendance Champions are excited to announce an Attendance Tournament for this term.



Fixtures for this week:-

Week 1		
2.1	Vs	1.1
4.3	Vs	6.1
4.2	Vs	3.1
2.2	Vs	3.3
4.1	Vs	5.1
5.2	Vs	5.3
3.2	Vs	1.2
2.3	Vs	1.3
6.2	Vs	6.3

	Bonus
96% +	1 point
98% +	2 points
100%	3 points

The highest attending class will earn 3 points. Bonus points for any classes with Good Attendance.

Class with the most points will receive a day out to Croxteth Park.

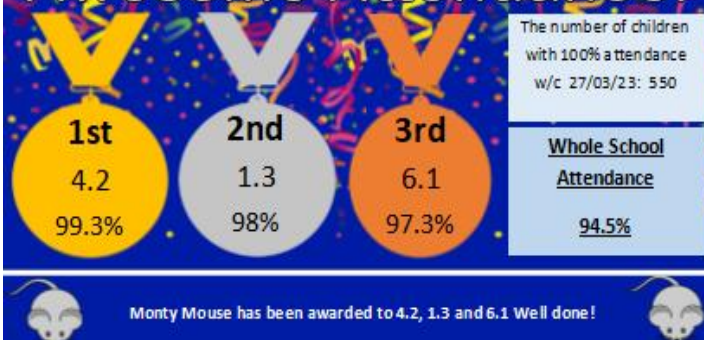


Parking Around School

Please, please, please can you leave the areas directly around the school entrance and exit gates free from cars in order for our children to cross the roads and walk on the pavements safely into school. Even better still, park away from school and walk the final few minutes of your journey. Thank you for your support with this.



Awesome Attendance!



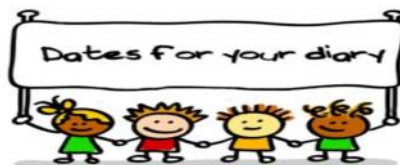
Introducing the newly weds Mr and Mrs Russell.
Congratulations to you both.



Every little helps

By saving money at a young age, children are able to put aside funds that may help them in the future. We now have our very own savings bank here at school. All children are welcome to join. Deposit as little or as much as you can afford and watch the £s grow.





Tuesday 25th April 3:15pm—4:15pm		Jacob's Join Eid Celebration
Wednesday 26th April		Eid Assemblies
Wednesday 26th April 2:15pm		Year 1 Learning Showcase parents / carers invited
Thursday 27th April		NEU Strike Action— see separate letter for classes affected
Friday 28th April		Storytelling Session Central Library
Monday 1st May		Bank Holiday School Closed
Tuesday 2nd May		NEU Strike Action— see separate letter for classes affected
Thursday 4th May		Polling Day—School Closed to all pupils except those in Year 6
Friday 5th May		A Right Royal Occasion Coronation Picnic Lunch—Dress Up your uniform
Monday 8th May		Bank Holiday—School Closed
Tuesday 9th May—Friday 12th May		Year 6 SATs Week— breakfast available from 8.10 am
Thursday 11th May 2:15pm		Sex and Relationships Education Meeting for Parents/ Carers
Monday 15th May—Friday 19th May		Mental Health Awareness Week
Monday 15th May		5pm New to Nursery Parent/ Carer Meeting 6pm New to Reception Parent/ Carer Meeting
Tuesday 16th May—Friday 26th May		Year 6 Level 1&2 Bikeability Courses
Wednesday 17th May		Reception Trip to Knowsley Safari Park
Thursday 25th May 9:15am		Full Governors' Meeting
Friday 26th May 2pm		School Closed for Half Term
Monday 29th May—Friday 9th June		Half Term Holiday
Monday 12th June		School re-opens to pupils
Monday 19th June—Friday 23rd June		Year 6 Residential
Wednesday 21st June 9:30am		ASD Parents Coffee Morning
Monday 26th June		Reception Sports Day 1:30pm Parents/ Carers Invited
Tuesday 27th June		Year 1 Sports Day 10am Parents/Carers Invited Year 2 Sports Day 1:30pm Parents/Carers Invited
Wednesday 28th June		Year 6 Sports Day 10am Parents/Carers Invited Year 4 Sports Day 1:30pm Parents/Carers Invited Year 5 Learning Showcase 2:15pm Parents/Carers Invited
Thursday 29th June		Year 5 Sports Day 10am Parents/Carers Invited Year 3 Sports Day 1:30pm Parents/Carers Invited
Friday 30th June		Table Football Competition Sports Day Backup Day dependant on weather conditions
Tuesday 4th July 10.00 am		R1 Assembly 10 am —Parents/Carers Invited
Wednesday 5th July		Liverpool Secondary School's Transition Day Year 6 Pupils R2 Assembly 10 am —Parents/Carers Invited
Thursday 6th July 10:00am		R3 Assembly 10 am —Parents/Carers Invited
Tuesday 11th—Thursday 13th July 7pm		School Performance—Oliver
Friday 14th July		French Day in School
Tuesday 17th July 10am		Year 6 Leavers' Assembly Parents/Carers Invited
Wednesday 18th July 2pm		Schools out for Summer!



Progress and Reading Award Prizes for March

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 March. Well done!

	READING AWARD	PROGRESS AWARD
N. AM	Lillie Murphy	Frankie Rankin
R.1	Zhra Aldridge	Hope Daniels
R.2	Ella Heaton	Arlo Webster
R.3	Abdulazim Adebayo	Theklia Gerolemou
1.1	Daniel Morris	Oscar Limbert
1.2	Eric Nemes	Sofia Creighton
1.3	Jessica Hoos	Thomas Murphy
2.1	Mason Barrow	Lottie McGeehan
2.2	Eunice Adepoju	Ethan Dawes
2.3	Jim Gardner	Annabelle Owen
3.1	Alicja Pyszcak	Steven Emerson
3.2	Elsie-May Clegg	Rihanna Siksnuite
3.3	Grace Clayton	Joseph Dixon
4.1	Neveah McGivern	Jaiden Stuart
4.2	Zoe Hoos	Layla Hapmson
4.3	Jerry Wang	Polly Costain
5.1	Lennon McKeown	Sienna Taylor
5.2	Mia Smith	Nicholas McKay
5.3	Harvey Potter	Lucas Jennings
6.1	Kayleigh Rhoades	Jack Giles
6.2	Michalina Polczynka	Jennifer Macauley
6.3	Oscar Susinski	Bobby Macklin

Helpers Required

Do you have any hours to spare? Are you interested in becoming a Brownie Guide helper?

West Derby Brownies meet every Tuesday evening and are looking for volunteers and leaders to help out. If you are interested please contact school.



Sporting News

Eat, Sleep , Swim, Repeat !

Meet our amazing school Swimming Team. They attended Wavertree Aquatics Centre for the Liverpool Schools' Swimming Gala on Monday 27th March. Our swimmers dug deep and swam their absolute best, beating a number of schools to come second in their heat and automatically winning a place in the finals.

What an occasion! The viewing gallery was filled to the brim with parents and the atmosphere was electric. Our nervous energy pumping, ready for our first race against some stiff competition: squad swimmers from across the region!

Every single one of our swimmers swam their hearts out, cheering on from the side lines, encouraging each and every swimmer as they went about their individual races.

We secured a very respectable 6th place. This is just the tip of the iceberg for Monksdown swimmers! Our team should be very proud of their performance in and out of the pool!

So, make sure you all get swimming and who knows, you could be in the team next year.



First Issued 5th July 2022

Reissued 5th September 2022

Reminder 21st April 2023



IMPORTANT LETTER ABOUT TAKING CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL DURING TERM TIME

Dear Families of Monksdown,

Monksdown Primary School is determined to do everything they can to ensure your child has the very best start in life. An essential part of this is that every child is punctual and attends school. As a parent or carer, you have an important part to play. Your child has the right to a good education and **you** have a legal responsibility to ensure that they go to school on time, all of the time.

Pupils should only be absent from school if:

- They are too ill to attend
- They have a medical appointment that can't be arranged out of school hours
- There are exceptional circumstances
- Advanced permission has been granted from school

Leave of Absence during term time:

Parents/Carers do not have a right by law to take their child on holiday during school term-time.

Only in **exceptional circumstances** may school grant leave of absence for a holiday. A written application to the Head Teacher or myself, Chair of Governors, must be made in order for the school to consider this. If a parent/carers takes a child on holiday without prior permission from the school, the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice of £120 per child, reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days. **Even if a leave of absence is permitted it still counts as an absence and is recorded as Unauthorised. Permission simply means a fixed penalty will not be issued.**

If you are experiencing issues with your child's attendance the school's attendance team are there to support. Please contact the school should you require their help.

I have attached the school calendar dates for 2022-2023 for your information.

Kind Regards

Martin Reynolds
Chair of Governors

LEARN TOGETHER



Ever wondered how to best help your child with their learning? Want to pick up a few tips to help with homework?

You are invited to join us for a family learning taster:

- a parent/carer session on supporting your child in writing
- a learning session with your Y3/4/5 child

Everyone who takes part will receive a goody bag full of resources to help you and your children learn at home. There is funding available to support those who need transport to the session.



Sign up at
<https://forms.gle/K2XqXGsBfDo3MMxP7>



LEARN TOGETHER



PARENT/CARER SESSION:

ST FRANCIS DE SALES JUNIOR SCHOOL
28TH APRIL 1.30-2.30

Take part in a workshop on writing delivered by staff from School Improvement Liverpool and Adult Learning Service.



FAMILY LEARNING SESSION:
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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER
4

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like The Walking Dead to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from Alien or who Geralt from The Witcher is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs.-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers – of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (hitting mini-games, for example). The machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'jokes' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep returning to their screens.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into spending out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free – but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 (and are available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure your child knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert

Uzair Guzman is Editor in Chief of parenting and experts site kidsandme.co.uk and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about technical issues, his articles have been published on publications including theguardian.com and theverge.com.



**National
Online
Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday

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