



Monksdown Mail

Where Children Come First

Designated Safeguarding Leads :



Mrs Russell and
Mrs Stewart
Deputy-Mrs Price

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Families of Monksdown



Welcome back and a very happy New Year to all our families. I hope you enjoyed a restful and happy break and had the chance to spend some special time together. It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome the children back into school and to see how settled, positive and eager they have been from the moment they returned.

This term promises to be a busy and exciting one, with lots of engaging learning opportunities planned across the school. We are really looking forward to seeing the children continue to grow in confidence, develop their skills and enjoy their learning as the year unfolds.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We are excited to see what 2026 will bring and look forward to sharing many positive moments and successes with you over the coming weeks and months.

Mrs Price

Bikes and Scooters - Health and Safety

Bikes, scooters, and other wheeled equipment must not be ridden on the yard during school hours. These items can pose a risk of injury to both the rider and others nearby. If bikes are brought to school, they should be walked through the yard and stored in the designated bike racks.



★ Our Stars ★

| | |
|-----|------------------|
| Nur | Febe Chen |
| R1 | Francis Brownell |
| R2 | Jonah Jones |
| R3 | Kaiden Ashworth |
| 1.1 | Brody Evans |
| 1.2 | Lilah Humphreys |
| 1.3 | Fin Denmpsey |
| 2.1 | Cornelia Luga |
| 2.2 | Heidi Hincks |
| 2.3 | Jack Jones |
| 3.1 | Freddie Green |
| 3.2 | Benjamin Green |
| 3.3 | Azim Adebayo |
| 4.1 | Eithan Shinu |
| 4.2 | Jake Mawdsley |
| 4.3 | Daniel Morris |
| 5.1 | Ela Ozturk |
| 5.2 | Matthew Whitmore |
| 5.3 | Jack Irvine |
| 6.1 | Miando Mazrreku |
| 6.2 | Isabella Highton |
| 6.3 | Sophie Stannard |

Dates for the diary

Friday 23rd January

Year 5 Job Junction event

Tuesday 3rd February

2.1 parent showcase

Wednesday 4th February

2.2 parent showcase

Thursday 5th February

2.3 parent showcase

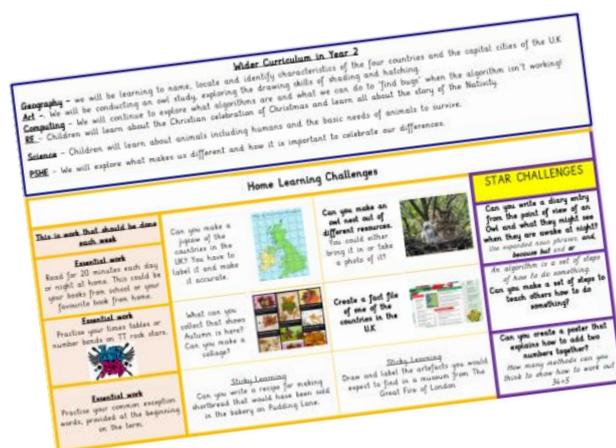
Learning letters

We're excited to let you know that this week we'll be sending home our Spring 1 Learning Letter.

These letters are designed to give you a clear picture of what your child will be learning about in school each half term. From topics in history and science to the books they'll be reading in English and the skills they'll be exploring in Maths, we want you to feel informed and involved in your child's learning journey. The Learning Letter will also include some important practical information such as which days your child has PE and whether they'll need any particular kit. We know how helpful it can be to have everything in one place so you can stay on top of the weekly routine and feel confident that your child is ready for each day. On the back page of the letter you'll find a selection of Home Learning Tasks.

These are completely optional but offer some lovely opportunities to extend learning at home in a fun and engaging way. There might be a creative activity linked to the topic, a chance to do a bit of research together or something to make and bring in to share with the class. We hope you find the Learning Letters useful and enjoyable.

They're just one of the ways we want to keep the connection between school and home strong so that together we can support your child to get the most out of their time at school.



Parent Pod

We're really pleased to share that our Parent Pod is now up and running in the large playground at the front of school! This cosy little space is there for families to pop by, connect, and make use of some helpful resources, including our uniform recycle rail, lovingly looked after each week by the wonderful Mrs Prescott. She keeps everything neat, fresh, and ready to go, so if your child needs a spare jumper, trousers, or even a PE top, please feel free to take what you need. No forms, no fuss, just a helping hand when you need it. Using the uniform recycle isn't just practical, it's also a great way to support the environment. By reusing good-quality clothing, we're helping to reduce waste and avoid sending perfectly wearable items to landfill. It's a small step that makes a big difference, and we're proud to be building a more sustainable school community together. Thank you for your support, and do stop by the Parent Pod next time you're on the playground!



Nuts in school

Several children in our school have serious nut allergies, and even a small trace can cause a severe reaction. That's why we ask everyone to avoid sending in items like peanut butter, cereal bars with nuts, or homemade treats that might contain them. It's a small change that makes a big difference in keeping all our children safe and well. We know how much care goes into preparing your child's lunch each day, and we really appreciate your support in helping us create a safe and inclusive environment.



School Lunch Menu

| w/c 5 th Jan |  Planet Friendly MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| SOUP | Chef Choice | Leek & Potato | Red Pepper Soup | Tomato & Basil | Chef Choice |
| HOT MAINS | Cheesy Beans Pasta Bake  | Corned Beef Hash with Beans | Chicken Fajitas | Wholemeal Spaghetti Bolognese with Salad & Garlic Bread | Fish Cake or Fish Fingers with Chips & Mushy Peas |
| | Cherry Tomato & Cheese Quiche with Salad  | Asian Noodles  | Macaroni Cheese  | Vegetarian Sausage Toasties  | Veggie Fingers with Chips & Mushy Peas  |
| CHEF SPECIAL | Ask Chef about today's special! | | | | |
| DESSERT | Sponge Cake & Custard | Ginger Biscuits | Fresh Fruit Salad | Fresh Fruit Trifle | Cheese & Crackers |

| w/c 12 th Jan |  Planet Friendly MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|-------------|--|
| SOUP | Chef Choice | Tomato & Basil | Broccoli & Cheddar | Chef Choice | Chinese Sweetcorn |
| HOT MAINS | Tomato & Basil wholemeal Pasta  | Ham Roast Dinner with Seasonal Vegetables & Roast New Potatoes | Spaghetti & Meatballs | Chef Choice | Fish Fingers or Tandoori Salmon  with Chips & Garden Peas |
| | Vegetarian Chilli with Brown Rice  | Cheese & Onion plate Pie with Carrots & Peas  | Roasted Red Pepper Quiche with Salad  | Chef Choice | Veggie Burger in a Bun with Chips  |
| CHEF SPECIAL | Ask Chef about today's special! | | | | |
| DESSERT | Fresh Fruit Salad | Barabrit | Pineapple & Coconut Sponge | Chef Choice | Cheese & Crackers |



Available Daily: Jacket potatoes with tuna, cheese or beans, salad, hummus, fresh fruit and yoghurt

Please speak to a member of staff about dietary requirements. All menus are checked by a nutritionist and adhere to School Food Standards.

-  Vegetarian
-  Vegan
-  Oily fish

Snacks and Drinks

Children in KS2 (Years 3—6) may bring a **HEALTHY** snack to eat at break time .This should not include crisps, sweets or chocolate.

Some suggestions:

- Fresh Fruit or Dried Fruit
- Low Sugar cereal bars that are not chocolate coated
- Crackers
- Vegetable sticks

We encourage children to drink water in school. If your child cannot drink water then a sugar free juice may be brought into school. Energy drinks such as Prime and Lucozade are not permitted.

Children in Early Years (Reception) and KS1 (Years 1-2) are provided with milk and fruit free of charge.

Swimming

This term, classes 5.3 and 4.1 will have swimming every Friday morning.



Online Payments

Dinners can be paid for via School Money online.

If you have not received your log in details please contact the school office where we will be happy to help.

Our Twitter/ X Pages

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| <u>Nursery</u> @Monksnursery24 | <u>Reception</u> @Receptionmonksd | <u>Year 1</u> @Year1Monksdown |
| <u>Year 2</u> @Year2Monksdown | <u>Year 3</u> @Year3Monksdown | <u>Year 4</u> @Year4Monksdown |
| <u>Year 5</u> @Y5Monksdown | <u>Year 6</u> @Year6Monksdown 1 | <u>Learning Council</u> @MonksdownLC |

