



Monksdown Mail

Where Children Come First

Designated Safeguarding Leads :



Mrs Russell and
Mrs Stewart
Deputy-Mrs Price

Friday 13th February 2026

Dear Families of Monksdown

This week we marked Children's Mental Health Week, beginning with an assembly led by our Wellbeing Leads who taught pupils about the importance of looking after their mental health. Our fabulous Wellbeing Leads then worked alongside the PSHE Leads, PE, Art and Computing teams, as well as the SNAG team, to plan a range of thoughtful and engaging activities for classes to complete throughout the week.



The theme this year was 'This Is My Place', which focused on belonging. Pupils reflected on what it means to belong and why feeling a sense of belonging is so important for our wellbeing. Our SNAG team also took part in a healthy-eating flash mob in the dinner hall which was great fun and spread an important message.



In addition, some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils represented the school at the NOW Festival alongside other schools. The pupils acted and sang with confidence and passion, delivering an incredible performance that made both staff and parents extremely proud. More photographs and information of the event are to follow.

I hope you have a restful break and we all look forward to seeing you all for the beginning of Spring 2.

Mrs Price



★ Our Stars ★

Nur	Oscar Wu
R1	Isla Kinsella
R2	Milena Konieczny
R3	Jwani Al Jammor
1.1	Dhruvh Ramkannan
1.2	Sarp Dogan
1.3	Sharon Ramesh
2.1	Emilia Rodzon
2.2	Enzo Blue Davies
2.3	Ayesha Diab
3.1	Rowan Hughes
3.2	Ella Heaton
3.3	Florence Davies
4.1	Oliver Linay
4.2	Alfie McLoughlin
4.3	Dawid Sliwa
5.1	Dennis Nutu
5.2	Max Faulkner-Brown
5.3	Nikodem Drazek
6.1	Alexa Blakemore
6.2	Finlay James
6.3	Mavis Chung

Dates for the diary

Monday 23rd February

Spring Term starts
(please see attached letter for new times and entrances)

Tuesday 24th February

Year 2 Chinese New Year
cultural morning

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day

Year 4 and 5 Knowsley Safari Visit



This week, our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils were excited to welcome a special visitor from Knowsley Safari Park. During the session, the children learned about sustainability and deforestation and explored how human activity can impact animal habitats around the world. There was a particular focus on the endangered Amur tiger, helping pupils understand the challenges these magnificent animals face and why conservation work is so important.



The children then took part in a hands-on activity where they became conservationists! Working in teams, they analysed different animal markings to identify individual animals, just like real wildlife researchers do in the field. This task required excellent teamwork, careful observation and strong analytical thinking skills.

We were incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, thoughtful questions and mature discussions shown by both year groups. A big thank you to Knowsley Safari Park for delivering such an engaging and informative workshop!



KS1 Picnic for Hope Assembly



KS1 had a fantastic visit from LLSP, who came to talk to us about how to stay healthy. The children learned all about healthy eating and why it is important to wash regularly, keep fit and clean our teeth every day. We shared lots of ideas and asked thoughtful questions before putting our learning into action by packing a healthy picnic for Hope the teddy bear. It was a fun and engaging session that helped us understand how to look after our bodies and stay happy and healthy!





Monksdown Sports News

Dodgeball Winners

Year 3 and 4 pupils represented the school brilliantly at a dodgeball competition in Stockbridge Village, competing against a range of local schools. The team showed excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the event and were thrilled to finish in first place, beating 5 other schools. Well done to everyone involved for such a fantastic achievement!



Ballroom Dancing Champion



Vlada competed in the Blackpool Ballroom Championships over the weekend and achieved outstanding results. Vlada was crowned World Champion in Under-6 Latin Dancing and also secured third place, earning a bronze medal in the Under-8 category. Competitors from Italy, Spain, and China took part in the event.

Norris Green Junior Park Run

If you would like to participate in the Norris Green Junior Park Run, it runs each Sunday morning starting at 9.00am. All children are welcome to join. Please register following this link:

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



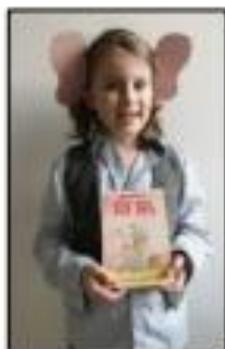
WORLD BOOK DAY

5 MARCH 2026

It's everyone's favourite time of year again - World Book Day!

We would like to invite you to come into school dressed as your favourite book character on **Thursday 5th of March**.

Please remember that there is no expectation to buy new or expensive costumes (see some ideas below).



This year we will be holding a 'Story Hat' competition. Your hat can be as extravagant or as simple as you like but should be themed around a book, series of books or character of your choice (some ideas below). If you would like to take part, please bring your completed hats into school on Thursday 5th March, where our Pupil English Subject Leads will be judging the best entries. We can't wait to see how creative you are - Good Luck!





Thursday 4th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Change to start of school day.

We are writing to let you know about a small change to the start of the school day that will take effect from **Monday 23rd February 2026**.

To help create a calmer, more purposeful start to the morning and to maximise learning time, we will be introducing a soft start. As part of this, pupils will now enter school through the Year group entrances rather than their classroom doors at the start of each day. **Doors will open at 8.40am and close at 9am.**

This change will allow children to come into class more smoothly, settle quickly, and begin meaningful learning activities straight away. A quieter, less hurried start helps pupils feel more confident, focused, and ready to learn, which has a positive impact on their progress and wellbeing throughout the day.

Staff will be on duty each morning to welcome pupils and support them as they enter the building. The school day start and finish times will remain unchanged.

Children will continue to leave through their classroom door at the end of the day.

We kindly ask for your support in using the new entrance from Monday 23rd February 2026 and allowing pupils to enter independently where appropriate, to help promote confidence and routine.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Kind regards,

Mrs J Price

Head teacher

Respectful

Resilient

Responsible

Resourceful



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.



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!



School Lunch Menu



Lunch Menu Week 1



w/c 23rd Feb	Planet Friendly MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SOUP	Carrot & Coriander	Tomato & Basil	Chef Choice	Pea & Spinach	Chef Choice
HOT MAINS	Tomato & Basil Pasta Ve	Wholemeal Spaghetti Bolognese with Salad & Garlic Bread	Chicken Fajitas	Ham Roast Dinner with Cauliflower Cheese & Roast New Potatoes	Fish Cake or Fish Fingers with Chips & Mushy Peas
	Spanish Omelette with Salad V	Vegetarian Sausage Toasties V	Cheese & Red Onion Quiche V	Vegetarian Chilli with Rice V	Veggie Fingers with Chips & Mushy Peas V
CHEF SPECIAL	Ask Chef about todays special!				
DESSERT	Fresh Fruit Salad Ve	Fresh Fruit Trifle	Sticky Toffee Pudding	Bakewell Cherry Slice	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.

- V Vegetarian
- Ve Vegan
- Oily fish



Lunch Menu Week 2



w/c 2 nd Mar	Planet Friendly MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SOUP	Chef Choice	Red Pepper Soup	Tomato & Basil	Broccoli & Cheddar	Leek & Potato
HOT MAINS	Wholemeal Pizza with Wedges & Beans V	Beef Chilli Tacos with Tortilla Chips	All Day Breakfast	Homemade Scouse with Crusty Bread & Beetroot	Fish Fingers with Chips & Garden Peas
	Vegetarian Chilli with Rice V	Asian Noodles V	Roasted Red Pepper Quiche with Salad V	Quorn Stovies V	Welsh Rarebit V
CHEF SPECIAL	Ask Chef about todays special!				
DESSERT	Sponge Cake & Custard	Ginger Biscuits Ve	Fresh Fruit Salad Ve	Fresh Fruit Trifle	Barabritth



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.

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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.

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.

