



# Monksdown Mail

Where Children Come First

Designated Safeguarding Leads :



Mrs Russell and  
Mrs Stewart  
Deputy-Mrs Price

Friday 6th December 2024

Dear Families of Monksdown,

What a busy week it has been in school!

Year 2 visited the 'Christmas Journey' this week and had an interactive retelling of the birth of baby Jesus as part of their RE unit of learning about what Christians believe.



Nursery and reception children had their sing a long and Christmas craft sessions with parents later in the week. Thank you to all who came.

We are looking forward to next week when its is Year 1,2,3,4,5 ad 6's turn to put on a show. A reminder of the performance dates and times are below.

| <u>Monday</u><br><u>9th December</u>    | <u>Tuesday</u><br><u>10th December</u>  | <u>Wednesday</u><br><u>11th December</u> | <u>Thursday</u><br><u>12th December</u> |
|---|---|--|---|
| Year 5 "Sing Around the Tree" at 9:15am | Year 3 "Sing Around the Tree" 9:15am    | Year 1 Christmas performance at 9:15am   | Year 2 Christmas performance at 9:15am  |
| Year 6 "Sing Around the Tree" at 2:15pm | Year 4 "Sing Around the Tree" at 2:15pm | Year 2 Christmas performance at 2:15pm   | Year 1 Christmas performance at 2:15pm  |

Kindest Regards

Mrs Price

## Our Stars! ★

|         |                    |
|---------|--------------------|
| Nursery | All of Nursery     |
| R1      | Nathan Onitsha     |
| R2      | Noah Simovic-      |
| R3      | Ivy Ruddock        |
| 1.1     | Heidi Hale         |
| 1.2     | Meera Amer         |
| 1.3     | Colin Lomas        |
| 2.1     | Ajay Sikipa        |
| 2.2     | Amity Taylor Owens |
| 2.3     | John Clegg         |
| 3.1     | Mia Doherty        |
| 3.2     | Jessica Hoos       |
| 3.3     | Dawid Sliwa        |
| 4.1     | Ela Ozturk         |
| 4.2     | Chloe Huang        |
| 4.3     | Quinton Yip        |
| 5.1     | Xitong Cai         |
| 5.2     | Jayden Chen        |
| 5.3     | Louie Donnelly     |
| 6.1     | Yuelin Chen        |
| 6.2     | Max Gonzalez       |
| 6.3     | Finch McGimpsey    |

**Important Dates**  
Please see the next  
few pages for  
December Dates



## Monksdown Primary Dates for the Diary

Friday 29th November – Own Clothes Day – letter sent out previously

Wednesday 4th December -2.1 visiting the Christmas Journey

Thursday 5th December -2.2 visiting the Christmas Journey

Friday 6th December -2.3 visiting the Christmas Journey

### Christmas Fair

Friday 6th December – Monksdown Christmas Fair (3pm-5pm)

All children must be accompanied by an adult

### Performances dates

Refreshments will be served for parents after each performance  
Please note children performing in the afternoons will be dismissed at 3pm as usual

### Tuesday 3rd December

Nursery "Sing a long" and Christmas Crafts at 9:15am

### Wednesday 4th December

Reception 1 Sing a long" and Christmas Crafts at 2:00pm

### Thursday 5th December

Reception 2 Sing a long" and Christmas Crafts at 2:00pm

### Friday 6th December

Reception 3 Sing a long" and Christmas Crafts at 10:00am

### Monday 9th December

Year 5 "Sing Around the Tree" performance at 9:15am

Year 6 "Sing Around the Tree" performance at 2:15pm

### Tuesday 10th December

Year 3 "Sing Around the Tree" performance at 9:15am

Year 4 "Sing Around the Tree" performance at 2:15pm

### Wednesday 11th December

Year 1 Christmas performance at 9:15am

Year 2 Christmas performance at 2:15pm

### Thursday 12th December

Year 2 Christmas performance at 9:15am

Year 1 Christmas performance at 2:15pm



### Christmas Lunches

Please note that if your child has a school dinner then a Christmas Dinner will be the only option this day.

#### Thursday 12th December

Christmas Lunch available for Year 3,4,5 and 6 only  
Reception, Y1 and Y2 pupils who have a school lunch will have a picnic lunch on this day

#### Friday 13th December

Christmas Lunch available for Reception, Year 1 and 2 only  
Year 3,4,5 and 6 who have a school lunch will have a picnic lunch on this day

### Party Day

Children can come in party clothes on their specific day below. They will also be having a party lunch this day for their school lunch. Children who have packed lunches are welcome to still bring them.

#### Monday 16th December

EYFS Party day

#### Tuesday 17th December

Year 3 and Year 6 Party Day

#### Wednesday 18th December

Year 4 and Year 5 Party Day

#### Thursday 19th December

Year 1 and Year 2 Party Day

#### Christmas Play Trip- Star Of Wonder (Year 5 and Year 6)

Please see letter for further information

Wednesday 18th December - 6.1 and 6.3

Thursday 19th December - 5.1 and 5.3

Friday 20th December 5.2 and 6.2



# Christmas Activities So Far...

## Nursery



## R1





## R2



## R3



## Uniform Reminder

Please remember children are not permitted to wear jewellery, nail varnish or false nails to school. This also applies for Party Days and Performances in the run up to Christmas

Thank you.

## 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.

## Wrap up warm

During the winter months it is really important that the children bring a coat to school . We try to get outdoors as much as possible and embrace the colder temperatures.

Please make sure that hats and gloves have names and class numbers indicated on them.



## Monksdown Pantry

Our pantry is once again 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**

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 bring any donations the school office

Thank You.

## Library Times

The library is open for children and parents on the following days

Monday—Nursery and Reception

Tuesday Year 1 and Year 2

Wednesday Years 3-6



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

## 1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

## 2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

## 3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

## 4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

## 5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

## 6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

## 7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

## 8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each another.

## 9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

## 10 REFLECT AND LEARN

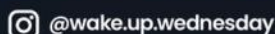
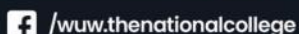
After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

## Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at:



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