



Monksdown Mail

Where Children Come First

Designated Safeguarding Leads :

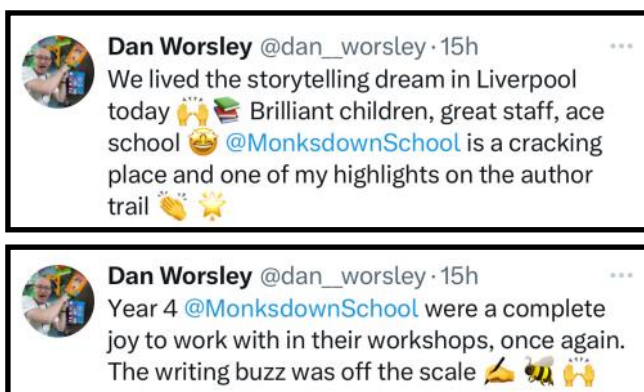
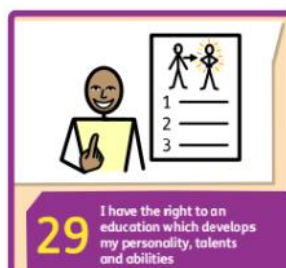


Mrs Russell and
Mrs Stewart
Deputy-Mrs Price

Friday 15th November 2024

Dear Families of Monksdown,

This week we were honoured to have our wonderful friend and Author Dan Worsley into school to work with the children of Monksdown. He held assemblies for all the children throughout the day, a author Q&A with Y3 and held workshops for Year 4 children looking at the theme of Anti-Bullying.



Dan is always a big hit with the children and he wanted me to pass on how welcome he always feels and how wonderful our children are. Dan has already been invited back for next year and we cannot wait!

Kindest Regards

Mrs Price

Our Stars! ★

Nursery	Chloe Wu
R1	Brody Evans
R2	Chi Yat Law
R3	Szymon Chojnacki
1.1	Dominic Kedzia
1.2	Brady Brown
1.3	Evelyn Balan
2.1	Corey Charlesworth
2.2	Alan Parzecki
2.3	Abdulazim Adebayo
3.1	Thomas Bates
3.2	James Bates
3.3	Daniel Morris
4.1	Yara Jabakhanji
4.2	Faith Daniels
4.3	Tehilah Manuwa
5.1	Kieran Flynn
5.2	Elliot Nichols
5.3	Alex-Leigh Blake-
6.1	Grace Flynn
6.2	Sophie Davies
6.3	Amanda Orogwu

Important Dates

Christmas Fair

Friday 6th December
3pm-5pm

National STEM Day

Last Friday, the children were tasked to think a little differently. They were asked to think like engineers! This meant they had to solve a problem presented to them by their teachers, given a series of equipment and then told to see what they could do.

STEM education refers to an approach to learning that focuses on four key areas: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. It is designed to promote the development of critical thinking, problem-solving skills, creativity, and collaboration in children from an early age.

Children from Nursery to Y6 attempted to build structures for different purposes and we all agreed that engineering takes a lot of problem solving and a LOT of perseverance!



Children In Need

Thank you to all our children who donated money to Children in Need.

Don't they look fantastic!



Children In Need



Monksdown Library Reopening

The Library is now open after school from 3pm on the following days

Monday—Nursery and Reception

Tuesday Year 1 and Year 2

Wednesday Years 3-6

The wonderful author Dan Worsley opened our Library this week and even donated some of his books to school



Key Stage 1 Reading Challenge

Last week we sent home have designed 9 fun and exciting different ways we would like you to try when reading. . You do not need to complete the challenges in order.

We would love to see some photographs or videos of you reading so please upload them to X (formerly Twitter) and tag Monksdown Primary School. In your post please use the hashtag @MonksdownReads. You can also hashtag your child's class.

#class11 #class12 #class13 #class21 #class22 #class23

Please bring your completed grid back into school by Friday 13 th December,.

If 15 children in your class complete the challenge you will win a games afternoon

If 20 children in your class complete the challenge you will win a movie afternoon

If all children in your class complete the challenge you will win a lucky dip surprise.... Could be a party afternoon.... Could be a picnic..... could be something else..... wait and see!

PE Kits

Please ensure your child either brings a PE kit with them to school or comes to school wearing school PE kit on their correct PE Date. This can be found on Learning letters or by asking your class teacher.

There have been lots of children either not bringing PE kit in or not coming to school dressed for PE and this will hamper their learning as they may not be able to fully participate in restrictive school clothes

Catholic Holy Communion at St Teresa's

St Teresa's are again offering help to parents of children in year 4 who are Baptised Catholics to start preparing for Holy Communion at St Teresa's church, Sedgemoor Rd.

Parents can obtain the **First Holy Communion Request Form** from the church, parish office or website from Sunday 1st December onwards.

Completed forms must be handed back in to the parish office along with the child's Baptism certificate by Friday **20th December**.

St Teresa's will contact you with all relevant information in January, for us to do so please ensure that your email address and phone number is clearly written

Parent Volunteers



We are looking to have a bank of parent volunteers to assist us on trips. This might be in your own child's class but could be in other year groups. This would involve filling in a DBS form.

If this sounds like something you are interested in, please request a DBS form from the office. You will need to provide 2 forms of ID when you return the form.

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 other.

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

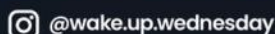
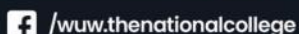
After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing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