



Monks Risborough

Church of England Primary School

A learning community- encouraging success, celebrating achievement, strengthened by God.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The ethos of our school is rooted in the value of 'community.' The support you provide through: helping in class, assisting in running clubs, raising much needed funds through the 'Friends' and lending your considerable range of skills across the school, enables us to provide and enrich a huge range of additional opportunities for the children that wouldn't otherwise be possible. We are also fortunate to have a number of parishioners and previous staff members come into Monks Risborough weekly to hear children read.

Our children greatly value the opportunities to work with and support each other across the school. Through activities such as community groups, reading buddies, newspaper club, school council and our class outcomes, children at Monks Risborough demonstrate confidence in mixing with each other across all year groups and have created a vibrant community in which to learn and worship. I have worked in a number of schools but none with a community that acts so positively to the benefit of all. This week has been another excellent example of the importance of this value which is so central to our school.

Mums in School Day

As a teaching staff we always do our best to provide the best possible education for your children. Like the children, we are always learning so that we can make Monks Risborough the very best that it can possibly be. Essentially, as you are well aware, parents are the children's first teachers and it is crucial that we have the opportunity to work alongside you to maximise your children's learning potential. Therefore I would like to say thank you to all of the parents who were able to come in and share in their children's learning yesterday. Sharing in this sends a very positive message to the children as well as being a lovely opportunity to gain an insight into their daily life at school (I hope you had the opportunity to learn a thing or two as well!)

Lent Service at St Dunstons

On Wednesday the whole school went to St Dunstons for our annual Lent Service. The children learnt about how this time of year is marked and celebrated in the Christian calendar through specific days such as Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. For the first time we tried seating the children in mixed year groups, enabling them to support each other with their walk to church and finding pages in the hymn books (which can be particularly challenging for some of our younger pupils). The children acted with great care towards each other, sung very well and were supported beautifully by our school orchestra the Minstrels. Again, another super example of how our children support each other within our school community.

Lent is very much a time of reflection and this is highlighted by Jesus spending 40 days and nights in the wilderness, to enable him to get closer to God. While Jesus was in the wilderness, he demonstrated respect to God by not eating or drinking for this period of time and resisting the temptation to do so. As a result, it is common for Christians to 'give something up' for the period of lent. However, as a school community we can also deepen our understanding and live out our Christian values by doing something positive each day for someone else. The following website provides a 'generosity' challenge that you could discuss and set for your children and yourselves:

<https://40acts.org.uk/>

I would recommend clicking the above hyperlink and going straight to the blog page where you can access a generosity challenge each day for the remainder of Lent.

Litter Picking in Princes Risborough

'The Wombles of Risborough'

Are you like me and hate litter?! Some of you may have noticed small groups of us wearing Hi-Viz vests picking up litter with grabbers & bin bags on Sunday mornings around Risborough over the past few months. This is part of a new initiative to help make a positive difference in our local community and surrounding Chilterns. Routes walked so far include sections of Picts Lane, Shootacre Lane, Lower Icknield Way, the main Wycombe/Aylesbury Road, Poppy Road, Pyrtle Springs, Whiteleaf carpark and viewpoint. Station Road, Summerleys Road, Horsenden Lane; The Ridgeway, Longwick Road, Wades Park, Peters lane, Mill Lane plus adjoining footpaths. You are invited to join us for future Litter picking walks such as the one on Sunday 25th March. Litter pickers/grabbers, bin bags and hi viz tabards are provided to those who do not have their own (we can borrow a limited number from the town council). Volunteers need to provide their own heavy duty protective gloves and wear sturdy footwear & suitable clothes for the weather. We liaise between ourselves or with the Town Council re the collection of filled bin bags, most of the time separating out the recyclable items before putting the rest in our black bins or going to the dump. We are calling on, want to connect and work together with individuals, volunteer groups, local councils, businesses and school to do their bit. In the future it would be great to get the younger generation involved and perhaps invite children to design posters to promote the 'Keep Risborough Tidy' initiative.

Contact Catherine Campbell cathwes@hotmail.com or phone 01844 274962 or text 07746368085 if you would like to become involved or have suggestions of other litter hotspots in the Risborough area that we should tackle on our next walks.

Shoo Rayner Illustrator

Everyone at Monks Risborough have been thoroughly inspired by Shoo Rayner today. As well as publishing many of his own books, the visiting illustrator has worked with some world renowned authors such as Michael Morpurgo. Shoo (or his real name Hugh as he told us in assembly this morning), had all of the children captivated as he talked about his life and experiences as an illustrator. Throughout the rest of the day Shoo has supported children in developing their illustration skills, which communicates so much information within books. He also fed in significant information to each class about the countries they are studying within Book Week.

Book Week

As next week is Book Week, I am sending a small reminder that children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character or join in with staff as Where's Wally on World Book Day 1st March.

Parents Evening

Just a quick reminder that it is our school's parents evening next Monday and Wednesday. If you are not able to attend, please contact the school office so that another appointment can be made.

A Message from James

Mothering Sunday All Age Family Service at St. Dunstan's, March 11th at 10 am:

For many centuries 'Mothering' Sunday has been observed as a day when we give thanks to God for the Church, which like a mother, nurtures us in our spiritual life. It is also a time when we give thanks for our own human mothers and for all who show qualities of mothering to others. Everyone is invited to an all age family service at St. Dunstan's at 10 am at which the **Junior Choir** will sing. Rev James Tomkins 01844 275944 jamestomkins@btinternet.com

As always, my priority is your child's happiness, welfare and learning. Should you have any concerns regarding any of these, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me.

Best Wishes,

Tom Baskerville
Head Teacher

Attendance

To date, 49 children still have 100% attendance. This week 6 children were late, 2 children attended medical appointments. There was 1 child absent due to holidays or other unauthorised absences.

POLITE REMINDER THAT THE SCHOOL GATES CLOSE AT 8.45AM

February

Monday 26th	Book Fair & Book Week Energize Rehearsal Parents Evening 5pm - 8pm
Wednesday 28th	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 6.30pm

March

Thursday 1st	World Book Day - Dress as a book character
Thursday 8th	Book Look after school
Friday 9th	Film Club
Monday 12th	Perfect Parking Week
Tuesday 13th	Cross Country KS2 at Monks Risborough School 1.15 pm
Wednesday 14th	Schools in Harmony Rehearsal 9.15 am
Thursday 15th	Cross Country KS1 at Speen 1pm
Friday 16th	Hawks outcome in classroom 2.30pm Rehearsal 9 am Energize Performance 7 pm The Swan Theatre
Saturday 17th	Energize Performance 2 pm The Swan Theatre
Monday 19th	Eagles to Calshot
Tuesday 20th	Falcons Bikeability
Wednesday 21st	Falcons Bikeability
Thursday 22nd	Falcons Bikeability
	Kites Great Fire of London Day in Hall
Friday 23rd	Sports Relief in school details to follow

Sunday 25th

Friends Muddy Monks Run

Monday 26th

Mufti & Easter Fair 3.30 pm

Tuesday 27th

Kites outcome 2.30pm

Robins outcome to Eagles 2.15pm

Wednesday 28th

Easter Service KS2 Wrens & Kestrels 9.30am

Schools in Harmony Performance 7pm

Thursday 29th

Easter Service KS2 Robins & Kites 10.30am

Kestrels to Ashmolean

Eagles outcome 2.30pm

Friday 30th

Last Day of Term

Good Friday

SCHOOL TERM DATES

	School opens on the morning of	School closes on the afternoon of
	Monday 19 th February	Thursday 29 th March (Good Friday 30th March)
Summer 2018	Monday 16 th April	Thursday 24 th May (NB. INSET day Friday 25th May)
	Monday 4 th June	Tuesday 24 th July
Autumn 2018	Thursday 6 th September (NB. INSET day Wednesday 5th September)	Friday 19 th October
	Monday 29 th October	Wednesday 19 th December
Spring 2019	Thursday 3 rd January (NB. INSET day Wednesday 2nd January)	Friday 15 th February
	Monday 25 th February	Friday 5 th April
Summer 2019	Wednesday 24 th April (NB. INSET day Tuesday 23rd April)	Friday 24 th May
	Monday 3 rd June	Wednesday 24 th July

For the complete calendar of school dates please see the website www.monksrisboroughprimary.com

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