



Monks Risborough

Church of England Primary School

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

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are enjoying the wide variety of Summer Term events as much as your children appear to be. The Summer Term is always action packed which leads to the children having so much fun and many outstanding learning opportunities. As the end of the school year draws near, these opportunities do not stop and the next few weeks are filled with what will undoubtedly be a number of memorable occasions.

Fabulous Friends

I have been absolutely stunned by the support of all of the Friends, for our school, this academic year. The work that went into holding our Summer Fair was extraordinary and, after many years of attending School Fairs, this was undoubtedly the best I have attended. There was such a wide range of activities for families to take part in, from Pony grooming to a Science Lab, and I had feedback from many members of the wider Monks Risborough community, as well as our own School Community, informing me that they had had a thoroughly enjoyable day. I would like to say a particular thank you to Anne Stonehewer, who has worked so hard as our new Chair of the Friends committee, putting in an unbelievable amount of time into developing the organisation further, as well as Cassie Kelkowitz and Lynsey Everett for the huge amount of organisation they put into the Summer Fair alongside Anne.

The net profit raised from our Summer Fair was in excess of £4,200 which is almost double the amount of money we have, on average, historically raised.

This weekend the Friends will be hosting our annual Campathon and Triathlon. These events always prove to be highly enjoyable for children and parents alike. The Triathlon is a challenge but highly inclusive, if your child has not taken part in it before; encourage them to do so as they will feel incredibly proud of themselves when they finish (which they will do). In particular, I would like to thank Martin Felix and Emma Lumb for championing these events. Please note, in order to cater for everyone, an important football match will be shown live in the School Hall on Saturday – so you do not need to hesitate about coming along and setting up your tent!

Each year our school runs a budget which is entirely cost neutral. This means that additional resources required to sustain and improve the educational experience for your children is reliant on what we, as a community, can raise in additional funds. Alongside the appointment of a Sports Assistant and changes to our hot meals providers (both from within our schools budget), the resources we will purchase from the money the Friends have raised, will be transformational in the playtime experiences your children will receive and contribute to improving a number of the outside areas across the school.

Magical Monks Musicians

Music does not get much better than what is performed at Monks. Last week, our many musicians in KS2 treated their parents to an evening of high quality, classical music and fabulous singing at our Summer Music Concert. On Wednesday, our choirs and musicians held their own concert, as part of the Risborough Festival, at St Mary's Church. Once again, a number of members of the public fed back to me about how impressed they were with the diverse range of music and instruments that were performed. Learning to play any instrument requires a significant amount of dedication, determination and discipline and all of our choirs and musicians should be extremely proud of themselves.

Arriving at School

It is wonderful that so many children want to get into school early. However, there are many children that are being left at the school premises long before 8.30am. At this time in the morning there is no one to look after them. Please can you ensure your child is not being left unattended at school prior to this time.

In preparation for the next academic year, as requested by some of the Reception Parents, it would be great if for the last couple of weeks of term the children in Robins were left at the gate to walk into school by themselves. We will ensure that a member of staff is manning the gates so that you can be reassured they are safely on site. This will help to build their independence a little more as they transition into Year 1.

School Visits

Last week, Wrens went on a school trip to Kew Gardens. All of the children had a brilliant time and followed this up with some excellent writing about plants they had seen. The tree top bridges were a particular highlight for the children (although they were also particularly scary for some of the adults!)

Red Kites visited Amersham Field Studies Centre. Lots of children in Year 2 were very enthusiastic in telling me about the different mini-beasts they found and the woodland environment they got to explore.

Sports Day

It was not only the sun that was shining on Sports Day; across the school all of the children performed to the best of their abilities, in a range of disciplines. We have some terrific athletes, who put in some memorable performances, however the spirit of the day was demonstrated in the way that the children cheered on, supported and were so inclusive of each other, no matter what position they finished. It was also great to see so many parents attend, adding to the atmosphere and enjoyment of the day.

Hot Meals Service

Last week you will have received a letter regarding our new hot meals provider, Innovate. If you have not read this letter, please do so, as it contains some crucial information about how to order food for the next academic year. Innovate will be providing a tasting and information session on Thursday 19th July at 3.30pm please do come along. [...\\Hot Meals\\Parent invitation to Innovate Taster session v2.pdf](#)

School Transition Day

Children reported to me that they had a thoroughly enjoyable day on Tuesday as they visited their new classes and teachers. If you have any concerns about the upcoming year, both your child's current and next class teachers are very happy to discuss these with you to ensure transition is smooth.

Year 6 Production

Eagles have been practising hard for their upcoming performances of 'Kitty Wittington,' our Year 6 production. Performances will take place on Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th July at 7pm and Wednesday 11th at 10.30am. If you do not have children in Year 6 but would like to attend, there are tickets available. Please ask a member of Office Staff for further details.

School Reports

Our School reports are almost complete but we are waiting for the results of our KS2 SATS before we can finally print them and send them home. School reports will come home on either Friday 13th or Monday 16th July, which is dependent on printing, checking and collating.

Super Staff

I would like to end this newsletter by saying a huge 'thank you' to my incredibly talented and giving staff team. Over the past three years our budget has become increasingly tight, the size of our staff has decreased but the number of opportunities and the quality of education your children receive has increased. In order for our school to be highly inclusive, continue to deliver the learning experiences your children enjoy so much, such as swimming and residential, and ensure it is a safe environment for your children to learn, our staff have had to be increasingly flexible on a daily basis to cover a variety of additional duties (and each other) to enable this to happen. I very much hope you feel your children have received a broad and rich curriculum this year, with a variety of extra-curricular opportunities, but I also wanted to state my thanks to the staff, at such a busy time of the year, for the absolutely phenomenal job they do on a daily basis.

As always the well-being, happiness and progress of your children are my top priorities. Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me.

I wish you a restful half-term break.

Kind regards,

Tom Baskerville

Attendance

Since our return from Half term 126 children have 100% attendance. During this time 8 children were late, 14 children attended medical appointments. There were 7 children absent due to holidays or other unauthorised absences.

POLITE REMINDER THAT THE SCHOOL GATES CLOSE AT 8.45AM

Dates

July

Tuesday 10th	Eagles Production 'Kitty Whittington' to Parents 7pm
Wednesday 11th	Eagles Production 'Kitty Whittington' to Parishioners 10.30am
Thursday 12th	Eagles Production 'Kitty Whittington' to Parents 7pm
Friday 13th	Gym & Dance Festival at PRS Rehearsal 9.15am - 11.30am Helpers Parents Tea Party 1.30pm - 3pm

Monday 16th	Parent & Sons Talk for Year 5 boys 2pm
Tuesday 17th	Hawks outcome Hall 2pm
Wednesday 18th	Whole Clock Sports in school 9.15am
Thursday 19th	Wrens outcome KS2 playground 2.15pm Robins outcome Field/Hall if wet 2.30pm Innovate Parent taster session for hot meals 3.30pm
Friday 20th	Kites outcome playground 2.15pm Film Club 3.30pm

Monday 23^d	Eagles Leavers BBQ 6.30pm
Tuesday 24th	Leaver's Service at St Dunstan's 9.30am Last Day of School Year

September

Wednesday 5th	INSET DAY
Thursday 6th	First day of School
Friday 7th	Parent Consultations for Robins Parent Consultations for Robins

Monday 10th	First Day for Robins
Tuesday 11th	11+ Practice Test
Thursday 13th	11+ Test

Tuesday 18th	Class Photographs
Friday 21st	INSET DAY

October

Friday 19th	Last Day of Half Term
Monday 29th	First Day of Term
Wednesday 31st	Open Morning Reception 9.30am - 11am

November

Thursday 1st	Open Morning Reception 9.30am - 11am
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December

Wednesday 19th	Last Day of Term
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January 2019

Wednesday 2nd	INSET DAY
Thursday 3rd	First Day of Term

SCHOOL TERM DATES

	School opens on the morning of	School closes on the afternoon of
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
Autumn 2019	Wednesday 4 th September (NB. INSET days Mon 2nd & Tues 3rd September)	Friday 25 th October
	Monday 4 th November	Thursday 19 th December
Spring 2020	Tuesday 7 th January (NB. INSET day Monday 6th January)	Friday 14 th February

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

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