



Monks Risborough

Church of England Primary School

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

Friday 15th September

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been a settled start to the Autumn Term and I have been very impressed with how well all the children have begun, particularly those who are new to our school in the Foundation Stage and Year 3. Yesterday we had a visit from seven head teachers from schools across the Wycombe area and they commented on the lovely manners our children displayed and our amazing locality. Every day, I still feel incredibly lucky to be the head teacher of such a wonderful school and group of children.

In the last two and a half years the school has changed immeasurably and we are determined to make sure we stay abreast of current educational thinking through evidence based research. One example of this is a project Mrs Swain and Miss Robinson have been carrying out in our school with Cambridge University, identifying the impact of different types of teacher talk upon learning in the classroom. Next month they will be attending a conference to find out the results of the nationwide study. The information will inform us, as a staff team, as to the next steps we can take to maximize the learning potential within the classroom. Another example is an action research project we have set up across all schools in Wycombe, focusing on developing resilience. Last year, this resulted in our growth mindset approach to teaching and learning being instilled across the school.

The Governing Body have become increasingly outward looking over the last year; ensuring that we remain aware of the future educational landscape by attending a number of briefings about multi academy trusts - some of which a number of our local primary schools have joined. The context, ethos, needs and finances of all schools are very different and our governors are fully committed to ensuring that our school constantly remains best placed to maximize these, and in turn the learning opportunities for our children, by keeping themselves aware of the educational opportunities and routes available.

With an ambitious staff, strong governing body and wonderful community, this year I am looking forward to us continuing to embed our exciting curriculum so that in the not too distant future we will be recognised as an outstanding school in all areas.

Raise vital funds for your children's school

As with most schools, our budget has become increasingly tight over the last few years and we have an entirely break even budget with every penny accounted for. This means that we have to make difficult decisions about levels of staffing and the services bought into the school. We are therefore exceptionally reliant on the funds raised by the 'Monks Friends' to provide additional resources and learning opportunities. As a parent community you are very generous in so many ways, such as: raising money, offering your own skills and services, as well as helping out in class. To be able to improve (or simply maintain) the level of education we provide we do need to explore further opportunities. One very simple thing I ask you to do is click the link below to carry out your online shopping. This website will direct you immediately to your choice of online shop but the school will receive a donation every time. This will require 5 minutes of your time the first time you use it (no more) and one additional click each time after that - but it can raise the school thousands! It is so easy to think 'I will do this later' but it would make a significant difference to your child's learning. Additionally, it is time to refresh our school football and cross country kits - if there are any local companies who would like to sponsor the kits, please let me know.

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/monksrisboroughps/?utm_campaign=cause-engagement&utm_content=ce-ftl_20161017&tag=\(KEY:CEA01\)&utm_medium=email&utm_source=emailvision](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/monksrisboroughps/?utm_campaign=cause-engagement&utm_content=ce-ftl_20161017&tag=(KEY:CEA01)&utm_medium=email&utm_source=emailvision)

What has the school bought with money from the Friends?

Following our 'Run to Rio' and money raised last year, over the summer holidays we have had high speed broadband installed as well as a class set of 32 Chromebooks. This has both doubled the capacity for IT use within the school as well as provided the teachers with the opportunity to fully embed IT into every day teaching and learning within the classroom. Thank you so much for helping to raise funds and enabling the school to achieve this goal; this is a vital area of the curriculum we now feel well equipped to deliver.

Monks Risborough on the Radio

If you had been listening to Radio 2 at 8.15am on Wednesday, you will have heard the interview with Emma Pearl (Roald Dahl's Niece and former pupil of our school) which was shared with our school last year. September 13th is the Annual Roald Dahl Day, and the interview was played live on air. As well as being a wonderful insight into Roald Dahl, it also finishes with him giving a special message to the pupils of our school. You can listen to the interview on the link below and it will also be available again soon our school website.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05fyjpc>

Meet the Teacher

Hopefully most parents will have been able to attend our meet the teacher briefings. If you didn't you should have received a letter providing you with key information for your year group. We do recognise that not all parents will be able to get time off work to attend and if you should wish to make a separate appointment to meet with the class teacher, please do via the school office.

Monday Mile

The Monday Mile will begin again on Monday 18th September! I have attached an interesting article from the Guardian as to why exercise is so important. Please can you ensure that your children's trainers are in school.

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2017/aug/28/young-at-heart-why-children-who-exercise-become-healthier-adults>

Attendance

Attendance: 6th Sept - 15th Sept

Reception	100%
Year 1	98%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	98%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	100%

Attendance: 6th Sept – 15th Sept

Reception	94%
Year 1	98%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	99%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	98%

Children learn best when the school and parents work in partnership with each other. Please do come in and speak to the teachers or myself if there is anything that is concerning you as the well-being of your child is our first priority.

Best Wishes,

Tom Baskerville

Head Teacher

Dates

2017

September

Monday 18th

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday 22nd

Tuesday 26th

Monday Mile

Footsteps training Kites 1.30pm

Guitar & Woodwind lessons start

Footsteps training Kites 1.30pm

Jeans for Genes Day

Reception Parents Cheese & Wine Evening 7pm - 9pm

Parent Book Look 3.30pm

October

Walk to School Month

Black History Month

Monday 2nd

Tuesday 3rd

Thursday 5th

Friday 13th

Saturday 14th

Monday 16th

Wednesday 18th

Friday 20th

Monday 30th

Tuesday 31st

Harvest Festival at St Dunstan's Church 9.30am

German Unity Day

Dad's in School

Be Bright, Be Seen Day

Bingo & Quiz Night

STEM Week

Parents Evening 5pm - 8pm

Parents Evening 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Last Day of Half Term

INSET Day

First Day of School

November

Friday 3rd

Tuesday 7th

Wednesday 8th

Thursday 9th

Saturday 11th

Monday 13th

Friday 17th

Disco

Open Morning for Reception & Year 3 September 2018 intake 9.30am

Individual & Family Photographs

Open Morning for Reception & Year 3 September 2018 intake 9.30am

Adult Friends Evenings

Anti-Bullying Week

Children in Need

Wednesday 22nd
Friday 24th
December

Parent Curriculum Evening 7.45pm
Mufti Day for Christmas Hampers

Monday 4th
Thursday 7th
Friday 8th
Wednesday 13th

Carols in Community 6pm
Nativity to Parents 1.45pm
Nativity to Parents 1.45pm
Christmas Lunch Whole School
Christmas Concert 7pm School Hall
Christmas Party Falcons & Eagles 1.30pm
Christmas Party Kestrels & Hawks 1.30pm
Christmas Service at St Dunstan's Church KS2 Robins & Kites 9.30am
Christmas Party Robins, Wrens & Kites 1.30pm
Christmas Service at St Dunstan's Church KS2 & Wrens 9.30am
Last Day of Term

Thursday 14th
Friday 15th
Monday 18th

Tuesday 19th

SCHOOL TERM DATES

	School opens on the morning of	School closes on the afternoon of
Autumn 2017	Wednesday 6 th September (NB. INSET days 4 th & 5 th September)	Friday 20 th October
	Tuesday 31 st October (N.B INSET day Monday 30 th October)	Tuesday 19 th December
Spring 2018	Thursday 4 th January (N.B INSET day Wednesday 3 rd January)	Friday 9 th February
	Monday 19 th February	Thursday 29 th March (Good Friday 30 th March)
Summer 2018	Monday 16 th April	Thursday 24 th May (NB. INSET day Friday 25 th May)
	Monday 4 th June	Tuesday 24 th July
Autumn 2018	Thursday 6 th September (NB. INSET day Wednesday 5 th September)	Friday 19 th October

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

(Please note changes to the calendar are in bold and italic)

Peters Lane, Monks Risborough, Bucks. HP27 9LZ Tel: 01844 345590 Reg. Charity No. 1073117
Email: office@mrisbury.bucks.sch.uk Head Teacher: Mr T Baskerville

