



# Monks Risborough Church of England Primary School

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

## **Newsletter 4** **10<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Although this is the shortest half term of the year, the children have crammed in an incredible amount of learning and below I have detailed a few of these highlights. Additionally some of our longer term projects are beginning to come to fruition which will have a tremendous impact on the school in the years to come.

### Launching into Cyber-Space

Last year we set ourselves the target of raising enough money to buy a class set of laptops. I am pleased to inform you that following a number of fund raising efforts, alongside careful budgeting, we have now raised the necessary funds to enable this to happen. In January we bought 8 new chrome books and will purchase an additional 24 later in the year when the School's broadband has been upgraded. Over the next 12 months these will add a completely new dimension to learning in the classroom, as technology will be embedded across the entire curriculum. We are extremely grateful for the help, time and support of all members of the community, particularly the 'Friends' in enabling us to achieve this.

### Monks Risborough Twitter

To provide you with further insight into the life of the school, we now have our own twitter page. Over time we will be developing this online tool further to provide you with greater communication. Please log on to the link below.

[https://twitter.com/monks\\_school](https://twitter.com/monks_school)

### Reading in the Community

In order to inspire reading opportunities within in our school, Mr Mullen has been developing links with St Dunstan's Church. Through engaging with parishioners, we now have twelve members of the St Dunstan's congregation who have undertaken some basic training and agreed to come into school on a regular basis to help support with reading. We look forward to welcoming them into our school.

### Young Voices

A few weeks ago, a number of children in Years 5 and 6 joined 7,000 other children across the country, as they took part in a concert at the O2 as members of the 'Young Voices Choir.' I have heard many reports from children, parents and staff about how amazing this experience was and what brilliant representatives they were of Monks Risborough. Last Friday, the rest of the school got a small taste of their concert as they performed a couple of the many songs they learnt to the rest of the school. Well done Years 5 and 6!

### A Place to Stop, Pause and Reflect

This half term, our Worship Leaders, alongside Miss Gehnich, Mrs Hollyer, Mrs Naish and Mr Stannett have planned out and developed a 'Reflection Area' between the KS1 and KS2 buildings. This area is a peaceful place where children can go to pray, reflect or simply use for some quiet time. Last Monday the whole school gathered as Reverend James Tomkins blessed and opened this new area.

### Our friends at Oakridge School

This year Hawks Class have been undertaking our School Linking Network project with Oakridge School. Two weeks ago the children in Year 4 went to Princes Risborough Secondary School where they met their new friends for the first time. I was very impressed with the confidence and social skills of the children at our school as they embraced this opportunity, demonstrating the value of friendship, confidently getting to know the children from Oakridge. Well done Hawks Class.

### Stepping back into Ancient Egypt

Last week Kestrel Class enjoyed a visit to the Pitt Rivers and Natural History Museums in Oxford. Here, the children took part in a hands-on learning session and were able to explore a number of incredible artefacts that they have been exploring in their learning - with highlights being the mystical mummies and dinosaur bones!

**Peters Lane, Monks Risborough, Bucks. HP27 9LZ Tel: 01844 345590 Reg. Charity No. 1073117**  
**Email: [office@mrisborough.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@mrisborough.bucks.sch.uk) Head Teacher: Mr T Baskerville**





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## Updated Progress Information

At this half term's Parent Forum, keeping track of children's progress was discussed. As a result, in order to provide you with a greater indication of how well your children are learning, at Parents Evening we will be providing you with an individually highlighted objective sheet that will show you exactly where your child is in relation to the national expectations and how close they are to meeting their targets.

## Staffing

We have appointed Mrs Hanson-Bond as a full time Teaching Assistant. Mrs Hanson-Bond will be starting with us after the half-term break. We also welcome back Mrs Stratfor, who will be working two afternoons per week in Hawks class.

## Note from James

Monks Risborough 'Pop-up' Cinema at St. Dunstan's Church: 'The BFG' (PG): Saturday February 25th at 6 pm. A fabulous adaptation of Roald Dahl's novel starring Mark Rylance as the Big Friendly Giant (BFG). 'Eddie the Eagle' (PG): Saturday March 4th at 7 pm. Comedy sports drama inspired by the true life story of Michael Edwards, Britain's most famous ski jumper. Bring your own snacks/drinks. Tickets available on the door: adults - £3, children - £1. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Free singing course during the Easter holidays: I have three free places for a daily singing course in Oxford from April 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2017. Three children from St. Dunstan's church choir (including past/present pupils of the school) are attending and it would be great if other children (aged 8-11) would like to take up this fantastic opportunity. The idea is to improve the standard of the singing of choral music, receive expert tuition and have fun at the same time. For further information please click on this link <http://www.rscm-oxford.org.uk/eastercourse17.htmor> or speak with James Tomkins (01844 275944 [jamestomkins@btinternet.com](mailto:jamestomkins@btinternet.com)) or Sarah Fairall

## Are you Parking Positively?

I have been contacted several times since Christmas by both parents and local residents in Mill Lane and Peters Lane about the need to increase the care and attention that is paid to parking around the school. A number of these calls have not been to moan but out of genuine concern for the safety of our children. Please can you ensure that you do not park right at the end of the roads, obstructing the view of traffic or on double yellow lines. It is a fact that with everything that any school does to ensure the safety of children, the most likely way for a child to get seriously hurt is by cars within 50 yards of the school gate.

## How Smart are We?

Please can I remind all parents to look at our uniform requirements on the website. We have had a number of children coming to school without ties and appropriate uniform. Please can you also ensure that children wear predominantly black trainers. There are a number of occasions where children wear trainers or plimsolls in school and if they are not black it significantly reduces the high standards we are trying to promote.

As always, the education, happiness and well-being of your child is my main priority. If you do have any concerns about your child, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I wish you a relaxing half term and look forward to seeing your children back in school on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

With best wishes,

Mr Baskerville

Head Teacher

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## School Term Events

### February

- Monday 20<sup>th</sup>** *First Day of School*  
*Eagles (Yr6) to Calshot*  
*Falcons (Yr5) Spokes Cycling Training for 3 days*
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>** *Robins (Rec) Car Rally class outcome*
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup>** *Eagles (Yr6) return from Calshot*
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup>** *Book Week – Book Fair 3.30pm to 4.15pm every day*  
*Parents Evening 5pm – 8pm*
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>** *Grand Book Swap in School*

### March

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>** *Ash Wednesday Service at St Dunstan's 9.30am*  
*Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm*
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>** *Official World Book Day – Available parents in school sharing their favourite books*
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>** *Dress up as Roald Dahl character for the day*  
*Teacher swap classes' day*
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup>** *Kites (Yr2) Great Fire of London Day*
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** *Kestrels (Yr3) class outcome Egyptians 2.30pm in class*
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>** *KS1 Cross Country at Speen*  
*Parent Book Look 3.30pm*
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>** *Hawks (Yr4) to Shortenills*
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup>** *Hawks (Y4) return from Shortenills*
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>** *Hawks (Yr4) Day with Oakridge School*
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>** *Robins (Rec) to Bekonscot*
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup>** *Kites (Yr2) to Maidenhead Synagogue morning only.*
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup>** *Red Nose Day*  
*Film Club for Gardening Club*
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>** *Easter Service led by Hawks (Yr4) Robins, Kites, Falcons & Eagles to attend*
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup>** *Easter Service led by Hawks (Yr4) Wrens, Kestrels, Falcons & Eagles to attend*

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## School Disco

### April

Tuesday 18th First Day of School

### May

Monday 1st Bank Holiday  
Friday 26th Last Day of half term

### June

Monday 5th INSET Day  
Tuesday 6th First Day of School

### July

Friday 21st Last Day of School Year.

## SCHOOL TERM DATES

	School opens on the morning of	School closes on the afternoon of
<b>Spring 2017</b>	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January (NB. INSET day Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January)	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February
	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March
<b>Summer 2017</b>	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April (NB. Bank Holiday 1 <sup>st</sup> May)	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May
	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June (NB. INSET day Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June)	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July
<b>Autumn 2017</b>	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September (NB. INSET days 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> September)	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October

For the complete calendar of school dates please see the website [www.monksrisboroughprimary.com](http://www.monksrisboroughprimary.com)

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

### Attendance

#### Attendance: Sept to Feb 2015- 2016

Reception	97%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	98%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	95%

#### Attendance: Sept to Feb 2016 - 2017

Reception	97%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	94%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	98%

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