



Monks Risborough

Church of England Primary School

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

Dear Parents,

Quite simply, weeks like this reaffirm to me that Monks Risborough is one of the best places you could ever hope to come to learn or work. In my view a primary school often provides the 'heartbeat' for a community and this week: the fun, enjoyment, learning experiences and community involvement have certainly come to the fore.

Harvest Festival by Ella Stewart Falcons

On Monday 2nd October we went down to St Dunstan's Church to celebrate harvest. Each class performed a little show or a song. Robins, Wrens and Kites all sang 'Let it grow' to the tune of 'Let it go.' Kestrels performed a song with sign language, Hawks sang a harvest song, Falcons performed a little play of the 'Little Red Hen' and Eagles read a harvest poem.

German Unity Day by Zanirah Rashid Falcons

On Tuesday 3rd October we celebrated German Unity Day. The reason we did this was so we could learn about the Berlin Wall and German traditions. We each went around in our house groups enjoying the activities such as food tasting, German rounders, and dancing, singing and German art. My favourite was the German rounders because everyone got involved and it was nice to know there were simple German sports.

Dad's in School Day

It was so good to see so many dads and grandparents in school yesterday. The children I spoke to thoroughly enjoyed having their parents in lessons and the teachers were also thrilled to have a little extra support. I do hope that if you were able to attend you felt as if you had a flavour of what the learning experience at Monks Risborough is like for your children. I would also like to say a special thank you to Mr Middleton who set a great example to the children coming fully prepared with his pencil case, fluorescent clothing and School Tie!

Walk to School Week

Next week is our 'Walk to School Week'; yesterday you should have received information from the School Travel Team regarding this.

'For Walk to School Week the JRSO's are going to be selling reflective items such as slap bands and keyrings, so if the children could bring money in that would be great. We are also doing a competition for posters to be put round Peter's Lane and Mill Lane, encouraging people to drive safely. For example School, Slow 30 or 20, No Parking Zone. If you walk to and from school then your class is in with a chance of winning a prize. 'Get Walking' By Ben Giles JRSO

A few brief highlights:

- Monday to Friday Class Teacher will be joining children walking to school from St Dunstan's Park. Please join them and reduce traffic around Peters Lane. The teachers will be – Monday – Mr Mullen, Tuesday – Mr Baskerville and Ms Morris, Wednesday – Mrs Swain, Thursday – Miss Gehnich and Miss Jeffrey, Friday – Miss Robinson.
- Thursday 'Walk to School Breakfast' 8.15am
- A 'Walk to School Scavenger Hunt'
- A prize for the class that carries out the most walks to school

I would like to thank the School Travel Team in advance for their hard work in organising this event and encouraging the children to choose a healthier way of coming to school.

Selecting Children for Sports Events

All schools are given a set amount of School Sports Funding from the government and it is up to us to decide how we choose to spend this to involve all children in physical activity. Part of this funding we spend on the Princes Risborough Secondary School Sports Partnership. This provides our school with a specialist PE teacher to come and work with all of our staff individually, across the year, to develop their skills. It also provides the sporting festivals children from each year group take part in.

On a few occasions, the question about how children are selected for sports festival events (sporting events through or partnership) arises. I have received a number of different opinions over time about which children should be selected and how often. It has been noted by parents that some children appear to attend a number of events and others very few which I will ensure changes.

I have worked in large schools with football teams that have been incredibly successful (playing at Wembley as the South East England Champions), I have also worked at schools where there were only 15 children in a year group who played against other schools have lost every game. The interesting thing is that in the school with only 15 children, every child got to take part in every event and in the larger school this didn't happen. In my experience the opportunity to take part was what mattered most to the children collectively, not whether they won or lost.

Aside from the Cross Country, the events undertaken at the School Sports Partnership are entirely inclusive, not based on ability. From the beginning of this academic year, we will/have been keeping a spreadsheet of the opportunities children have had to take part in sporting events so that by the time they finish Year 6 they will have had equal opportunities for school sports participation. A number of events don't involve a whole class of children so please be aware they will not be selected for every event. Cross Country is slightly different as the races are exceptionally challenging, slightly intimidating and not 'team' focused – every year a number of children 'drop out' as they do not have the capacity to finish. In this event a few of the places are selected for the most able and remaining places are provided to children who attend the cross country club.

As we do provide inclusive opportunities, our school football team (after school football) is also selected on ability. However, the children are always selected from their own year group first and on a number of occasions children are still needed from other year groups to be able to put a team out. If there are more children in the football club than can take part, we will organise friendlies to ensure every child gets a match at some point throughout the year.

On occasion I do hear about opportunities for extending gifted and talented children. If you feel that your child is particularly talented at a sport, please let me know and I will try to find out if there are further opportunities available for them.

Booster Seats

In travelling to events, I have been informed that last year some children did not use the booster seats they were sent to school with. For all events, please ensure your child comes to school with an appropriate booster seat with their name attached – if they don't they won't be able to go. I have attached information about the legal requirements for the use of booster seats <https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules>

Year 2 Multi-Sports Festival by Teagan Banks Kites

'Year 2 went to multi skills and did lots of different ball games. We did running and jumping, we did bouncing a ball and we did balancing a ball on a tennis racket and lots of other ball games.

Note from James - Sing Along 'Mamma Mia' Friday October 13th

Come to the ABBA Mamma Mia Family Dinner and Movie night at St. Dunstan's Church! Dinner is from 6.00pm & movie from 7.00-9.00pm. Suitable for all the family - tickets cost: £10.00 per adult and £5.00 per under 16, Family ticket £25.00. To book your tickets [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mamma-mia-movie-and-dinner-at-st-dunstans-for-world-vision-tickets-37622052572) – 'Mamma Mia St Dunstan's World Vision' <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mamma-mia-movie-and-dinner-at-st-dunstans-for-world-vision-tickets-37622052572> World Vision is involved in numerous projects to help relieve poverty e.g. providing a water bore hole for a village or bicycles for children to get to school and to get to market.

A Note from the Friends of Monks Risborough

The next meeting will be on Monday at 7.30pm in Dukes, all are welcome. Please send into the office any Bingo & Quiz ticket request as soon as possible. Thank you Anne Stonehewer

Attendance

Attendance: 22nd Sept 2016 – 6th Oct 2016

Reception	98%
Year 1	99%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	91%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	99%

22nd Sept 2017 – 6th Oct 2017

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

October**Walk to School Month
Black History Month**

Friday 6th

Saxon Day Falcons in school hall
Footsteps training for Kites 1.30pm
Children's Film Night**Monday 9th****JRSO's to sell reflectors & bright objects all week**

Footsteps training for Kites 1.30pm

Tuesday 10th

Kites to Whipnade Zoo

Wednesday 11th

Netball & Football at PRS Yr 5 & 6 1pm start

Thursday 12th**U11's Cup Football against St Peter's School at Monks start 3.45pm****Friday 13th****11+ Results Day**

Be Bright, Be Seen Day

Saturday 14th

Bingo & Quiz Night

Monday 16th

STEM Week

Flu Vaccinations in School

Parents Evening 5pm - 8pm

Wednesday 18th

Parents Evening 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Friday 20th

Last Day of Half Term

Monday 30th

INSET Day

Tuesday 31st

First Day of School

November

Friday 3rd

Disco

Tuesday 7th

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

Wednesday 8th

Individual & Family Photographs

Thursday 9th

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

Saturday 11th

Adult Friends Evenings

Monday 13th

Anti-Bullying Week

Friday 17th

Children in Need

Wednesday 22nd

Parent Curriculum Evening 7.45pm

Friday 24th

Mufti Day for Christmas Hampers

December

Monday 4th

Carols in Community 6pm

Thursday 7th

Nativity to Parents 1.45pm

Friday 8th

Nativity to Parents 1.45pm

Wednesday 13th

Christmas Lunch Whole School

Thursday 14th

Christmas Concert 7pm School Hall

Friday 15th

Christmas Party Falcons & Eagles 1.30pm

Monday 18th

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

Tuesday 19th

Christmas Service at St Dunstan's Church KS2 & Wrens 9.30am

Last Day of Term**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)

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