



Monks Risborough Church of England Primary School

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

Newsletter 9

Friday 23rd June 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the last two and a half years the school has changed immeasurably and many of the systems we put in place have been very successful and come to fruition, not only with our successful statutory inspections and increased pupil progress but also in ensuring we are well staffed, with a team that will take us on in our next step of our journey to 'outstanding'. This is within an increasingly difficult climate for finance and recruitment.

At the time of writing there are approximately 50 unfilled primary teaching places across Buckinghamshire and recruitment has become increasingly challenging each year. To mitigate against this but also to stimulate teaching ideas within our school with some of the latest research, the Governors and Leadership of the school took the decision to focus on the teacher training and development of our own staff. I am really proud of the outcome of this strategy which has safeguarded our teaching capacity for the coming year.

Leaving for Pastures New

Following our focus on high quality staff development, both Miss Hawes and Miss Nash will be leaving us at the end of the academic year to take up teacher training places in other localities. I would like to place on record our thanks to both of them for the commitment and care they have provided to all children at our school throughout their time here. Mr Gouldstone has worked for 3 years at Monks Risborough with a view to undertaking teacher training and we are delighted that he will be carrying this out with us from September. Mrs Stratford agreed this year to return to us for a short period of time. She will be leaving her post at the end of the academic year but has agreed to return in September as a volunteer which we are very grateful to her for. We will also be saying 'goodbye' to Mrs Morgan at the end of the school year. Mrs Morgan has always been a Foundation Stage specialist and has been recruited by St Andrews CE School in Chinnor to teach four days a week in their Foundation Stage. Mrs Morgan has been a pillar of strength and has supported us with her invaluable experience ever since she arrived and we warmly wish her well with her next teaching post.

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) Update

As this is a key position, following the departure of Mrs Beerling at Christmas, I have been covering the above role until a suitable replacement could be found. As an almost full time post, carrying this out alongside my role as Head Teacher, has been a challenge, however it was important for our long term development we employed the right person and waited for them. Following interviews, I am delighted to inform you that Mr Mullen will be taking on this role 3 days a week from September. SENCO is a central role within any school and I am delighted that we have been able to appoint a person with his knowledge and experience of teaching and learning. Mr Mullen has already been undertaking a number of courses in preparation for this post and will be involved in reviews later this term, enabling him to get to know any parents of children who have additional needs.

New Arrivals

Through our own teacher development, I am delighted to formally welcome Miss Jeffery and Mrs Morris to our teaching team from September. Monks Risborough has been responsible for Miss Jeffery's teacher training and Mrs Morris also

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spent half a term, extending this to a full term, training at our school in the Spring Term. As well as already knowing many of the pupils within our school both Miss Jeffery and Mrs Morris are also very aware of the school's curriculum, ethos and expectations which will enable them to fit into our teaching teams very quickly. I am also very pleased to inform you that we have employed Mrs Toms, a highly experienced teacher across all 3 key stages, to our teaching team 2 days a week. She taught an exceptionally creative lesson during her interview and comes to our school with an excellent reputation and references. As well as class teachers, we will also be welcoming Miss Dell, a new teaching assistant. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them all to our school.

Class Teachers from September

From September, the teachers for each of the classes will be:

Robins (Reception) Mrs Swain

Wrens (Year 1) Mrs Morris

Red Kites (Year 2) Mrs Healy (3 days) Mrs Bloxham (2 days)

Kestrels (Year 3) Miss Gehnich

Hawks (Year 4) Miss Jeffery

Falcons (Year 5) Mrs Hirst

Eagles (Year 6) Miss Robinson (full time) and Mr Gouldstone (trainee teacher)

Time to hit the high notes

The school Summer Concert will be held on Wednesday 28th June in the hall. It will start at 7pm and refreshments will be available part way through the concert and promises to be an enjoyable evening of showcasing the children's talents.

As a school we will be taking part in the Risborough Festival by singing and playing in the lunchtime concert on Wednesday 5th July at St Mary's Church. The concert is at 12.30pm to 1.30pm the choir and selected musicians will be walking down to the church on the day. We look forward to seeing many of you at both events.

Year 5 Transition Meeting

A letter was sent home earlier this week about our Year 5 transition meeting on Monday 3rd July at 7pm. Within this meeting I will be outlining the application and testing procedures for next year's Secondary School Transfer Tests. Following this meeting I will post the County Presentation used during the evening on our school website.

Parking

It was mentioned at our recent Parent Forum that there are a number of parents pulling up onto the pavement along Peters Lane, when collecting or dropping off their children, as they are concerned about their car being scratched. This is

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obviously extremely dangerous and could result in an awful accident. Please refrain from doing this or park on a different road if you are concerned about your car.

Walk to School Week by School Travel Team

Thank you to everyone who took part last week. We were certainly lucky with the weather! There were over 400 walking journeys made during the school week with lots of people making a special effort to leave the car at home. The breakfast was particularly well attended and hopefully enjoyed by lots of you. Class 3 were the overall winners of the class with most walkers. We have all the completed scavenger hunts and the prize draw will take place during Mondays celebration assembly so keep your fingers crossed! The travel team would welcome any suggestions for next year's walk to school week so we look forward to hearing from you.

Green Park Science Event by Cory Chivers, Honey Brooker & Lillie Thorne Year 2

On Tuesday we went to the Big Science Investigation. Our investigation was 'Do apples turn brown faster in different places?' We had to talk about how we did our investigation to other schools, then we listened to the other schools and then we had lunch and played. After that we found out who came first, we had great day and we were give a goodie bag.

Buddhism Talk

Yesterday, Mr Wright, came into school and delivered a talk to the whole school about Buddhism. Within this, he shared his knowledge of the Buddhist faith and told two captivating stories, with strong moral messages. Following on, using his stories as a stimulus, the children returned to their classes and wrote stories and reports based on the information he had told them. Children from Foundation Stage up to Year 6 produced some wonderful writing and I would like to thank Mr Wright for his contribution. It is so important for children to have an opportunity to learn about a range of world faiths, if you have any knowledge you would like to share with the children, please do come and speak to me.

Year 6 Games by Chloe Lumb

On Tuesday 20th June Year 6 took a trip up to Princes Risborough Top School to compete in the year 6 games. We split into groups of the sports we were playing throughout the day and learnt the rules of the games. The choices were : football, hockey, tennis netball, tag-rugby, table tennis and cricket.

Although it was very hot, we kept on going and at the end of the day we found out the scores, overall Monks Risborough placed 4th but had a very triumphant 1st in football.

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.

With best wishes,

Mr Baskerville – Head Teacher

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SCHOOL TERM DATES

	School opens on the morning of	School closes on the afternoon of
Summer 2017	Tuesday 18 th April (NB. Bank Holiday 1 st May)	Friday 26 th May
	Tuesday 6 th June (NB. INSET day Monday 5 th June)	Friday 21 st July
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 2019	Thursday 4 th January (N.B INSET day Wednesday 3 rd January)	Friday 9 th February

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)

Attendance

Attendance: 6th June – 23rd June 2016

Reception	96%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	95%

Attendance: 6th June – 23rd June 2017

Reception	94%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	98%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	93%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	97%

School Dates

2017

June

Tuesday 20th
Friday 23rd

Eagles Games at PRS
Sports Day

Wednesday 28th

Kestrels to Neasdon Temple
Golden Wellie at Bledlow Ridge School KS1 1pm
Summer Concert at school 7pm - 9pm
Multi Sills at PRS Robins 12.30pm
Kites outcome 2.45pm
Reserve Sports Day

Thursday 29th

Friday 30th

July

Monday 3rd
Tuesday 4th
Wednesday 5th

Gym & Dance Show Rehearsal at PRS 9.15
Transition Day
Transition Day PRS

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Thursday 6th

Gym & Dance Show
Transition Day PRS
Reception & Year 3 New Parents visit school 10.00am - 11.30am

Friday 7th
Saturday 8th
Sunday 9th

Gym & Dance Show at PRS
Campathon
Triathlon

Tuesday 11th
Wednesday 12th

Dress Rehearsal Eagles Production 1.30pm
Kites to Amersham Field Centre
Production to Parents 7pm
Production to Parishioners 10.30am
Production to Parents 7pm
Book Look

Thursday 13th

Eagles Leavers BBQ
Leavers Service at St Dunstan's 9.30am
Last Day of School Year.

Thursday 20th
Friday 21st

September 2017

Monday 4th
Tuesday 5th
Wednesday 6th
Friday 8th

INSET DAY
INSET DAY
First Day of School
Reception First Day of School

October

Friday 20th
Monday 30th
Tuesday 31st

Last Day of Half Term
INSET DAY
First Day of Half Term

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