



# Monkston Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Hannah Williams  
Deputy Head: Mrs Aimee Mills  
Senior Assistant Head: Mrs Lauren Hamer

Chair of Governors: Mr Adam Gledhill  
Business Manager: Mrs Emily Winship

## Newsletter 12

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

### World Book Day

Last Thursday, we immersed ourselves in poems and literature during World Book Day. We began the day with our annual performance from M&M productions. This year they performed 'Oliver' and it was a huge success. The children were enthralled by the story and our Year 6 pupils particularly enjoyed the follow-up workshop with the cast. I also loved seeing all the imaginative poetry themed costumes on the playground that day!



### KS1 Athletics

The KS1 Athletics team had a great time competing against Portfields School recently. There was fantastic jumping, running, balancing, throwing and footballing skills on display - Miss Beard was very proud. Monkston values were displayed throughout, and it's clear the KS2 team will have a lot of talent in the future!

### Open University Orchestra Trip

Last Friday afternoon, Mrs Hamer accompanied a group of KS2 pupils to the Open University to watch a performance from their staff orchestra. The pupils [and staff] thoroughly enjoyed the performance and we hope to make this an annual outing!

## Attendance Matters



I am sure that parents and carers are aware of the raised profile school attendance has had in the media over recent months. As a school, we are proud that our attendance remains above national average, but we are still working hard to ensure **every child's** attendance is above 96% as a minimum.

**National Average attendance: 94.6%**  
**Monkston Primary Average: 96%**

We completely understand that children get ill from time to time, but we also expect parents to work as hard as they can to ensure their child is in school and on time when this is not the case. Whilst I appreciate the financial benefits of term time holidays, they can have a detrimental impact on a child's education.

[Approval for term-time absence \[Attendance Policy page 7\]](#)

*The Headteacher will only grant a leave of absence to pupils during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. A leave of absence is granted at the Headteacher's discretion. Exceptional circumstances **does not include holidays during term time because they are cheaper, or to celebrate a special birthday of a family member.** The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request.*

As part of our pledge to ensure outstanding attendance, we monitor pupil attendance every three weeks and identify any pupils who we believe may be at risk of harming their education due to their lack of attendance at school. During these monitoring exercises, we do take into account individual extreme cases where pupils have had other circumstances or illnesses which has resulted in lower than expected attendance.

If attendance is lower than expected, we will make contact with you. We will be assigning pupils into 3 categories:

- **Category 1 (lower than expected attendance):** Make parents/ carers aware of current attendance and monitor;
- **Category 2 (well below expected attendance):** Phone call home by the assistant head assigned to pupil's year group to discuss reasons for absence with support and advice offered;
- **Category 3 (well below expected attendance and cause for concern):** Meeting with Headteacher and/or deputy head teacher to create an attendance action plan in order to make rapid improvement with attendance.

**At the upcoming Parent Consultation evenings, I have asked class teachers to share your child's attendance with you. If your child's attendance has fallen below 96%, then please expect a discussion about how we can work together to improve this.**

Kind regards

Mrs Hannah Williams

