Monkston Primary School

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

Newsletter 4

16th October, 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Exciting News – Monkston is Becoming an OPAL School!

We are delighted to announce that Monkston Primary School is beginning its journey to becoming an **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) school!** OPAL is an exciting programme designed to transform playtimes by providing children with more creative, imaginative and active play opportunities. Through the introduction of new resources, equipment and play experiences, we aim to make our lunchtimes even more enjoyable, inclusive and engaging for all pupils.

We are incredibly grateful to our **Friends of Monkston**, who are generously funding this exciting project and will be working alongside school governors and staff to help bring our plans to life. The money raised last year for our Daily Mile initiative will also be used to purchase resources to support the project. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed through fundraising events – your generosity is helping us create even more exciting opportunities for our children!

We know that high-quality play is essential for children's wellbeing, social development and happiness, and we are really excited about the opportunities this will bring. **You will start to see changes to our playgrounds after Christmas**, as we begin introducing new ways for children to explore, create and play together. We will keep you updated on our progress and share ways in which families can get involved in this exciting project!

Respectful Communication with School Staff

Firstly, I would like to thank the vast majority of our parents and carers for the kindness, courtesy and support they show our staff on a daily basis. We greatly value the positive relationships we have with our families and recognise the importance of working together in the best interests of our children.

However, I feel it is important to address a small number of recent interactions with staff that have fallen short of the standards of respect and courtesy we expect within our school community. Disrespectful or confrontational behaviour towards staff is unacceptable, whether this takes place face to face, over the telephone or via email.

We fully appreciate that parents and carers may sometimes have concerns or frustrations, and we are always happy to listen, discuss these and work together towards a resolution. However, I expect all such conversations to take place in a calm, respectful and professional manner.

It is particularly disappointing when inappropriate interactions take place in front of children. At Monkston, we work hard to teach our pupils the importance of our school values, particularly Respect and Compassion, and it is essential that the adults around them model these same values.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that Monkston remains a welcoming, positive and respectful community for everyone.

Harvest Collection for the MK Food Bank

On behalf of **MK Food Bank**, I would like to extend a huge thank you to all our families for your generous donations towards our Harvest collection. The representative who collected the food today told us that **Monkston's collection was the largest he had collected from any local school this Harvest!** What a fantastic achievement and a wonderful reflection of the kindness and generosity of our school community. If you would like to find out more about how you can support MK Food Bank, or how to access their services if you need help, please visit their website: https://mkfoodbank.org.uk/. Thank you once again for making such a positive difference to families in our local community!

Please don't forget that next Friday marks the end of this half term. The school will be closed from Monday 26th October until Friday 30th October. School will reopen on Monday 2nd November.

Kind regards

H. Williams

Mrs Hannah Williams

Curiosity Integrity Compassion Resilience Collaboration Respect