



## **Newsletter – October 2020**

### **Headteacher's Update**

Today we come to the end of our first half term of the year, and I couldn't be prouder of our whole school community.

I am so proud of all the children, and how they have come back to school so well after the closure. We have all been impressed at how well they have adapted to the changes we have in school and really focused on their learning. It has been a joy to have them all back!

I would also like to thank our parents, carers and families for their support in helping us implement all the necessary changes and rules, and for your understanding that things have had to be different. This has helped us focus on getting your children back on track, and keeping our school community safe.

My last thanks goes to staff, who have also had to change their ways of working and adapt to new techniques and changes. They have worked hard this half term, and I know they will continue to their best for the children.

It's been a real team effort, and we have stayed fully open this half term.

I hope that you all have a well-deserved rest, and we look forward to seeing you back on **Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020**.

### **Google Classroom / Home Learning**

We have really enjoyed seeing the work that some of you have been completing over Google Classroom! This has been a positive change to our home learning, as we can see children's work as they've completed it, and give feedback about what they have done that they can read at home!

Thank you again to those parents and children who have been engaging with their work at home and for your helpful feedback on the system.

Work will only be set over Google Classroom for your child if they are absent and having to self-isolate due to Covid 19. There is more information about this on our website here:

<http://www.monkwickjunior.co.uk/home-learning/>

### **Parent Consultations**

A reminder that Parent Consultations will be taking place on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, which is a non pupil day. We are offering a video call or phone call as this will take place remotely. For information on how to book see our website here:

<http://www.monkwickjunior.co.uk/parent-consultations/>



### **Covid 19 Symptoms**

A reminder that children must not attend school if they, or anyone in their household has the following symptoms:

- A new, continuous cough
- A temperature
- Loss of smell or taste.

If this is the case, the person with symptoms should book a Covid test. It has become much easier for families to access these recently.

If your child develops symptoms before Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October, and tests positive, the school will need to be informed in order to inform other close contacts. Contact tracing is undertaken 2 days prior to displaying symptoms, so if these develop on or after Monday, contacts at the school will not need to self- isolate, but we will still need to be informed of any positive cases so that we can set home learning for them when we return.

### **Essex Risk Level**

We have been asked by the local authority to remind families that Essex is currently under high risk restrictions, which means that the mixing of households indoors is not currently allowed, and social distancing between households is required outside. This continues to apply over the half term break.

### **Park**

We have had some concerns raised about the level of mixing and lack of social distancing taking place in the park outside of the school, at the beginning and end of the day.

We share the concerns about this, particularly when children are unsupervised, and would ask families to be mindful and supportive of how hard everyone is working to keep the children in secure class bubbles in school.

We would also like to remind parents that the school is not responsible for the park.

### **Upcoming Dates**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October** – Half Term Week

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** – Non Pupil Day

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** – Parent Consultations

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Children Return to School