**Newsletter 6 – March/April 2019**

**Headteacher’s Update**

It’s always hard to believe we’ve already come to the end of a term – each one seems to go quicker! It’s nice to see how much brighter the days are getting and we’ve even had some moments of sunshine! Let’s hope for more!

We’ve had a few treats with some different visitors in assemblies recently. We have been lucky enough to have the Reverend Fordyce sharing some ideas around the Easter story with us, and we also had an Anti-Bullying Assembly provided by Open View Education. The children then each took part in a workshop in learning how to be an ‘Upstander’ and how to challenge unkindness in an assertive, calm way. I have heard many of the children still talking about these important things in their classes since then too.

Both visitors commented on how sensible and welcoming the children were, and how well they participated. This always makes us proud!

We’ve also had some exciting events. World Book Day was a great success and the children looked fantastic in their costumes. We were impressed that so many of them had been inspired by the work we had done on our whole school text of ‘Alice in Wonderland’ – we had some wonderful Alices, Mad Hatters, Queens of Hearts and Cheshire Cats!

Thank you all for all of you support this term. We wish you a peaceful and relaxing Easter, and look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 23rd April!

**Staff Changes**

As many of you will have seen, we have welcomed Mrs Revill back this week from her maternity leave. It’s lovely to have her back with us – she has been missed! We would like to thank Mrs Pooley and Mrs Reynolds for all their help in the office while Mrs Revill has been away.

Mrs Wickens, one of our MDAs, will be leaving us at the end of this term as she is retiring. She has been at Monkwick Junior School for a great many years, and we wish her a peaceful and relaxing retirement.

**Classroom Changes**

Our classroom refurbishments are going ahead well, and the first two rooms are nearing completion. In order to complete the next two rooms, after the Easter holiday, Zeta and Phi classes will be moving into the refurbished rooms downstairs. They will still be picked up and dropped off in the same places before and after school.

**Nuts In School**

Just a reminder that we do have children in school who are allergic to nuts, so we ask all families to support us in keeping the school nut free by not sending them in as snacks or in lunchboxes. Please remember that this also includes sandwich spreads that are made from nuts, such as peanut butter and Nutella. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping all our children safe.

**Comic Relief**

We held a non-uniform day for Comic Relief, and managed to raise £214.64 - well done everyone!

**Ladies Day**

Thank you to our PTA for their hard work with their Ladies Day gift shop. It was very popular, and there were some lovely gifts on offer, which I know some of you received! The children made some beautiful cards and wrote some lovely messages. Another successful event, and more money raised for their project!

Our Friends of Monkwick Group are currently raising money for shelter on the playground. Their next event is a Slime Workshop which will take place after the holidays – I’m sure this will be lots of fun!

**Support**

We wanted to highlight a couple of websites that have details of local support agencies and groups, across a wide range of areas that parents can access and get in touch with if they need any additional support. If you find any of them useful let us know – this way we can suggest the most helpful agencies to other parents!

<http://www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk/category/family-support-and-community/>

<http://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/centre/berechurch-family-hub-2/>

**Upcoming Dates**

Tuesday 23rd April – Children Return to School

Wednesday 24th April –Friends of Monkwick Slime Workshops

Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday

Monday 13th May – Friday 17th May – Year 6 SATs Test Week

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May – Half Term Break

Monday 3rd June – Non Pupil Day