

## **Newsletter**

**December 2019**

### **Headteacher's Update**

Christmas is almost upon us, and we have had a very exciting few weeks with many celebrations and special events! All of the children looked great in their Christmas jumpers last week, and behaved brilliantly at their pantomime - a huge thank you to TLA for letting us borrow their hall!

We also had our Christmas dinners this week, which went very well - all of the children showed fantastic manners and enjoyed being served by their teachers and pulling crackers. Thank you to our lunchtime staff who worked very hard to make it happen!

We've been treated to some fabulous concerts this week, and it's always a pleasure to see the many talents Monkwick has! Year 5 put on a fabulous show with a mix of celebrating their learning, some singing, and the traditional Christmas story. Year 4 shared lots of Christmas songs, sang them all beautifully, and performed a Christmas poem. Year 3 showed great enthusiasm and expression when telling us the story of The Grinch, and sang well with wonderful energy! Well done everyone, and thank you to all who came!

On behalf of all of us here at Monkwick Junior School, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

### **Lunchtimes**

Next half term, we are trialling moving to one lunchtime at 12.20-1.20pm for all year groups. Children will go out to play, and then be called into the hall to eat their lunch. We hope this will reduce the amount of time children spend queuing at lunchtimes, and enable them to have more time to be active. We will take feedback on how well this is working from our school council. Break times will remain the same.

### **Friends of Monkwick- Christmas Bazaar and Grotto**

We would like to say a huge thank you and well done to our Friends of Monkwick Group, who held a Christmas Grotto and Bazaar for the school to enjoy on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> December. It was a lovely, festive event, which raised a grand total of £660! It's an amazing achievement and will be a huge help towards our outside project where we are looking to improve the wooded area for children. We would like to say how grateful we are to receive your support at our events. We also need to say a big thank you to Essex and Suffolk Water who kindly allowed their staff to support us in the decorating of the grotto!



### **Bikeability**

Our year 6 pupils have had visits from Bikeability over the past two weeks. The pupils who took part learned some great skills to aid them whilst riding their bikes on the road. This is such a valuable resource for pupils as it keeps them safe. Please take a look at our website for a post and some great pictures of the children!

### **Christmas Jumper Day/ Panto**

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> December saw lots of festive outfits, as our pupils dressed up in their Christmas Jumpers to help raise money for Save the Children. As a school we raised £ for this wonderful charity. The children were also taken to the Thomas Lord Audley School to see the pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We had some very excited and happy faces on their return.

### **Year 5 Baking**

There was a very lovely smell coming from the DT Room last week as our year 5 pupils were baking sausage rolls.



### **Year 4 Trip Hollytrees Museum**

Our Year 4 pupils were very fortunate and took an exciting trip to Hollytree Museum in Colchester. It was a great day for the pupils to understand about the Victorian era. Please head over to our website to read a bit more about it.

### **Christmas Dinner**

We had a delicious Christmas dinner provided this week by our lunch time staff. All the children and staff who were lucky enough to take part in this meal thoroughly enjoyed it and we owe a huge thanks to our kitchen staff for preparing and serving the food, and to our midday assistants who helped to serve and tidy up the hall!

### **Staffing Changes**

Sadly we are saying Goodbye to three of our staff at the end of this term. Miss Matthews (teacher) Mrs Barker (LSA) and Mrs Ives (MDA) will be leaving us to pursue different paths. We wish them all the best in their futures and would like to extend our thanks to them for their hard work.

We would like to say a warm welcome to Mrs Knights who will become teacher of Omega, Miss Wilson will be taking on a new role as an MDA and we are very pleased to welcome back Mrs Byrne from her secondment.

### **Upcoming Dates**

**20<sup>th</sup> December 2019**- Last day of Term

**7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**- First Day Back