**Newsletter 8 – July 2019**

**Headteacher’s Update**

The sun is shining outside (finally!) and the end of the year is nearly upon us! It’s hard to believe as we still have lots to pack in to the last couple of days this term!

It’s been a lovely few weeks as we have been entertained by many performances and other events at school. Our end of year showcases were all fantastic quality, and really showed the wide amount of different talents that we have in the school, across many different areas! Well done to everybody! It was also great to see such a positive turnout at Open School, and so many parents keen to share their children’s work. They have all worked hard and have much to be proud of, so it’s great that so many of you have come in to share it with them.

It’s also almost time to say goodbye to our year 6s, who had a fantastic residential trip last week. They tried all sorts of adventurous activities, behaved wonderfully and really got stuck in. Thank you to them for being such a pleasure, and to the adults who travelled with them for the week! They also performed ‘The Pirates of the Curry Bean’, which was a real treat and a great show. They made afternoon tea for their friends and family – we have kept them very busy! They will certainly be missed, and we hope they enjoy the next stage of their education.

I hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing summer and we look forward to welcoming you back on **Tuesday 3rd September!**

**Staff Changes**

At the end of this term, we said goodbye to Mrs Beavis, as she is moving to the Lake District. Miss Sadler and Miss Lever are both leaving us to go onto teacher training, and we wish them luck with this. Miss Richardson is leaving us to continue her studies. We also say goodbye to Miss Southgate, Mr Perrin and Mrs Cathmoir. We would like to thank them for their hard work and wish them all the best for the future.

Miss Walker is getting married over the summer, and will be known as Mrs Green on her return. We hope she has a fabulous wedding day!

**Classroom Changes**

The final classroom refurbishments will be finished over the summer break so all our classrooms are looking great. We are looking forward to this being done, and I have been promised no building works for a whole year!

**Film Night**

Thank you to our parent group, Friends of Monkwick, for running their last event this year – another film night for years 3-5. We would like to thank them for all the fantastic events that they have organised!

**School Improvement Updates - Academic Year 2018 - 2019**

* **We consulted with children, parents and staff to update and refresh our curriculum.** Some of the changes made include:

- buying a class set of keyboards as children said they wanted to learn an instrument

- teaching cooking and sewing in every year going forward after parent feedback

- buying Lego WeDo kits, as the children expressed an interest in learning about robotics

- starting to add more experiences, such as Year 3 learning first aid

- all subjects have had new resources bought for them by lead teachers

We hope to continue to develop our curriculum offer even further next year!

* **Our subject lead teachers have worked hard to write the new curriculum** for their subjects and have taken a more active role in ensuring that those subjects are being taught well in school. We have also started to work with some of the Sigma Trust secondary schools to ensure children are well prepared for all subjects in Year 7.
* **Our Marking & Feedback Policy was updated** to ensure that more children were getting more feedback on their work more quickly during lessons.
* **Our Year 6 children achieved more ‘Greater Depth’ scores that ever before.** They have maintained the achievement in writing when compared to last year’s children, and have made more progress in maths.
* **All six of our older classrooms have been completely refurbished**, including new flooring, new ceilings and lighting, and new toilets.
* **Grow, an alternative provision, has moved onto our site.** They have supported some of our children who are at risk of permanent exclusion, and also supported staff development.
* **Housepoints have moved to Class Dojo.** They are awarded in line with our values and the children have really enjoyed the new system. We are hoping to do even more with it next year!
* **Our Year 6 went on their first week-long residential**, and had a fantastic time!
* **Exclusions have significantly reduced**. This year, we have only have 17% of the number exclusions that we had last academic year.
* **Our PTA, Friends of Monkwick, have put on an event every month** and have raised over £2500 this year!

**We plan to improve even further next year. Here are just a few tasters of what’s to come!**

* We are looking at a programme to add to the experiences and curriculum offer children receive.
* We have invested heavily in SEND resources and are opening a new SEND based classroom.
* We hope to continue to develop our communications and engagement with our families.

**Thank you for all your continued support this year.**

**Rebecca McCutcheon, and the MJS Team.**