



## **Newsletter – December 2023**

### **Headteacher's Update**

We are at the end of the autumn term, and it's been such a great start to the academic year. We've been so impressed at how the children have come back and shown a great attitude to their work - even our new year 3, who have settled in beautifully.

Thank you to everyone who came to one, or all of our Christmas assemblies. I'm sure you will agree they were all excellent shows, and the children did a great job. I was so proud of how many of them spoke confidently and clearly in front of such a big audience, and their singing was excellent. We definitely have some future stars on our hands!

We had our Christmas dinners this week, as well as our Christmas Crafternoon where the children got to make some decorations. We also had a visiting pantomime, and Christmas Jumper Day, where we raised £80 for the charity 'Save the Children', so it's been very busy!

Thursday 21st December is the last day of this term. We hope that you all have a peaceful break, and wish all our families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we look forward to seeing you back on Monday 8th January.

### **Trips and Visits**

Christmas isn't the only thing we've been busy with - there has been such a lot going on this half term! Year 3 took part in a stone age experience day, raised £79 at the cake sale and had a Fossils and Dinosaurs Day! They also made beautiful Christmas Cards for others. Year 4 went to Heddingham Castle, raised £1318.00 completing a Charity Run for Colchester Zoo and also took part in a public speaking competition. Year 5 completed 10 weeks of swimming lessons at Colchester Leisure World, had a Dome experience and took part in an anti-prejudice workshop. Year 6 went to Layer Marney Tower and First Site.

### **Staff Update**

This term we will be saying goodbye, but also congratulations to Miss Steward, as she is leaving us to have a baby. We wish her and her new addition all the best. We will be joined by Mr Spriggs, in January who will be Zeta class's new teacher.

We also say goodbye to Miss Anderson, who is moving to work at a school closer to her home, Miss Kelland who is moving to an LSA role in a new school and Miss Emeka who has been here this term on a placement.

Monkwick Junior School | School Road  
Monkwick | Colchester | Essex | CO2 8NN

T 01206 575 399  
E [admin@monkwick-jun.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@monkwick-jun.essex.sch.uk)

> [MONKWICKJUNIOR.CO.UK](http://MONKWICKJUNIOR.CO.UK)  
> [SIGMATRUST.ORG.UK](http://SIGMATRUST.ORG.UK)

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### **Class Assemblies**

We welcomed parents and carers into school to celebrate class assemblies with Epsilon and Tau. Both classes did an amazing job - well done!

### **Children In Need**

We raised £94 for Children In Need. Well done, everyone!

### **Bikeability**

22 children passed their Bikeability Level 1 & 2 in December - Well Done! We have another session being held in January 2024 along with a course for children who will 'Learn to Ride'.

### **Parent Coffee Mornings**

It has been lovely to see the number of parents attending the coffee mornings grow over the last few meetings. Miss Lythgo and her volunteers are doing a great job and look forward to meeting many more of you in the new year!

### **Online Safety**

We had 'The Two Johns' visit us to give all the children a workshop about how to stay safe online. As the holiday approaches, and children may be spending more time on devices, it's a good time to think about checking what your child is doing online, and adjusting parental controls. You can find advice and resources here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

We hope that you all have a lovely Christmas holiday, and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 8th January!