

# Monkton Church of England Primary School

**Compassion      Courage      Justice**

***Jesus said, 'Go and do the same.'***



Dear Parents/Carers,

May 2025. No 7

What a fantastic term it's been – albeit a short one! In just five weeks, we've packed in a huge amount, and the energy and enthusiasm across the school has been brilliant to see.

Sports Day was a real highlight, with some superb races and activities that showcased the children's determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Well done to Courage House for their victory.

A special well done to our Year 6 pupils, who approached SATs Week with maturity and focus – we always ask that children try their best, and they certainly did just that.

Looking ahead, there's so much to be excited about in the summer term. Year 6 will be heading off to Hindleap in the first week of June, we have our ever-popular mini fete – this year with a special PTA inflatable session and the Year 5 Camp-Out on the school field plus a zoo trip for Year R, and plenty more in store!

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you enjoy reading about all the wonderful things happening across the school.

Warm Regards

Mr C Marston

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Monday 2nd June**, First day of Term 6

**Monday 2nd June to Friday 6th June**, YR 6 Hindleap trip/YR 6 Activity Week

**Monday 16th June**, YR 6 Level 1 Bikeability

**Thursday 26th June**, YR R Howletts visit

**Friday 27th June and Monday 30th June**, YR 6 level 2 Bikeability

**Friday 27th June to Saturday 28th June**, Year 5 Camp out

**Friday 4th July**, PTA Summer Party, Inflatables

**Thursday 10th July**, YR 6 Production 6:30pm

**Tuesday 15th July**, End of year disco

**Wednesday 16th July**, YR 6 Leavers Service 2:00pm

**Friday 18th July**, Last day of Term 6



Please do check the school calendar on our website regularly, as further events may be added: <https://monkton.kent.sch.uk/calendar>

## TERM 6 After School Clubs



**Football Fun Factory** will run every Monday from 2nd June to 14th July 3:15pm to 4:15pm, sessions cost £5. The club is open to all year groups. Booking and payment must be made in advance via the Football Fun Factory website. <https://booking.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk/event/3602>



You can book for May Half Term Football Fun Camps. Please visit [www.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk](http://www.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk) for details.



**Khickster Entertainment** Please book using the Khickster Entertainment Website [www.khicksterentertainment.co.uk/book](http://www.khicksterentertainment.co.uk/book) using the password MONKTON.

During Term 6 Khickster Entertainment will be offering an Arts and Crafts club on Wednesdays. Full details on their website.

### FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School will continue to run every Friday in Term 6, please see the adjacent schedule.

Please ensure children come to school wearing appropriate clothing on their Forest School day - this includes a water-proof coat and trousers. We have a limited number of water-proof trousers and coats in school but cannot guarantee they will fit your child. After Forest School, children will get changed into their school uniform. Please ensure uniform is brought into school in a named bag.

CLASS	WEEK	DATE
Class 1&2	Week 1	06/06/2025
Class 4	Week 2	13/06/2025
Class 3	Week 3	20/06/2025
Class 1&2	Week 4	27/06/2025
Class 4	Week 5	04/07/2025
Class 3	Week 6	11/07/2025
Class 1&2	Week 7	17/07/2025

### Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that children need to be booked onto breakfast club in advance. This ensures that we have sufficient staff and resources available each morning. You can find details of how to register and pay for your child on the school website <https://www.monkton.kent.sch.uk/breakfast-club>

### Khickster Entertainment Wraparound Care Term 6

Kimberley and her team provide wraparound care after school each day. They provide 3 options for after-school care, as follows:

- Option 1: 15:15 - 18:00 after-school care including a small dinner/hot snack: £15.00
- Option 2: 15:15 - 16:30 after-school care only: £6.00
- Option 3: 16:15 - 18:00 after-school care (following a school-led club) including a small dinner/hot snack: £10.00



Bookings must be made online at: [www.khicksterentertainment.co.uk/book](http://www.khicksterentertainment.co.uk/book), using the password MONKTON.

These clubs are available to view and book on their website.

Kimberley would love to hear what clubs your children would like to attend, and will endeavour to make their wishes reality.

### PTA Summer Party 4th July

Friday 4th July from 3:15 on Monkton School Field. This event will also include the end of enterprise week for the school and the PTA inflatables event. More details will follow next term.

# Class News

## CLASS 1

### Reception's Learning

This term, we've been crawling into the wonderful world of minibeasts, with a special focus on caterpillars! The children have absolutely loved exploring this topic and have been full of curiosity, questions, and creativity. We have been enjoying the story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. The children have used the book to inspire fantastic writing, including:

- Lists of foods the caterpillar ate
- Simple sentences about each day of the week
- Descriptions of caterpillars and butterflies

Their use of capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops is improving every day—well done, everyone!

Our bug hunts have been a hit! Armed with magnifying glasses and checklists, the children searched our outside environments for ants, beetles, ladybirds, and spiders. We talked about how each one moves and where it lives.



In Class 2 following our exciting History based topic last term of Monarchs, this term our topic has been Coastline, with particular focus on Geography. The children have been and will continue exploring the United Kingdom's coastline, learning about the human and physical features of the seaside, and influential people such as Grace Darling. Through this topic, they are developing their understanding of coastal environments and how they are shaped and used by people.

We have also had some exciting educational visits to enrich the children's learning:

- \* A visit from Monkton Nature Reserve to support our Science Work on food chains
- \* We will be having a visit from the RNLI in Term 6, sharing the fascinating history of lifeboats and the important work they do today.

We look forward to a fun-filled and engaging term of learning in Term 6 continuing our look at Coastlines. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



### Class 3-

Term 5 has been all about rivers and habitats for Class 3. We have loved reading the Wild Robot and thinking about how we all have a role to play in caring for the world and others. In our rivers topic we have explored features of rivers, human uses of rivers and made an in-depth study of the Great Ouse. The children made some fantastic models of rivers using forest school resources and we were lucky enough to enjoy a session with Anna from Monkton Nature Reserve all about food chains. The children explored and performed river poetry and have written some stunning examples of poems using figurative language. We are looking forward to learning more about mountains and rivers next term and will start a new book, The Song of the River.



A big well done to our year 6 children that took the recent end of Key Stage Two SATs tests last week. They demonstrated our school's PRIDE values exceptionally, as well as using the tools they'd learnt from year 3 upwards to help them when they found themselves in the Learning Pit.

Our rehearsals of Ali Baba and Bongo Bandits are well underway and we cannot wait to perform in front of all our adults on Thursday 10th July.





# School Notices and Subject updates

## Pupil Absences

Can we just remind all parent/carers that if your child is ill, please **telephone or email the school office before 9:am on each day** of absence unless other arrangements have been made. We also kindly remind you that when you need to take your child out for appointments/early pickups or late arrivals you notify the office directly. This ensure everything

## Change to time away from school for vomiting and diarrhoea.

Historically, at Monkton CEP School, the expectation has always been that there should be 48 hours from the last episode of V&D before returning to school. At Minster, they operate a 'clear day' policy. This allows children to return a little earlier, providing they are well enough, meaning they miss less school and working parents can get back to work. There is no evidence that shows operating this policy increases the spread. Therefore, we will now be operating this policy at Monkton.

## Thrive Page

We are pleased to tell you that we have a new Thrive Page on our School Website. This can be found under the Mindful Monkton section [Thrive](#)

### What is the Thrive Approach?

Children cannot always put their needs into words, but the way children behave can tell us a lot about how they are feeling. In the old days, children who are finding life hard would sometimes given harmful labels like 'naughty' or 'very shy'.

For over 25 years, Thrive has been working with schools, settings and organisations to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. With focus on building secure relationships and providing positive experiences, Thrive helps young people to feel safe, supported and ready to learn.

The Thrive page contains lots more information for parents and includes a range of supporting documents that you may also find useful.

If you want to know more about Thrive please visit <https://www.thriveapproach.com/>



## Tom's Garden update

The hard work put in by Mrs Vesty's Autumn term gardening club has proven to be very 'fruitful'. We have recently harvested lots of rhubarb and some beautiful, big, fluffy cauliflowers! Watch this space for updates on broad beans, garlic and tomatoes!!

Many thanks to our parent volunteers who help with gardening. We are always very grateful for any donations of plants and cuttings.



## Geography- Earth Day – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Earth Day was enjoyed by all — a fantastic way to launch the term! Children came dressed in wonderful costumes, showing lots of creativity, and learned about endangered animals such as polar bears, orangutans, Amur leopards, and turtles. They also explored thoughtful ways we can help protect these species and care for our planet. A particular well done to our costume winners!

## History- VE Day learning Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May

We had a very special day at school as we remembered and celebrated the end of the war in Europe. The children enjoyed a fantastic party with a special lunch, and we all took part in a two minutes' silence to reflect on the sacrifices made by others.

Throughout the day, the children engaged in some fabulous learning. Some created Red Arrows using junk modelling, others explored history through role play, and we even designed our own Vera Lynn record covers. We ended the day by singing our song together – a wonderful moment of unity and reflection.

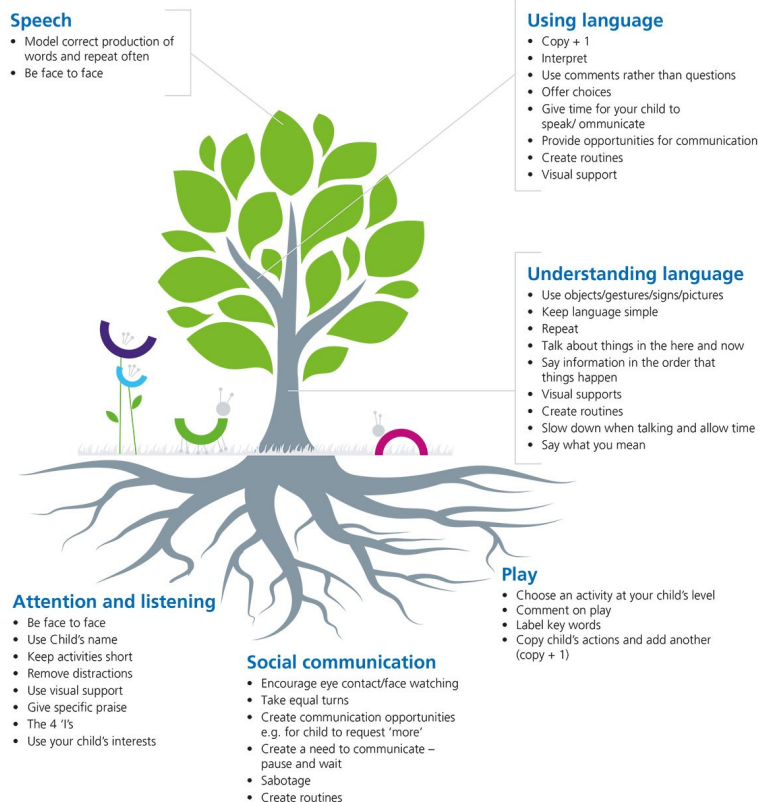
It was a meaningful day where we came together to say thank you, reflect on the past, and celebrate peace

## SEND update

We have been focussing this term, in school, on the importance of Speech and Language. Please find some useful information on supporting your child.

Children will learn to communicate, understand and use language at different rates and stages. There are many different areas and skills that need to develop for a child's language to grow. The key roots / foundations include their attention and listening, their desire to communicate and their play (as shown below) as "the roots of the tree". As this becomes established and develops so does understanding of language "trunk of the tree". Once a child understands words they are likely to start using words / sentences "branches of the tree". The finer details (e.g. speech sounds) "leaves of the tree" develop as their language develops. Below are strategies that support the different areas of language development.

Parents play a key role in supporting their child's language and communication skills in everyday life. Children learn about the world through their experiences and interests particularly within their play. The evidence highlights the importance of joining our children in their play and following their interests to provide them with opportunities to develop their ability to understand and use words and later sentences.



For further information and support linked to Speech and Language please visit: [Speech and language therapy | Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust](https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/childrens-therapies-the-pod/speech-and-language-) <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/childrens-therapies-the-pod/speech-and-language->