



Chief Executive Officer: Miss R. Sandell

Headteacher: Guy Fairbairn

## Welcome to our latest Monks Orchard Primary School Newsletter 8 September 2023

It has been such a calm and positive start to the new school year. The vast majority of children have settled straight back into their work, with their new teachers, with real enthusiasm. Even the unfinished building works seem not to have phased them, they've just 'got on with it.' We are very proud of them all.

We had a progress meeting with the builders this week, and they are confident that everything will be finished before the start of next half term. At some point a temporary boiler, about the size of a large filing cabinet, will be installed at the front of the school. It will be completely sealed and safe, but there will be a fence around it, to prevent children from accessing it. As soon as we have more updates we will let you know.

### Induction meetings

Your year group induction meetings for Year 1 to year 5 are scheduled for next week.

The teachers will be sharing important information about the year group: PE days, routines, expectations, upcoming events, trips, etc.

They are also an opportunity for you to get to know your child's new teacher and to ask any questions you may have.

The meetings will be held in your child's classroom.

- Year 5: Mon 11 Sept. 3:20pm
- Year 4: Thurs 14 Sept, 3:20pm
- Year 3: Wed 13 Sept, 3:20pm
- Year 2: Wed 13 Sept, 3:20pm
- Year 1: Tue 12 Sept, 3:20pm

These meetings are about the whole class rather than individual children, but if you would like to talk to the teacher about your child, do make an appointment to see them separately.

### Congratulations to our special Certificate Winners this week

Y1, Donaldson Class:	<b>Bella</b> , for being a fantastic role model to the class. Bella has shown maturity and has worked so hard this week. We are so proud of her!
Y2, McKee Class:	<b>Harvey</b> , for an amazing start to year 2. Keep it up, we are so impressed!
Y3, Nichols Class:	<b>Joshua</b> , for his fantastic participation and contribution to our class discussion.
Y4, Zephaniah Class	<b>Lamin</b> , for having great confidence in all his lessons, and for settling in very well, here at monks orchard.
Y5, Leonard Class:	<b>Elijah</b> , for trying his best throughout the week, and for his superb manners.
Y6, Palmer Class:	<b>Malcolm</b> , for a fantastic start to year 6.



## Breakfast and After School Club

We have a new breakfast and After School Club team this year, with Ms Breda, Mrs Deonandan and Mrs Grimwood taking over. A new activity rota will be published on the school website soon, with some old favourites and some new activities planned. This week we have been enjoying the sunshine, did lots of outdoor activities. And we decorated cakes, with Michelle and Rachel. For more details, see the Breakfast and After School Club page on our website: [Fairchildes Academy Community Trust - Breakfast and After School Club \(factrust.org\)](http://FairchildesAcademyCommunityTrust.org) Or talk to Mrs Bennett, in the school office.



## After School Activity Clubs

As well as our fantastic Breakfast and After School Club, we will be running a range of after school activity clubs. Next week we will be starting Cross Country Club, with Mr Fairbairn, and Netball Club, with Mrs Woodhouse. And a couple of other clubs will be starting soon.

Our Spanish club will continue this year, but will be running at lunchtimes now.

We are also talking to a local, reputable, company who run after school and weekend football clubs in the area, to see if they can start working with us.

If you know of any reputable organisations who could run activity clubs at Monks Orchard, or if you would like to share your skills with the children through a club, do let us know.

Look out for messages and letters with further details.

## Free School Meals

Please don't forget, the Mayor of London has arranged for every primary school child in Greater London to have a free school meal this year. There is nothing you need to do to claim the meal, your child will automatically be given one if they want it.

It is really important that all parents and carers still apply for income and benefits related free school meals, if they are entitled to them. This not only ensures continuity, as the Mayor's funding finishes at the end of this school year, but also benefits the school, as the number of children claiming free school meals is used by the government when determining school budgets. So we advise all parents to check if they are eligible. It is very easy to check. Just go to:

[Free School Meal Eligibility Checker \(lgfl.org.uk\)](http://lgfl.org.uk)

Or come and talk to us in the school office, and we will be happy to help.

## School Uniform

It has been lovely to see so many children looking smart in their new school uniforms this week. But there has been some confusion around what the school's expectations are.

Our school uniform has not changed since 2018 and is:

- Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan, with school logo
- Light blue polo shirt, with school logo
- Grey trousers or knee-length shorts (not sports shorts)
- Navy blue skirt
- Navy blue pinafore dress
- Navy blue gingham summer dress
- Navy blue, black, grey or white plain socks
- Navy blue, black or grey tights, woollen style only
- Sensible, supportive black shoes (not trainers)

PE kit:

- Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan, with school logo
- Light blue polo shirt, with school logo
- Plain, navy blue jogging bottoms or sports shorts
- Trainers (dark and as plain as possible, no fluorescent colours)

**NB. Leggings and cycling shorts are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn, except as under garments.**

No visible branding is permitted. The only exception is the school logo. School uniform bought online through our supplier, Mapac, will include the school logo. Our supplier's details can be found via the link on our website:

[Mapac - Monks Orchard](#)

We do not insist that you buy your school uniform from Mapac. As long as it is in the correct school colours, you can buy your school uniform from wherever you want, with local supermarkets selling uniform items at competitive prices. We sell school badges at the office, for £1.25, which can be ironed or sewn onto clothes that do not already have the logo. We also sell second hand school uniform, in the office, for 50p per item

Jewellery is not part of the school uniform and we strongly discourage the wearing of jewellery, including earrings, ear studs and any kind of nail accessory.

Children may wear a simple wrist-watch, but not a smart watch (eg. Apple Watch), Fitbit or other similar devices.

Hair styles should be appropriate for primary school. Longer hair should be styled so that it is out of the face, and does not cause distraction or difficulties, particularly in PE and other practical subjects. Discrete headbands and hair accessories, reflecting the school colours, are acceptable. We have adopted the Halo Code for Afro-textured hair, details can be found here: [Halo- School \(halocollective.co.uk\)](#)

The full school uniform statement can be found on our website:

[Fairchildes Academy Community Trust - Uniform \(factrust.org\)](#)

Mr Fairbairn has asked all members of staff to talk to parents/carers if their child is not wearing correct school uniform. If you have any questions about school uniform please speak to your child's class teacher, and they will do their best to help.

