



Chief Executive Officer: Miss Jo Hussey

Headteacher: Guy Fairbairn

Welcome to our latest Monks Orchard Primary School Newsletter 15 September 2023

Attendance

You will have seen in the news that school attendance is a real concern, across the country, at the moment. Current attendance rates are significantly below those from before the pandemic. The overall attendance rate at Monks Orchard is generally good (we are above the national average), and the vast majority of children have attendance of over 95%, which is the minimum expected attendance rate. But we do have a significant group of children whose attendance is below 90%, which is classed as Persistent Absence (PA).

The latest data from the Department for education shows a clear link between attendance and achievement in school:

- *Pupils who did not achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall **absence** rate of 4.7% (over Key Stage 2), compared with 3.5% among pupils who achieved the expected standard and 2.7% among those who achieved the higher standard.*
- *Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS2, 83.9% achieved the expected standard compared to 40.2% of pupils who were persistently absent.*

The school is required by law to intervene when a child's attendance is below 90%.

If your child's attendance is below 95% you will receive a letter telling you what their attendance is and that the school will be monitoring it.

If your child's attendance is below 90%, you will receive a call from our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) to discuss how we can help you improve your child's attendance. This may involve support from external agencies, and in extreme cases it could involve fines and other legal action.

Holidays during term time

Please remember that the Trust's policy is not to authorise holidays during term time. There are some very rare exceptions; such as children of serving members of the armed forces, who have no control over their leave. A sick relative, a family event/celebration, or cheaper flights, are **not** considered exceptional circumstances.

If you choose to take a holiday during term time it will not be authorised. But please tell us anyway. If we know where your child is and when they are returning, we do not need to 'chase,' you or report your child as missing, to the local authority.

Please note, you may be liable for a fine, issued by the Education Welfare Office (EWO) if evidence is not provided for absences.

Thank you for your support.

Congratulations to our special Certificate Winners this week

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Y1, Donaldson Class: | Shazil , for incredible perseverance in ALL lessons this week. Shazil is always striving to do his best. Well done! |
| Y2, McKee Class: | Samir , for just being you! You are a pleasure to teach. Keep it up! |
| Y3, Nichols Class: | Zeteny , for always being fully engaged in lessons and working hard in all areas. |
| Y4, Zephaniah Class | Fintan , for working extra hard in all areas of his learning this week. |
| Y5, Leonard Class: | Sienna-Rose , for her perseverance in her learning, especially in maths. |
| Y6, Palmer Class: | Summaya , for your great work in all subjects this week. |



Year 1 have had a busy week of learning. In Maths, they have been representing numbers in digits, pictures and words, sorting objects into groups and ordering numbers too! They have shown Miss Binns that they are buzzing mini mathematicians!



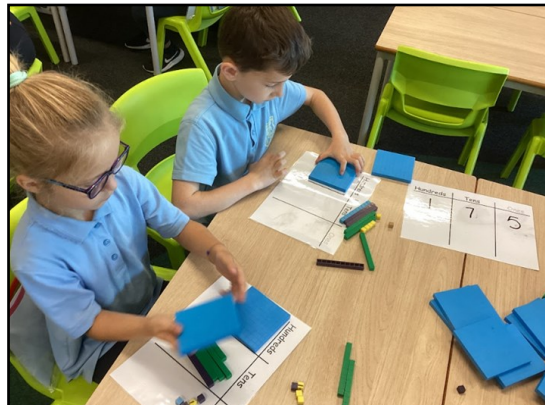
KS2 music lessons

We are really lucky this term to be working with Ben Tranter, from Croydon Music and Arts (CMA). He will be teaching all of our Year 3 and Year 4 children to play the ukulele. Because of our building works, we are not able to start steel pan lessons with Y5 and Y6 at the moment, but they will start as soon as those works are finished.



Year 3

In maths this week we have been working on place value. We have been identifying the value of digits in a number, and using the 'Part-Part-Whole,' method for partitioning.



Cricket Coaching

This half term, Year 3 to Year 6 are having cricket lessons with Spencer, one of the coaches at Surrey County Cricket Club. Year 3 and Year 4 had their first sessions this week. Some of the tasks were challenging, but everybody tried really hard and had lots of fun



Breakfast and After School Club

This week we have been enjoying the sunshine again, and enjoyed a picnic on the field.

Places are still available in Breakfast Club and After school Club. Breakfast Club runs from 7:15am until the start of school, and costs just £4 per session.

After School Club starts straight after school and runs until 6pm. After School Club costs £9 per session. We also have a shorter After School Club session, finishing at 4:30pm, which costs just £5 per session.

For more details, see the Breakfast and After School Club page on our website:

[Fairchildes Academy Community Trust - Breakfast and After School Club \(factrust.org\)](https://www.fairchildesacademycommunitytrust.org.uk/factrust.org)

Or talk to Mrs Bennett, in the school office.



Free School Meals

Thank you to those parents and carers who have applied for free school meals. As well as being ready for when the Mayor's free school meals funding ends, every child in receipt of free school meals means more money in the school's budget, so it really makes a difference. We advise all parents to check if they are eligible. It is very easy to check. Just go to:

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

Or do come into the office to talk to us, we are more than happy to help.

Dates for your diary:

19 Sept: Y5/Y6 Able maths day

2 Oct: Travelling book fair arrives (for the week)

4 Oct: African dance and drumming workshops (Y1 to Y6)

6 Oct: Y6 trip to fire station

9 Oct: Y5 trip to Science Museum

11 Oct: School photographer (individual and family group photos)

13 Oct: last day of school

14 to 29 Oct: Half term break

30 Oct: Children return to school

31 Oct: Deadline for secondary school applications

31 Oct: Y5 trip to Frylands Scout Centre

6 Nov: Y6 trip to Imperial War museum

7 Nov: Parent/Carer meetings

8 Nov: Parent/Carer meetings

Attendance

Congratulations to Jackson Class for this week's best attendance with 97.24%

| Class | % Attend | Lates |
|--------------|----------|-------|
| Y6 Jackson | 97.24% | 1 |
| Y2 McKee | 97.00% | 1 |
| Y4 Zephaniah | 95.50% | 3 |
| Y5 Leonard | 94.44% | 3 |
| YR Murphy | 94.44% | 2 |
| Y1 Donaldson | 93.59% | 1 |
| Y3 Nichols | 90.85% | 1 |



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