



Chief Executive Officer: Miss Jo Hussey

Headteacher: Guy Fairbairn

## Welcome to our latest Monks Orchard Primary School Newsletter 10 November 2023

### Nursery

In nursery this week we have been reading the book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' we had fun retelling the story in the garden, we all joined in with the words. We have also been busy making bird feeders to hang in the garden. We used bird seed and jelly, we hope the birds like them; we will be watching to see.



### Parent/Carer Meetings

Thank you to everybody who came to the parent/carers meetings this week. Your feedback so far has been very positive, and we are glad that so many of you found the meetings helpful.

If you were unable to attend a meeting this time, do get in touch with your child's class teacher, via ClassDojo, to arrange a time to speak to them. This is a very important opportunity for you to talk about your child's progress at school and what you can do to help them. Thank you.

### Congratulations to our special Certificate Winners this week

YR, Murphy Class	<b>Zuraiz</b> , for a good attitude to school and to his learning.
Y1, Donaldson Class:	<b>Meghan</b> , for a fantastic effort with her writing this week.
Y2, McKee Class:	<b>Laith</b> , for his wonderful writing about our book 'The Robot and the Bluebird.'
Y3, Nichols Class:	<b>Alexa</b> , for her great resilience and achievement in our class maths test.
Y4, Zephaniah Class	<b>Poppy</b> , for great enthusiasm in maths this week.
Y5, Leonard Class:	<b>Anastasia</b> , for her confident delivery of her amazing and empowering speech about equality.
Y6, Jackson Class:	<b>Liya</b> , for her valuable contributions in class this week.



## Music

Year 4 have started to learn how to play the guitar in their music lessons this week. We noted the similarities and differences between the guitar and the ukulele and learned how to strum a few notes too.



As well as learning to play the ukuleles, Year 3 also got to try out the steel pans this week (because year 6 were out on a trip). We had great fun and can't wait until we get to Year 5 when we can learn to play them properly.



## Year 5

This week, we finished our art based on the life of Olive Morris and the art of Linett Kamala. We are really excited because Linett Kamala is going to come in to school later this month to see our finished artworks, in person!

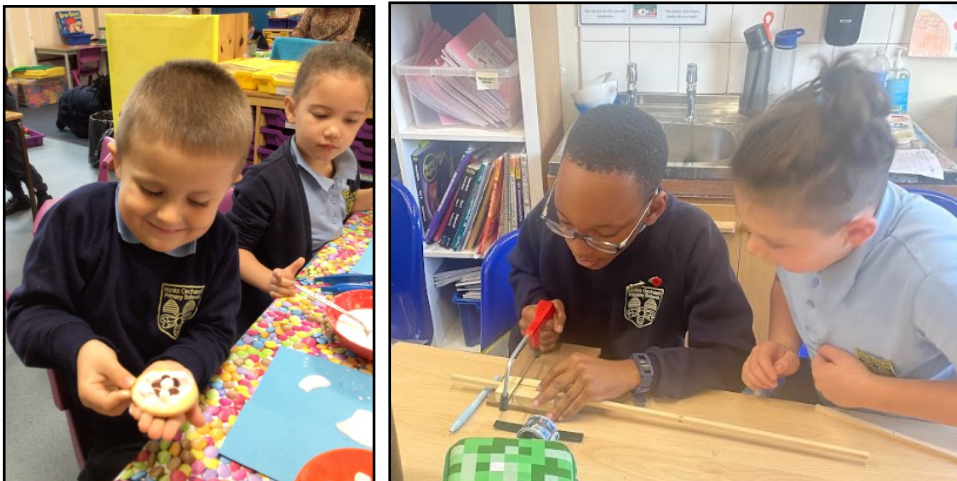


## Reception

This week Reception children have been exploring and predicting what will happen when water is added to sand, soil, powder paint and flour. It was incredibly exciting watching and noting the changes.

We have also been matching numbers to the correct quantities. The children had to pick a number card and put that many marshmallows or raisins on their biscuits. The children were really good at this and were frequently correcting themselves when over-counting, placing the extras in their mouths!

And we have a new gross motor skill activity called the Hamster wheel. After lots of practise and modelling by lovely Mrs Grimwood, we are all emerging Hamsters!



## Year 5 and Year 6 DT

In both Year 5 and Year 6 DT projects this term we will be using wood to create structures. This week we practised sawing and joining the wood. It was a bit tricky to start with, but we worked together, helped each other and managed it in the end.



## Dyslexia or Literacy Difficulties?



### Croydon's 'Children Will Shine' Workshops

- **Where** – Christ Church, Purley
- **When** – Saturday mornings during term time
- **Cost** – £25 per session – a free taster session

4 teaching groups:

KS2 Yr 6 & Year 7- 8 - 9.15 to 10.45 am

KS4 Yrs 4 & 5 & Years 9-11 - 11.00 am to 12.30 pm

Croydon Dyslexia Association

Helpline: 0333 111 00 66

Email: [croydon.shine@gmail.com](mailto:croydon.shine@gmail.com)

<https://www.croydondyslexia.org.uk>



Parents/carers – please discuss this with your child before contacting CDA

Teaching is offered for children with dyslexia and literacy difficulties - a diagnosis of dyslexia is not needed to register.

The sessions focus on:

- Maths – key concepts and rote learning
- Reading – improving sight word recognition and phonic decoding - fluency and accuracy - comprehension
- Writing skills – spelling, punctuation and grammar, descriptive writing and literary devices
- Memory – retention and recall of information
- Memory and Learning strategies
- Confidence – developing and improving confidence levels and attitude to learning

The primary aim of 'Children Will Shine' is to provide an enjoyable and positive learning experience where children feel well-supported and safe; up to 10 students per class.

All staff are trained teachers, working in local schools, and include Level 5 & Level 7 Specialist Dyslexia Teachers/Tutors.

Some comments from students and parents:

"My teacher says my spelling is improving."

"My son's levels in English are now those expected for his age."

His teacher said he has made the most progress in his class and I attribute this to his attendance at Shine."

"CWS has helped me by making learning fun, helping me to memorise what I'm taught which makes learning easier for me."

"I wait all week for Saturdays, so I can go to Shine."

### Dates for your diary:

**24 Nov:** Y4 trip to Horniman Museum

**17 Nov:** Y6 at Trinity School Concert (PM)

**7 Dec:** Y6 height and weight checks

**8 Dec:** Y4/Y6 festive performance (2pm)

**12 Dec:** Y5 festive performance (9:30am)

**13 Dec:** Y1/Y2 festive performance (9:15am)

**13 Dec:** EYFS festive performance (1:45pm)

**14 Dec:** Y1/Y2 festive performance (2pm)

**15 Dec:** Y3 festive performance (2pm)

*(More details re performances to come.)*

**Thursday 21 December:** last day of school

**22 Dec to 7 Jan:** Christmas Holiday

**8 Jan:** Children return to school

**17 Jan:** Royal Institution Science workshop for parents/carers (PM), details to follow

### Attendance

Congratulations to Jackson Class for this week's best attendance with 96.07%

Class	% Attend	Lates
Y6 Jackson	96.07%	0
Y5 Leonard	94.57%	6
YR Murphy	93.33%	3
Y2 McKee	90.00%	3
Y4 Zephaniah	89.57%	6
Y3 Nichols	89.41%	2
Y1 Donaldson	88.33%	1



**FAIRCHILDES  
ACADEMY  
COMMUNITY  
TRUST**



PROUD TO BE A  
MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL

