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Monks Orchard Primary School
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Welcome to our latest Monks Orchard Primary School Newsletter 8 December 2023

Nursery

In the nursery this week we have been reading the story 'Stick Man,' and making our own family trees. We made some salt dough to make Christmas decorations, and have been really creative, making a large collage with glue and glitter.



Christmas Lunch, Christmas Jumpers and Class Parties—Wednesday 20 December

Our fabulous festive lunch will be served on Wednesday 20 December. As usual, this will also be our Christmas Jumper Day, so your children are welcome to wear their festive jumpers to school. We will also have our class, end of term parties that afternoon. Children are allowed to bring a plate of food for their party but please remember that we do have children with severe nut allergies, so please check carefully that none of the food your child brings to school contains nuts. Thank you.

Congratulations to our special Certificate Winners this week

YR, Murphy Class	Anivea , for her great work and effort in maths this week, learning '1 more.'
Y1, Donaldson Class:	Ameeran , for fantastic effort with his writing, and for using his sounds to spell. Well done!
Y2, McKee Class:	Judith , for always showing she is ready for her learning and for giving 100%, especially in her role in the Christmas production.
Y3, Nichols Class:	Archie , for showing great excitement in his reading, and for recognising words independently.
Y4, Zephaniah Class	Cleopatra , for fabulous effort and participation in maths and English this week.
Y5, Leonard Class:	Tate , for your hard work and good attitude towards your learning—keep it up!
Y6, Jackson Class:	Layah , for your great progress in maths.
Breakfast and After School Club:	Alexa , for always being enthusiastic, ready for anything, friendly and kind to others—an amazing role model!



Year 5

We had a very special visitor in year 5 this week. You will know that we have been creating artworks based on the life of Olive Morris and inspired by the art of Linett Kamala. Well, Linett Kamala herself came to Monks Orchard this week to see our finished art. She was very impressed!

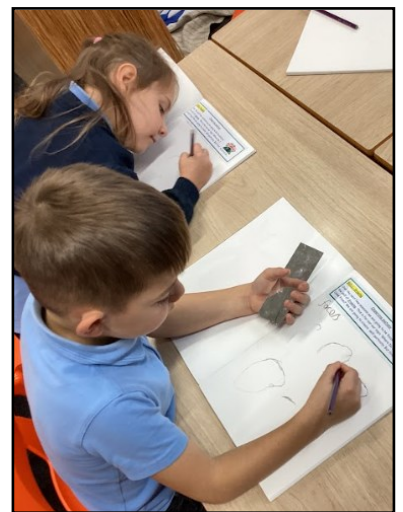
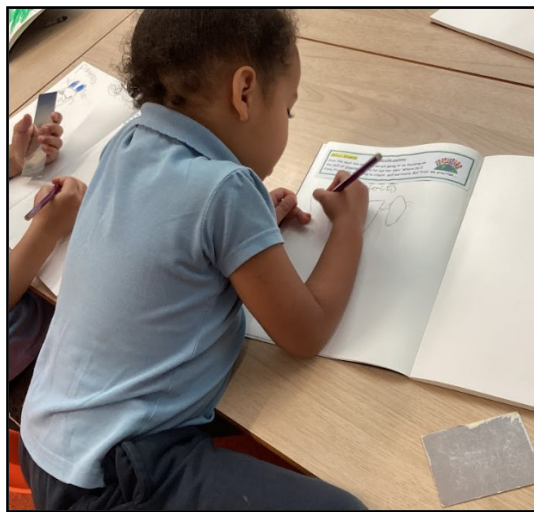
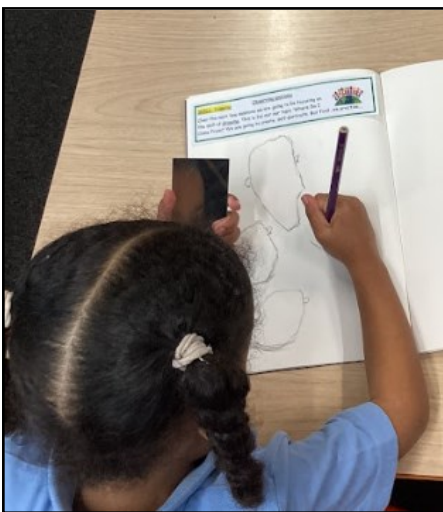
A massive thank you to Linett for her incredible support, and to Mrs Deveci and the Year 5 team for making such a fantastic contact.

To find out more about Linett Kamala and her work, have a look at her website: [Linett Kamala – Artist and Educator](#)



Year 1

In Year 1, we have been using the skills of 'observing' and 'sketching' to practise drawing our faces. Over the next few weeks, we will continue to practise drawing 'eyes' 'mouths' and 'noses'. Eventually we will combine our skills to create self-portraits.



Contact Details

Please let us know straight away if your contact details change. It is very important that we can contact parents/carers in case of emergencies.

If you know that there are times when the school will not be able to contact you, please make sure we have an alternative contact—just in case. Thank you.

Benjamin Zephaniah

We were all terribly sad to hear about the death, after a short illness, of Benjamin Zephaniah, this week.

Benjamin Zephaniah is one of our favourite writers and poets, and our Year 4 class has been named after him for the last 4 years.

His use of language and rhythm, in his poetry, was brilliantly immediate and engaging. And his writing brought such joy to so many.

We will think about an appropriate way to honour him later in the year, but at the moment our thoughts are with his family and friends.



Reception

Reception have been super busy this week, wrapping presents, writing labels and Christmas lists in Santa's Workshop, which is now officially open.

The children independently created fake snow and an ice scene, with dens for all the animals that like to live in a freezing cold environment. We found out about lots of animals that love living in a cold environment: Arctic Hare, Arctic Fox, Beluga Whale and Walrus were just a few. We also discussed how these animals keep warm, with their thick fur and blubber. We are all budding research scientists!





Dear Parents and Carers,

NSPCC Number Day is back and on Friday 2nd February, the children will play maths games, look at famous mathematicians and solve problems.

Everything the NSPCC does protects children

The NSPCC need our support more than ever. By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services such as Childline – the helpline that's always there for children and young people whatever their problem or concern.

On average, a child contacts Childline every **25 seconds**

We will be joining hundreds of other schools in *Dress up for Digits*. On Friday 3rd February, pupils are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!) or get even more creative by dressing in a maths or numbers themed costume. To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for a suggested donation of £2, and we'd love everyone in the school to take part in this special event. Please could children bring in their donation on Friday 2nd February.

It all adds up

We're really looking forward to all the fun of Number Day, and we really appreciate your support. All the money we raise at Monks Orchard will make an enormous difference to children today and help the NSPCC be there for children tomorrow.

We are delighted, once again, to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on **Friday 2 February 2024**.

Thank you.

Rebecca Green
Maths Lead

You can find out more about the NSPCC's work at nspcc.org.uk

Year 3 Science

The children made systematic and careful observations, examining different types of rocks (metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary). They had fun exploring, touching and rubbing their fingers against each rock type. Excitedly, they were able to identify and group each type of rock based on the four properties we had learned about (permeability, durability, density and hard or soft). The class discussion was fun and interesting, as children were able to make links to some of the rocks used to build lots of things in their home.

The children then labelled the rocks by their type and wrote a paragraph on the relationship between rock type and the properties.



Dates for your diary:

12 Dec: Y5 festive performance (9:15am)

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)

20 Dec: Christmas Jumper Day , Christmas Lunch and class parties.

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 Zephaniah Class for this week's best attendance with 99.13%

Class	% Attend	Lates
Y4, Zephaniah	99.13	3
Y3, Nichols	96.47	3
YR, Murphy	96.22	4
Y6, Jackson	95	1
Y1, Donaldson	94.17	6
Y2, McKee	94.09	3
Y5, Leonard	92.86	9

