

Monkhouse Primary School

Governor Newsletter

Welcome to our July 2018 Newsletter

It has been another fantastic year here at Monkhouse. Following last year's SATs results to find ourselves in the top 10 schools (by results) for Lincolnshire was deserved recognition for the team here at school, but academic performance is not all this school is about. The range of experiences the children get over the year is diverse and exciting and it is great to have teachers committed to these experiences. This was recognised by OFSTED in their visit, confirming the school's 'Good' rating. Once again to top the year off, we have ended with another set of good year-end results which are a credit to the children, staff and school and were also runner up in the Lincolnshire Free Press & Spalding Guardian Education Awards for Primary School of the Year. As a Governing Body we wish all of our departing Yr 6 children all the best for their continuing education and hope they always remember their time here at Monkhouse.

We also say goodbye to some long serving members of the Governing Body this year. We are always on the look out for new Governors with the right skills, so if you know anyone who may be interested, please encourage them to get in touch. As Chair I particularly love coming into school and meeting the children and am always impressed with their politeness and enthusiasm. Some of the highlights for me as a parent have been the Christmas performances, fathers in school days and the sports days. It is lovely to see the children enjoying themselves and their parents being involved in the life of the school.

As a Governing Body we are here to both support and challenge the leadership team to help the school achieve the best it can, to continue to provide a quality education as well as the range of different experiences that our children tell us they enjoy so much.

Alistair Main, Chair

What have we been up to this academic year?

We thought that you would like to hear what the Governing Body have been up to this year. We are all active members of sub-committees, and regularly attend school and the events that are held.

There have been 6 Full Governing Body (FGB) meetings, with both Curriculum & Standards and Resource Management sub-committees meeting throughout the academic year. Many school policies have been reviewed, adapted, accepted and implemented. Budgets have been interrogated, reviewed and implemented.

Governors regularly visit the school to help them fulfil their roles and responsibilities, during these visits Governors talk to staff and children as well as school leaders and present reports on their findings to the FGB.

This year governor visits have included:

- ◆ Book Monitoring
- ◆ Impact of Pupil and Sports Premium
- ◆ Health & Safety reviews
- ◆ Safeguarding audits
- ◆ PR & Marketing reviews
- ◆ Standards benchmarking
- ◆ Regular curriculum and subject reviews
- ◆ Website compliance against statutory national criteria
- ◆ School Improvement Plan monitoring and evaluation

In addition, Governors have also visited Monkhouse in an informal capacity to:

- ◇ Attend musical concerts, a variety of plays including magical Christmas performances and emotional leavers plays, exhilarating sports events, and informative assemblies
- ◇ Read with Monkhouse children which, as well as supporting the children, gives insight into teaching and learning within the school.

Governors also attend County-led events and training, with such forums offering invaluable networking opportunities and access to external advisors on strategic matters.

Whilst Mrs Goodsell has the overall responsibility for the content of the curriculum, standards of teaching and the internal organisation, management and control of Monkhouse, the Governing Body has a responsibility to hold the leadership to account on all these issues.

Governor visits help to improve knowledge of Monkhouse, its needs, priorities, strengths and areas for improvement. They are important for monitoring and assessing the priorities in the School Improvement Plan. Governors also monitor finances and the way the budget is accounted for.



Monkhouse Governors

Parent Governors

- Alistair Main
- Lisa Leyland
- Richard Hayes
- Bryce Beeston

LA Governors

- Elizabeth Mackay

Co-Opted Governors

- Eileen Robson
- Ian Haynes
- Betty Jordan
- Simon Lilley
- Martyn Green
- John Slater

Ex-Officio

- Sue Goodsell— Head Teacher

Staff Governor

- Hannah Turner





Monkhouse Ofsted Inspection: GOOD

Yes! Finally the Inspection that most of us were anticipating....happened! Most of you will be aware that Monkhouse Primary School was inspected in May 2018 by Ofsted, with the Inspector being present for only 1 day. His recommendation was that the school continues to be a GOOD school. The inspection was conducted by Phillip Garnham, whose written report draws particular focus to the success of the Leadership Team in maintaining the GOOD quality of education in the school since the previous Inspection. He commented that Monkhouse has a strong and enthusiastic team of leaders, creating a special ethos which is highly praised by staff, pupils, parents and carers. The high expectations are reflected in the quality of provision, the dedication of staff and the exemplary attitudes of pupils to their learning. It was stated that Monkhouse is a vibrant learning community, with interested, enthusiastic pupils and energetic staff. He also observed that the Senior Leadership Team has worked effectively to maintain and build on the many strengths identified in the previous inspection and had tackled the areas detailed on the last inspection for improvement. On behalf of the Governors, we would congratulate Mrs Goodsell and her staff on the impressive report, and wish to thank all the pupils, parents and carers for their ongoing support.

present for only 1 day. His recommendation was that the school continues to be a GOOD school. The inspection was conducted by Phillip Garnham, whose written report draws particular focus to the success of the Leadership Team in maintaining the GOOD quality of education in the school since the previous Inspection. He commented that Monkhouse has a strong and enthusiastic team of leaders, creating a special ethos which is highly praised by staff, pupils, parents and carers. The high expectations are reflected in the quality of provision, the dedication of staff and the exemplary attitudes of pupils to their learning. It was stated that Monkhouse is a vibrant learning community, with interested, enthusiastic pupils and energetic staff. He also observed that the Senior Leadership Team has worked effectively to maintain and build on the many strengths identified in the previous inspection and had tackled the areas detailed on the last inspection for improvement. On behalf of the Governors, we would congratulate Mrs Goodsell and her staff on the impressive report, and wish to thank all the pupils, parents and carers for their ongoing support.

Staff Members

This year has been busy, with many new faces starting in September. We hope that you have enjoyed your first year at Monkhouse, and look forward to seeing you all next year. Throughout the year we have welcomed new staff; Ms Harris covering for Mrs Lincoln and Mrs Battrawden covering for Miss Majer due to maternity leave. Mrs Turner has also been on maternity with Mrs Harwood covering the class on a full-time basis in her absence. This year we will be saying farewell to Mrs Parker and have already said goodbye to Mrs Baker and Mrs Lilley who left us earlier in the year. We wish them all well. Congratulations to Mrs Turner and Miss Majer on the safe arrival of their new babies, and Mr & Mrs Roberts and Mr Price and his partner on their forthcoming arrivals. Thank you for all your hard work, over the past year.

Activities

In order to enrich the themes being covered in school, the children have many opportunities to go on visits. Terms 1 & 2 were jam packed! Yr 2 had the opportunity to visit Lincoln Castle, Yr 3 had a Roman Day, Yr 4 a Battle Day, Yr 5 an Egyptian day and Yr 6 a Victorian day! Yr 6 had the memorable experience of attending the PGL Caythorpe residential trip, where many children faced up to their fears! The school very kindly arranged the Ladies in School Day, due to the success of one held the previous year. Yr 6 had a Judaism visit, KS1 & 2 participated in Science days, Star Lincs team bought in their planetariums for Yr 5, KS2 had a French cultural afternoon and the term was finished with the annual Christmas plays, concert and parties.

Terms 3 & 4 started off with Yr 6 visiting the WW2 centre at Freiston Shore, Reception having a Chinese Day and the whole school participated in World Book Day. The school arranged another successful Gentlemen in School Day. Yr 6 held a wonderful bistro evening and Nursery & Reception took part in an Easter egg hunt.

Although almost near the end of the school year, in terms 5 and 6 the children in Yr 4 participated in a Heroes & Villains Day, Yr 3 had a trip to Flag Fen, Yr 4 had a trip to Ferry Meadows, and visits to Spalding High and Grammar Schools and to finish the school year, the whole school participated in International Day and Sports Days.

Monkhouse has also developed new initiatives in learning for the children such as outdoor learning, yoga, Walk to School week, art therapy, mindfulness and numerous workshops including healthy eating, dance, finance and levers. The year also included visits from a football freestyler, an extreme mountain biker and an Olympic athlete.

The Ofsted report identified that not only does Monkhouse ensures that pupils do well academically but also supports the development of other skills by offering a rich and vibrant curriculum, that can be evidenced above. Here's to the next year!

Hot School Meals Provider

Monkhouse places great importance on healthy eating and quality of food. School lunches are subject to very strict governmental guidelines, including how much salt, sugar, and fat each portion and meal as a whole should contain. Last year, a survey was completed by parents on the school's provider of school meals. This led us to contacting alternative providers to see what they could offer. In June 2018, Edwards and Blake took over Monkhouse hot school meal provision. Since then the uptake in school meals has increased from 2502 in May to 2851 in June. The children particularly love the 'red basket' sandwich option. With the increase in variety they are able to select from, it's great seeing happy faces all round. Please contact the office or refer to the section on the website if you would like any further information about how to order.

Parent Survey

One of the jobs of the Governing Body is to talk to stakeholders and we are pleased to report that we had 113 responses to the Parent Questionnaire. Thank you to all who took the time to respond. Governors carefully considered the responses, which told us about your experience at Monkhouse, with the vast majority of parents indicating they were happy with their child's experience in school and describing the school as having a 'good reputation', 'good results' and with their children progressing well. Parents commented that Monkhouse keeps them regularly updated on key issues and that staff are very positive, approachable, friendly, helpful, polite and respectful. Suggestions for improvement included how staff could liaise with working parents more effectively.

Attendance

Governors continue to monitor attendance in a bid to achieve the school's target of ensuring every pupil is present at least 95% of the time. Attendance is improving; however we ask that parents try not to take their children out of school during the school term as it affects progress. We are proud to say, that overall this academic year, 95.63% attendance has been achieved. This is indeed an achievement given the outbreaks of chickenpox, sickness and flu that we have had this year.

Changes to the Governing Body

At the end of this academic year, we say a fond farewell to long serving Governors Mr Lilley and Mr Green, bringing with them invaluable experience, advice and knowledge during their service. On behalf of the Governing Body, we wish you well for the future. We are also very pleased to welcome new Co-opted Governor John Slater, Staff Governor Hannah Turner and Parent Governor Bryce Beeston.

New Governor Profile: Bryce Beeston

Bryce has worked as a software engineer working in various fields including cyber-security and hydrogen fuel cells. He spent most of his life in mid-Wales, but moved to the area with his family almost 2 years ago. Having seen how well his children have settled into the school (Yrs 2 & 4), the progress they have made in a relatively short time and how happy they are here at Monkhouse, he decided to become more involved, by becoming a Governor. He hopes not only to learn about how the school runs, but also to give something back to help the school in the future.



GDPR—Impact on School Data Holding

This has been a hot topic for 2018, with Governors and staff all having to attend meetings and training, update policies and protocols to stay in line with the changes in the General Data Protection Regulations that came into force on 25th May 2018.

GDPR enshrined 6 principles of Data Protection:

1. Personal data is processed lawfully, fairly and transparently
2. Personal data is collected for a specific and legitimate purpose
3. Personal data collected will be adequate and relevant
4. Data must be accurate and up to date
5. Personal data must be kept no longer than necessary
6. Personal data must be kept secure.

Governors and the Senior Leadership Team are working hard to make sure that the legislation is complied with. A Privacy Notice has been created which is available on the website. This details what information is collected, our legal basis for doing so, how we store your personal details securely and when we delete it.

If you have any questions about GDPR please contact the office staff in the school.

Monkhouse Results Success

This is a good time to celebrate the impressive set of results our school achieved in 2017-2018. We are extremely proud of the children.

	KS2	KS1
Reading	84%	80%
Writing	73%	72%
Maths	84%	78%
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	89%	N/A
Reading, Writing, Maths combined	69%	80%

Yr 6 pupils performed very well in the National Tests, results shown above. 78% of pupils in Yr 1 passed the Phonics screening test.

End of Year from the Headteacher

Well, this has been another jam-packed year. There have been a huge number of exciting activities for the children to take part in relating to their topics as well as a range of sporting extravaganza's organised by Mr Roberts. As OFSTED discovered the children speak very positively of their experiences at Monkhouse; a great hit this year has been the outdoor learning where they all look forward to their lessons with Libby. To top the year off we have had another good set of results - credit to the children and the great staff team we have at Monkhouse. I would like to thank you for the support you have given over the year, attending the various events, that have proved so popular, funding the visits that the children so enjoy and for the lovely comments many of you made to the OFSTED inspector. Obviously it is sad to say goodbye to our current Year 6 pupils, Mrs Parker, who has been at the school for quite some time and Mrs Roberts who is going on maternity leave, but we wish them well for the future. We look forward to welcoming Miss Amess who will be joining us as a Year 1 teacher and the new children who are joining us in Nursery and Reception.

Mrs Goodsell

2018 Lincolnshire Free Press & Spalding Guardian Education Awards

Monkhouse was nominated and finished runners up in the 'Primary School of the Year' category. After a fantastic year and great Ofsted report, this really shows what an amazing school we have.

BAFTA Club

After moving to its new self-contained unit, BAFTA club is now in its second successful year, growing in numbers, and providing a service that is in demand. Thank you to all parents for their continued support throughout the year.

Website

You will have noticed that the school website underwent a huge makeover during this academic year, making it easier to navigate around the volumes of data and information that now includes new features such as a very handy search bar and a translate button. We would ask that you please refer to the school website for all the latest news and useful information.

Collection Arrangements

Safeguarding children is top priority at Monkhouse. In line with new safeguarding recommendations, children will not be allowed to leave with anyone other than the designated person unless the school has been given prior notice. If parents know they will be late collecting children, please call the office to advise. Children waiting for longer than 15 minutes will be placed in BAFTA club, requiring parents to pay for this provision. If the school has not been informed and a child is not collected after 1 hour, the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Team will be contacted. Please ensure that the School has up-to-date contact details for all persons collecting children from the School.

Monkhouse Minis

After another successful year, Nursery has been re-branded as Monkhouse Minis. A decision to take children as soon as they turn 3 rather than the term after they are 3 has been made should there be capacity. Currently there are a few spaces, so please contact the school if you would like to apply.

Monkhouse PTA

Monkhouse is very lucky to have a vibrant and active Parent Teacher Association (PTA). New initiatives such as the exciting Joules second hand sale was an immense success, and tried and tested events such as the Film Night, was again over subscribed and very successful. They have also organised the annual Christmas and Summer fairs, which I am sure, those of you who attended would agree were spectacular with the Christmas fair being magical due to the visit from Santa! A huge thank you to the PTA for their commitment and hard work in organising such exciting events throughout the year.

This year, the PTA funded the following

- ◆ Termly book tokens
- ◆ Reception and Nursery Christmas Parties and disco
- ◆ Donations to whole school visits
- ◆ Leavers memory sticks
- ◆ Tablet for nursery
- ◆ Donation to purchase items in BAFTA club
- ◆ Lego for Lego Club
- ◆ First Aid training for Yr 5
- ◆ New reception classes water bottles, book bags and house T-shirts for the year
- ◆ Set of Yoga mats for mindfulness classes
- ◆ An easy-fit A frame for the grand piano
- ◆ 4 new computers for the ICT suite

Without your support, the PTA would not be able to run the annual events that they do, this would lead to the funding it provides for the school disappearing. We thank you for your on-going support. Please refer to the school website about what the PTA offers, as you might be persuaded to join!!!

On behalf of the Governing Body, we thank you for your continuing support and co-operation, and wish you an enjoyable, safe summer. Look forward to seeing you in September!

