MONKEN HADLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Seek what is good, treasure what is true, do what is right

This month's value is humility

Dear Families,

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a restful half-term—it's been lovely to see the children return in such good spirits and high energy (once we all got over the shock of having to get up early in the morning!)

A briefer newsletter this week but preparations are well underway for our upcoming Book Week, themed **Into the Woods.** Reminder emails have been sent, and we have also attached more details for your reference.

This week, we had some wonderful visitors to the school: Francesco and Rev. Abe from Wesley Methodist Church led a thoughtful worship session for the children. We also enjoyed an inspiring worship led by Rakhshan and Tommy, encouraging everyone to reflect on what makes them proud of themselves. I am always blown away by the confidence in our Monken Hadlian children: to plan an assembly, to practise and then stand up in front of their peers and deliver it to over 150 people - no mean feat! You both should be very proud of yourselves. Thank you parents for coming along to support.

A huge congratulations to our Girls' Football Team for an incredible achievement—they've made it to the final! Read the full match report from our roving reporter later in this newsletter.
We say goodbye to Mr Dalton today. It has been super having him part of our community for even a short while and we wish him all the very best as he returns home to Melbourne.

Next week is a busy one, with lots of exciting events planned. We're looking forward to another fantastic Book Week!
Hope you all a wonderful weekend—see you at the gate on Monday.

Ms. Eyres

Exciting Acting Club Opportunity!

Is your child destined for the stage? Our acting club is the perfect place! They'll hone skills in voice projection, acting, and public speaking, then prepare a Passion play for others this Easter.

Join us on Sunday, 9th March, at 2 pm, which marks the first of four consecutive Sunday sessions at The Rectory, St Mary the Virgin Monken Hadley, EN55QD.

Spaces are limited, so please email rector@monkenhadley.church by Thursday 7th March, to secure a place.

This Week's Stars...

Girls Football match - vs Whitings Hill: Semi Final

By the Roving Reporter

Rain and overhead clouds meant the match had to be moved from Whitings Hill School to another venue (that was not water logged). The children and parents gathered at Underhill for the winner takes all semi-final. Will the neutral venue take away any home advantage?

Monken Hadley had already beaten Whitings Hill 4-2 in a league match this season on their way to winning the league but as we know, cup games are so different. Form goes out the window and it's all about who wants to win this more. Our 10 girls start with some warmup and skills with Mr Beedie. The girls are eager and ready for the big showdown as are both sets of parents. It does look like Monken Hadley has brought more supporters, so maybe the neutral venue will suit us more.

The game starts, everyone is nervous. Whitings Hill have some fantastic players: they are tall, skillful and they are in control for the first 5 to 10 minutes. We can't seem to get out of our own half. They hit the crossbar and bar a couple of fantastic saves from Amanda, this game could be over. As expected, Whitings Hill score first, but almost immediately Monken Hadley are galvanised. The girls are passing better and getting forward. Some wonderful play on the wings from defence to midfield opens up an opportunity for Gisele and she scores. The crowd goes wild. We end the 1st half at 1-1. Mr Beedie gathers all 10 girls for a quick pep talk and words of encouragement.

The second half starts and again Whitings Hill takes control. They have a new weapon. Their throw-ins are longer and better than free kicks and corners and it's causing our defence some serious problems. Some great defending from Ettie, Georgia, Remi, Eliza and Scarlett. Not forgetting, great diving from Amanda keeps us in the game. There's a great clearance from our goalkeeper, some wonderful skills from Isabella, Bella, Daisy, Ettie and the ball lands at the feet of Giselle. She has to beat a player and shoot it in for our second goal. We are winning 2-1. With only a couple of minutes left Whitings is throwing the kitchen sink at us. They hit the bar again, a beautiful shot just goes over and they do get their second and equaliser. Oh no. The game ends. The score is 2-2. We need extra time. There are 5 minutes. Thankfully no golden goal, just whoever scores more will be declared the winner.

We are now into the dreaded penalty shootout. 3 players from each team will get the opportunity to score. We go first, oh no, it hit the post. Thankfully Whitings missed. Our second penalty is so clever, the cheeky Panenka (waiting for the goalkeeper to dive and chip the ball in), but their goalkeeper reads the play and saves it. This is so tense. They miss. That's it, our final penalty. Up steps Giselle, and she hammers it into the net, what a shot. Some of the girls think it's over and are jumping up and down. Mr Beedie calms everyone down. Can Whitings equalise to take this to sudden death, but they have missed. Our girls are running towards each other and celebrating. Mr Beedie is so happy, as are the parents who have been through nearly an hour of tension.

Well done the girls of Monken Hadley. You shake hands with all their players and I can hear you saying 'Good game'. Not only have you won and are through to the final, you have represented Monken Hadley with pride and dignity. The impossible and elusive double is still on. Can these girls win the cup on top of their league success? We go to the final game with excitement in our hearts. Well done coach and well done girls, a real team effort.