



Thoughts of a Headteacher...

Dear Parents

Now we are two weeks into term, there is already a feeling of momentum building. The children (and staff) have returned to school with focus and resilience - two traits that have certainly been knocked over the two school closure periods. I have been really impressed with the attitude of our learners and, with the curriculum variety on offer, there is very much a feeling that, with a fair wind, we will be able to secure targeted learning objectives for the children so that they go into the summer holidays ready for their next year group. You will have read about schools receiving 'catch up' money (in fact, the reporting of this spend is on our website) but we should all be wary of this term as this suggests it provides a magic wand. There is no doubt that there are strategies that can be employed to support lost learning time but the idea of 'catching up' can be problematic. If 'catching up' was a tangible thing, it would happen every year for any learner who was behind. Instead, we are focussing hard on the gaps in the children's knowledge and planning to give them the best provision in the next term. Our assessments show us that, as a collective, learners are achieving lower than in years gone-by - this is of no surprise. What is important is that we have a plan. I am in the middle of meeting with year group teachers to forensically analyse where our children are and what we can do more/better to help their progress and prepare for their transition. "Catch up?" Not the language we're using; "target learning to support good progress?" This sounds much more accurate to me... Have a good fortnight!

James Blackmore
Headteacher

Bank Holiday

Please remember Monday 3rd May is a bank holiday. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 4th.

Year 6 Bikeability



All pupils are already signed up to the course next week which is full. Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th – Kestrel Class and Thursday 6th and Friday 7th – Eagle Class. Each pupil taking part needs to have a roadworthy bicycle, helmet and suitable clothing for all sessions. Please complete the Bicycle Safety Check form sent via PM this week (we have copies in the office) and bring with you to hand to your instructor on the day. A big thank you to all the parent volunteers, it is much appreciated – we couldn't do it without you!!!!

Absence Reporting

Please report any absence via the school absence line or in person at the school office. Please call: 01823 412582. Any absence we do not receive a reason for is marked as an unauthorised absence. Thank you.

PTA

Please visit our pre-loved uniform shop online at <https://app.uniformd.co.uk/schools> and grab a bargain. New stock is added frequently.

PTA School Lottery News

Have you bought a ticket yet? You can sign up for a monthly direct debit or just buy one ticket! There is a weekly draw and the chance to win a jackpot prize of 25k. We have had 8 winners so far. Congratulations! The total funds raised so far for the school is £351.20. Thank you so much for supporting the school. This has been our main fundraising area so far this year and we really do appreciate all your support. Remember friends and family can buy tickets too! Please visit <https://yourschoollottery.co.uk> to buy your ticket!!

Wanted....

Miss Stacy and Mrs Lawrence would be grateful for any clean, clear glass jars with lids (such as jam jars). Mrs Lawrence will also like any spare or unwanted craft resources (such as old crayons, beads and glitter). If you can help please bring these items to the school office. Thank you.

What's coming up ...?

Monday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4 th May	Return to School
Tuesday 4 th May	Bikeability – Kestrel Class

Wednesday 5 th May	Bikeability – Kestrel Class
Thursday 6 th May	Bikeability – Eagle Class
Friday 7 th May	Bikeability – Eagle Class

Headteacher: Mr James Blackmore Chair of Governors: Mr Paul Spencer

A: Bridgwater Road, Bathpool, Taunton, Somerset TA2 8FT **T:** 01823 412582

E: office@wm.oak.education **W:** www.westmonktonprimaryschool.co.uk

West Monkton C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Where everyone has the courage and confidence to fly.

Family Learning

We have already begun our busy Summer Term of Family Learning opportunities with a Let's Cook course! Families enjoyed 2 sessions all about eating a balanced diet, including a zoom cook-a-long session where we made spag bol! The ingredients and session resources were all funded by SS&L who we work in partnership with to create the Family Learning project. It was great fun and full of learning for adults and children alike!

Upcoming Opportunities (all via Zoom) open to all families -

Wednesday 5th May - **E-safety for Primary Children** - with Miss West

Monday 10th May - **Wellbeing and Spirituality workshop** - with Miss Stacy

Wednesday 12th, 19th, 26th May - **Young Minds Matter – supporting your child to stay mentally healthy** - A new course open to all adult from trust schools run by Barney Rycroft (Head of Blackbrook) and Justine Macfarlane (Play Therapist) and Mrs Lawrence supporting.

In June we also plan to hold **phonics sessions for EYFS and Year 1 parents and children** as part of their transition into Year 1 and Year 2, more information to follow.

Please see Parentmail and Dojo for how to book on the sessions and remember to check out the SS&L website for further adult learning opportunities, many of which are free. I am always happy to chat to any adults who are considering returning to learning.

Mrs Lawrence



Car Park (including the BACH)

Please refrain from walking across both car parks with your children. Please use the pedestrian footpaths available. The car park is very hectic and we want to make sure everyone is safe at the beginning and end of the day. As the BACH welcomes back hirers of the hall, it is likely that we will soon be unable to use this car park for parents dropping off and picking up from school. Thank you.



West Monkton Parent Board

Our next meeting is Wednesday 26th May. Parent board is another line of communication with the leadership of school so if you have anything you would like to raise, questions to ask or ideas to give please see you class representative (information can be found on our website) or email parentboard@wm.oak.education.

Pastoral and Safeguarding

With lockdown easing and the summer approaching, you may be considering letting your child go out to play with their friends for the first time. Below is some advice from the NSPCC to support you.

Mrs Blackmore

Need-to-know: is my child ready to go out alone?

Getting the balance right between allowing children their independence and ensuring their safety when away from home can be difficult.

This guide provides advice and practical tips to parents on judging if a child is ready to be out on their own and how to prepare them for different situations such as walking to and from school by themselves, attending sports or holiday clubs, or going out to play with friends.

It explains the importance of parents talking to their children from a young age about the risks and how to stay safe when they're out alone, such as what to do if they're approached by a stranger, are bullied or get lost.

There is also a pull-out that parents can fill in with important information on their child's club, such as who they can talk to if they have any concerns.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1103/out-alone-keeping-child-safe.pdf>

Please remember West Monkton is a NUT FREE school. We ask our families to support us in this, and not send children to school with any products containing nuts.