



Thoughts of a Headteacher

Dear Parents,

As we are mid-way through internet safety week, it seems a good opportunity to talk about everyone's safety and responsible use of the internet. The internet is a fantastic tool which enables faster forms of information retrieval and communication. I know I was certainly lost without it when it went down following the storm. However, it comes with inherent issues, which requires all of us to be aware of who we are talking to and how we can stay safe. Mr Kelly, our computing lead, has been working with teachers this week so that classes have been able to undertake e-safety lessons and continue learning about the benefits and pitfalls around working and playing online.

It may also be a good time for us, as a school, to send back out our Acceptable Use Policy. This is an agreement between home and school to use the internet (particularly social media sites) in an appropriate and considered way. Each school has an Acceptable Use Policy, which encourages positive comments to be made about the school on social media sites.

It's hard to believe we are already at the end of another half term - it doesn't seem two minutes since Christmas was in full-flow. Have a happy and safe half term break and we'll look forward to seeing you all in Spring Two.

James Blackmore

Headteacher

Year 4 Trip

Last week the Year 4 children and staff had a wonderful day out at Wessex Water in Cannington. We learnt lots about rivers and the water cycle and learnt how our drinking water is cleaned at the factory. The sun was shining, the children were brilliantly behaved and full of questions and we had lots to talk about when we returned to school. Well done Year 4!

Fencing

Year 5 were lucky to have a fencing demonstration by Hannah Bryars, who is an eight time British National Champion, Commonwealth silver medalist and GB athlete at Multiple World and European Championships and Edgar Kursiss, Latvian Champion and Captain of his National Foil team. He represented Latvia at the World and European Championships from 2005 to 2009. Year 5 also got to have a go themselves ...see below!



Clubs

The second half of spring term after school clubs will run for five weeks commencing Monday 24th February – Friday 27th March.

OPAL

We are still looking for any donations of large tyres. If you are able to help or have a contact who might be able to help please let the school office know. Thank you.

Making Tracks

Making Tracks is a family-friendly walking group for the local community. The idea is to take advantage of the beautiful place in which we live with the Quantocks on our doorstep and head out for short walks (around 3-4 miles) which, whilst open to all, would be appropriate for KS2 children and above. To make it child-friendly, they'll also be a quiz/treasure hunt for the kids and we'll be sure to include a pub/cafe stop in case any little legs need any extra incentive! Our first walk will be on the 1st March and if you want to come along we are meeting at 1:30 pm at Lydeard Hill car park. If you have any questions or want to join in contact Paul Ellison, bathpoolpioneer@gmail.com.

World Book Day

As a school we have been working on building the children's vocabulary knowledge. We would like to build on this area during World Book Day by asking the children to dress up as a word. This could be an adjective, verb or noun. However, proper nouns, like names are excluded. Ideas for this could be coming in pyjamas and being 'sleepy'; coming in sports clothes and being the word 'sporty' or another example would be dressing up as a food and being 'edible'. Pupils could also dress up as a favourite character and linking a word to them ie. Roald Dahl's Matilda and therefore being the word 'magical'. This list is endless but of course dressing up is optional. Every year, the children's costumes have been absolutely amazing and this event is intended to be one of joy and celebration of words. Therefore if you have any questions or you require assistance with an outfit, your child's class teacher will be able to support you. During the day we will be organising a book swap. If your child has any old books they wish to swap they can bring in a maximum of two and swap with a selection of books other pupils have brought in.

What's happening this fortnight?

Monday 17 th - 21 st February	Half Term
Monday 24 th February	Return to School
Monday 24 th February	Pta Meeting at the school – 7:30PM

Tuesday 25 th February	Community Café at the BACH
Wednesday 26 th February	Family Learning – Yr 2 Literacy Boost Course
Thursday 27 th February	Peacock Class – Swimming Lessons Begins

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West Monkton C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Where everyone has the courage and confidence to fly.

Puzzle Corner

Name: _____ Date: _____

Musical Instruments

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the crossword puzzle grid with the name of each musical instrument following the numbers and direction indicated. Use the word bank if you get stuck.

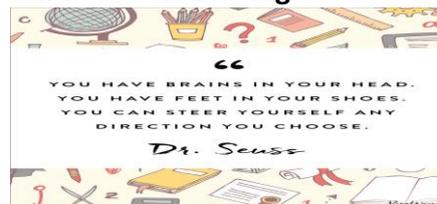
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Dates for the Diary

Parents' Evening will be on the evening of Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th April. These will be after Easter so that we are able to discuss both Autumn and Spring assessments. As always, the end of term reports will be sent out by Thursday 2nd April.

Phrase of the Fortnight



Family Learning

Coming soon ...

Literacy Boost Course for Year 2 parents to be held on Wednesday 26th February and Wednesday 5th March 1-3pm. All details are on parentmail. Breadmaking Workshop and 'The Truth about Food' talk for Years 2,3 and 4 parents/carers. Due to take place after half term, dates to be confirmed so watch out for the parentmail and book ASAP as places are limited.

Lucy Lawrence

Year 1 Teacher and Family Learning Coordinator

Spring Term 1 – Football Round Up

West Monkton boys' football team travelled to Weston-Super-Mare College to represent the Tone area in the finals of the Somerset and Bristol County Championship. After a rocky start, the Monkton boys gradually grew into the tournament with improved performances in every game to finish fourth in their group. Unfortunately, two defeats, two draws and a well-deserved 4-1 victory over Bridgwater Community College was not enough to see them progress in the competition. Monkton had been placed in a particularly tough group along with both eventual finalists - East Coker (near Yeovil) and tournament winners Winford (Bristol) with whom Monkton had battled out a 1-1 draw in the group stages.

Then the Monkton team were involved in the regional round of the national Kids' Cup competition at Exeter University. Monkton were soon into their stride with a 2-0 victory over Withycombe Raleigh Primary (Exmouth) and a 6-0 success against Stoke Canon (Exeter) ensuring they topped their group to qualify for the knock-out stage of the competition. In the last 16, Monkton came up against a very strong Stoke Hill Junior School from Exeter. Thanks to some goalkeeping heroics, the game went to penalties and was eventually settled by sudden-death spot-kicks with Monkton winning through. Monkton's opponents in the quarter-finals were St Michael's, a large school from Exeter. A great performance from Monkton saw them battle to 1-1 and another penalty shoot-out. However, this time it was Monkton who tasted defeat and elimination from the competition in a tense sudden-death finale. The tournament was won by another school from Exeter - St Nicholas'.

West Monkton girls were also involved in their finals of the Somerset and Bristol County Championship at Weston-Super-Mare College, battling hard to secure a highly-creditable fourth place finish with a record of a win, a draw and three narrow defeats. The competition was won by Trinity Primary School from Bath, who beat Preston Primary of Yeovil 3-1 in the final. West Monkton's girls have progressed to the semi-finals of the national Futsal championships, which will see them travel to Medway Park in Kent in mid-March to take on teams, representing counties across the south of England. Good luck girls!

PTA

The next PTA meeting is on 24th February at the school at 7:30pm. We are a friendly bunch and if you feel you would like to help out at all why not come along to our next meeting!!! If any volunteers would like to help at Tuck Shop on a Friday at all (only takes 15/20 minutes of your time) please let the office know. This would be really appreciated. **Future Events** - Easter Bingo is due to take place on Friday 27th March and Mr Blackmore is hosting a quiz night on Thursday 2nd April. You can enter your team now via the office. It costs £20.00 per team for a team of four. More details to follow soon on parentmail.

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.