



Thoughts of a Headteacher...

Dear West Monkton Community,

So, we're back! Whilst I am sure you will be pleased to see the children return to school, I cannot express enough how good it is to have the children return to their learning in school. The sound of having all 422 back in is such a tonic after a 12-month period of instability and change. Of course, no one can say, for sure, how the next chapter will play out but with the Spring sunshine warming the school, I am determined to be an optimist and hope for the best! We have been very pleased with the children's start to full reopening again and they are demonstrating how resilient and determined they are in their attempts to resettle in to school life. We are proud of each and every one of them. The remaining time in term will be spent delivering our recovery curriculum, working on core skills and understanding the skills and knowledge the children have learnt and retained across the whole academic year to date - all of which will be helpful in planning for the Summer Term. As I mentioned in the letter outlining our return to school, we are beginning to pencil in dates for the kind of events which indicate a full return to school life - these will be communicated as soon as we have greater clarity over arrangements for the Summer Term.

Looking forward to writing again before the Easter break...

*James Blackmore*  
Headteacher

**World Book Day – Thank you**

The Communication, Literacy and Language Team (Mrs Ward, Mrs Lloyd and Miss Merrick) would like to thank pupils and parents/guardians for the support shown for this year's World Book Day (celebrated on Thursday 4th March). The pupils' enthusiasm and efforts were amazing, both at home and at school, and it was a fantastic day celebrating our love of books.

**Comic Relief - Friday 19th March**

Help our school raise some much needed money for this fabulous charity that give so much to people that need it here in Britain and in countries across the world. We will be joining in 'doing something funny for money' and your child can come to school with one or all of the following things for 50p each.

**Dressed in Red (non-uniform)**

**Crazy Hair**

**Odd crazy socks**

We will also be holding a **'make your class laugh'** afternoon where the children are invited to tell their funniest joke to cheer us all up. You can support your children and this great charity by donating on our Just Giving Page

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/west-monktonprimaryschoolrednoseday21>



**National Day of Reflection**

We welcome you to join us on 23 March, the first anniversary of the first UK lockdown, for a **National Day of Reflection** to reflect on our collective loss, support those who've been bereaved, and hope for a brighter future. As a school, we will be creating daffodils to place in our windows and holding a minute's silence at 12pm. We welcome you to join us wherever you are. Best wishes, Miss Stacy.

**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. Congratulations to Mrs Anderson winning £30.60 and Miss Lock winning £34.80. Also, £87.20 has been raised for the school – not bad for two weeks!! Thank you so much for supporting the school. Please visit <https://yourschoollottery.co.uk> to buy your ticket!!

**Returning to School – Polite Notice**

Parking is only available in the school car park for blue badge holders or those with an existing agreement with the school only. Dogs, unless they are assistance dogs, are not allowed on site. Please dismount from scooters and bikes at the green school gates and walk with them to the bike/scooter shelters to park them up. Thank you.

**What's coming up ...?**

Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	School Lottery Draw
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Census

Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	National Day of Reflection
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Parent Board Zoom Meeting
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Bank Holiday

# West Monkton C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Where everyone has the courage and confidence to fly.



## West Monkton Parent Board

We aim to provide maximum opportunities for families to participate, reflect on and share their experiences and views of the school. Parent board provides a platform for families to be directly involved with school improvement. Parent board meet once a half term and each meeting has a school development focus as well as being an opportunity for families to raise concerns or celebrate success. We are currently open to new representatives (especially in Year 4). **Please contact Mrs Lawrence (Year 1 teacher) if you would be interested in joining.**

Please see our website for more information:

<http://westmonktonprimaryschool.co.uk/web/parentboard/447163>

Next meeting...

Wednesday 31st March - 6.30pm on Zoom - Main agenda item - Virtual learning

Lucy Lawrence

Year 1 Teacher and Family Learning Coordinator



## School Council

The School Council have been busy promoting the idea of counting this week due to the upcoming Census on Sunday 21st March. Hopefully, you have all received your Census's and will join us as being counted! 😊 This will help our local government to provide the right services for our area, which has changed beyond all recognition since the last Census in 2011. Did you know, that in 2011, there were only 87 school aged children in the West Monkton area!!

Mrs Barker

## DATES FOR THE DIARY....

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Bank Holiday**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Bank Holiday**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> –Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holidays**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Inset Day**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Summer Term Begins**

## Pastoral and Safeguarding

Hello everyone!

I would like to take this opportunity to reintroduce myself as one of the Deputy Safeguarding Leads. As you are aware we have our 'Follow the Rainbow' system in school that we have shared with the children during home learning and whilst in school. A brief reminder for you that this is our system that the children can use if they ever have any worries or concerns. All they need to do is look out for the staff member wearing a rainbow lanyard. We want to ensure that the children 'stay safe and speak out'. This rule also applies to all of our families across the school, so if you ever feel you need to talk or share any worries then please do come and find us. The children will also be aware of our worry monsters that we have in school. Each class has one so if they have any worries or concerns that they want to write down and share, then the worry monster is there to support them.



Please also see some useful resources that you and your child may wish to share:

All pupils - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people>

For KS2 - <https://www.safety4kids.com.au/>

For KS2- <https://www.bbc.com/ownit>

Thank you,

Miss Paling Deputy DSL

## Holiday Activity & Food Project (HAF) For Children aged 8-16

Applebees Fitness, COACH, Channel Adventure and The Weir Cafe are delighted to have received government funding to deliver a holiday activity programme during the Easter Holidays. Taking place in and around French Weir Park, this will combine exciting outdoor activities with learning about food nutrition and preparation. **Each pupil will also get a free healthy meal at the end of their session**

**Activities** - Outdoor Education is a great medium to not only support children's physical and mental health but also to develop their personal and social skills, developing their self-esteem and self-worth. Planned activities depending on weather and water levels include Icebreakers / challenges, wide games/ frisbee, water based outdoor activities (kayaking/canoeing/rafting/paddle-boarding/raft building/wild swimming, land based Outdoor Activities (tree climbing/axe throwing / bush craft / orienteering / archery), fitness sessions,, rowing fitness, food nutrition, team challenges to include food preparation.

**Ages** - The course is suitable for those aged 8-16yrs. We will aim to group ages appropriately but this will depend on the ages of those who book. For more information and to book <http://www.channeladventure.co.uk/haf>

**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.**