



Thoughts of a Headteacher

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to be able to report to you on all of the fantastic work we are doing as a school. You may have seen on Facebook the ChromeBooks that have been purchased. This has already proved to be a great addition to our hardware. There are 30 per phase of the school, which has meant the children able to use them more often in their computing curriculum. We have also purchased new reading books for KS2, which will be rolled out shortly. Both purchases constitute a substantial amount of money that we are investing in the children and their education. Inside West Monkton we can tangibly see the impact of our work, with the quality of the children's work improving and their progress accelerated. We have worked hard on implementing a new maths and English (we call it Communication, Language and Literacy) policy and we are already seeing the impact of our hard work. We continue to develop our Wider Curriculum Policy, with some fantastic examples of work linked to our Christian Values. We are proud of the children, their work and our school - we hope you are too...

Have a good fortnight!

James Blackmore
Headteacher

BBC Radio Somerset

Some of our Year 5 students were interviewed for playground politics on Tuesday 25th February by BBC Radio Somerset. You will be able to catch this broadcast on BBC sounds APP/iPlayer.

World Book Day

What a fantastic day we've had celebrating the joy of reading and words! We have been completely amazed by the children's creativity with their costumes and their enthusiasm shown throughout the day. On our walk around school, we have seen children dressed up as 'Fragile', 'Royal', 'Unique', 'Eccentric', 'Cosmic', 'Adventurous' and 'Magical' to name a few. Pupils have learnt a lot of new vocabulary and hearing their discussion around the definition of words has been amazing. The book swap was well-supported (a big thank you to Magpie Class for running this) and lots of pupils couldn't wait start reading their new book. Today all children have received a token to either receive a **free** World Book Day Book or £1 off a book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more at your local bookseller (between 27 February - 29th March 2020). More details of how to access this is on the book token. Happy Reading! From Mrs Ward and Mrs Lloyd



COVID-19

By now you should have received written communication from The Oak Partnership regarding COVID-19. We receive updates at 2pm each day and respond to advice and guidance. Handwashing is the best form of defence and we are undertaking lesson plans on handwashing with all the children and working with the community nursing team. Please do read the communication from Mr Robinson and follow the advice given. We will communicate further if the situation develops.

PTA Easter Bingo – Friday 27th March

The PTA will be hosting their ever popular Easter Bingo on Friday 27th March at the school. The doors will open at 6pm for eyes down at 6:30pm. Doors will close at 6:20pm, please note there will be no entry after this time. There will be a non-uniform day on Friday 20th March to support this. We would appreciate any donation of chocolate eggs (for the Easter hampers) as well as raffle prizes (bottle of wine, box of chocolates). You will be able to leave your donations on the tables outside each of the KS gates. Thank you in advance for your support.

LKS2 Production

It's Showtime for LKS2! Year 3 and 4 children have excitedly started rehearsals for the LKS2 end of spring term production. This will be LKS2's 4th year of putting on a show and we're confident that our production of 'We'll Meet Again,' will be a show to dazzle! Dates for performances will be **Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st March**. Look out for upcoming information on Class Dojo pages and on Parent mail.

Parking

I am sorry to say that we are having parking issues again both inside and outside of the school. We have received new communications from residents on Bridgwater Road regarding blocked access to driveways and we are still seeing some dangerous parking outside of the school. In addition to this, we are seeing cars parking in the disabled bays of our car park or misuse of blue badges. We really do rely on these spaces being used for our most vulnerable children and so ask all of our community to avoid unnecessary use of these designated spaces. There have also been reports of the speed in which people are driving in and out of the school and BACH site. Please do be aware of our use of the facilities and the surrounding area. We appreciate that people are busy but we want the school to be accessed in the safest way possible.

What's happening this fortnight?

Tuesday 10 th March	Community Café at the BACH
Tuesday 17 th March	Family Learning – Bread Making Workshop
Thursday 19 th March	SASP at Taunton Vale

Friday 20 th March	Non-uniform day for PTA Easter Bingo
Tuesday 24 th March	Community Café at the BACH
Tuesday 24 th March	Family Learning – Bread Making Workshop

Headteacher: Mr James Blackmore

Chair of Governors: Mr Paul Spencer

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West Monkton C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Where everyone has the courage and confidence to fly.

Pound and Part Day – Friday 27th March

We will be holding a non-school uniform day on Friday 27th March. This is to support and add much needed resources for the play shed as part of the OPAL project. We are asking children to bring a £1 and a part for the play shed. Collection buckets will be at the gates for children to put in their donation of £1. We are grateful for all donations received. Please could children drop all of their donated loose parts to the cage on arrival. We are looking for skipping ropes, hula hoops, balls, dressing up clothes, plastic toys/boxes, chalks, guttering and buckets. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Mr Blackmore's Quiz Night – Thursday 2nd April

Mr Blackmore, with the support of the PTA, is hosting a quiz night on Thursday 2nd April at the school. This is an adult only event. Teams (of four) must pre-book with the school office. Entry for your team costs £20.00 (please pay at the office when you enter your team). There will be refreshments and a bar on site for the purchase of food and drinks. There will be a prize for the winning team (Bills meal voucher and 4 bottles of wine). Please arrive at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. All money raised will help to improve our outside areas.

Refresh Service – Sunday 8th March

Come along to the Refresh service at West Monkton School at 4pm. A free, informal and fun gathering where this month we will be thinking about how kindness really matters. For more information contact Rev Tracey Hallett on 07854 489753/01823 451257.



Dates for the Diary

Friday 20th March - Non-uniform Day for Collection of Eggs

Friday 27th March - Pound and Part Day

Friday 27th March - PTA Easter Bingo

Thursday 2nd April - Mr B's Quiz Night

Parents Evenings

Tuesday 31st March and Wednesday 1st April - Year 6 and Reception

Tuesday 28th April and Wednesday 29th April - Year 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

Family Learning

Thanks to all who attended the Literacy Workshops!

Coming up..... Bread making workshops and 'The Truth about Food' - Tuesday 17th, 24th and the 31st March. These are already fully booked. We may run some more so watch out for parent mail updates!

Lucy Lawrence

Year 1 Teacher and Family Learning Coordinator

Sporting News -The West Monkton team secured a creditable fourth place when they competed in the County Sports Hall Athletics finals, which were held at Court Fields School in Wellington. Taking on opposition from nine other schools from across Somerset, the Monkton team of 10 boys and 10 girls narrowly missed out on bringing back a bronze medal. Each Monkton competitor had to compete in two track and two field events to accumulate points towards an overall total of 224, which saw them finish just 10 points off third spot in the competition, which was won by Eastover Primary School, Bridgwater. Well done to all who took part! MR WILLIAMS

Community Links in the BACH and at School

Mondays

Yogalates 9.15am

Pure Pilates 6.30pm-7.30pm

Yogalates 6.15pm

Taunton Table Tennis 7.30pm-9.30pm

Rachel Fortnum Glow Club 7.30pm

Tuesdays

Community Café in the BACH with Paul Elliston 2-4pm

Pound Fitness 6.15pm

Yogalates 7.30pm

Wednesdays

Bounce and Burn 5.45pm – 8pm

Thursdays

Yogalates 9.15am

Sewing 10am-12pm except 2nd week 11am-1pm

Ballet Beatz 6.30pm-7.30pm (Dance Studio)

Pure Pilates 6.30pm -7.30pm

Rachel Fortnum Fitness 7.30pm

Fridays

Miranda Boom, Hartbeeps 9.30am-12pm

Saturdays

Taunton Table Tennis 10am-12pm

Keeping Your Connected Home Safe for your Children

More and more families now regularly use a range of devices that connect to the internet, such as smart speakers, smart meters, fitness trackers, and even toys. Alongside the excitement and convenience of these devices, we also need to be aware of the risks associated with any device that connects to the internet. ThinkUKnow say that these risks include:

Concerns have been raised about whether these devices are collecting **too much personal information** from children.

Some children (either accidentally or on purpose) are able to search for and access **age-inappropriate material** via a connected device such as a smart speaker.

Children may make **'in-app purchases'** and spend money, which is often taken from their parents' bank account without their knowledge or consent.

Some of these devices may be more vulnerable to hacking and monitoring, as there are currently no security standards in place for connected devices.

Luckily, they have also released guidance to support us in keeping their connected homes safe for children: Further details can be found:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-the-internet-of-things-iot>

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.