



Dear Parents,

As this is the first newsletter since the turn of the new year, let me wish you a Happy New Year and welcome you back for the start of the Spring Term. I can see a little bit more light every morning - it won't be long until we're enjoying the longer days and better weather. The inclement weather and the state of our field has had an impact on our first OPAL winter but we're very much looking forward to supporting the children in their ongoing child development through our commitment to 'play'.

As I announced the result of our SIAMS inspection on the last day of term, I'm keen to celebrate our 'excellent' judgement and the fact that we are one of only a handful of schools in the diocese that have been judged as 'excellent.' The inspection allowed us to be recognised for our work on children's pastoral as well as academic needs. The 'excellent' judgement is something for all of us to celebrate and I would like to thank you all for ongoing support of our work.

With the parental survey completed before Christmas, I am very much looking forward to acting upon your feedback - more about this will be communicated throughout Spring Term. Part of this will be bringing parents with us on our school improvement journey; we are looking to offer increased themed evenings and making better use of the website and social media in order to update and inform you. Lastly, with Mrs Martin's departure, I am now the current RE and Collective Worship Lead for the school. As Headteacher I feel this is a vital role to play and am looking forward to working with you in regards to our work with the church. No one can replace the energy and commitment of Mrs Martin but having worked with her for a number of years, it has rubbed off somewhat and I am looking forward to the challenge..! Have a good fortnight.

James Blackmore

Headteacher

Thank you

Thank you to our school community for raising £83.16 for the Christmas Sparkle charity (Christmas jumper day). Well done, also, to UKS2 who raised £681.28 for their enterprise day in December. The children chose to donate £281.28 to the RSPCA.

Intra Sport Winner – Term 2

The second West Monkton Intra House Sports Cup Competition, which is competed for by all of the children from years 3 - 6 with the scores being collated together, has been won by the **Green House** last half term. Bench ball was the chosen sports. Well done Green House!!! Who will win next half term? Watch this space!



OPAL

We are looking for any donations of large tractor type tyres, balls, hoops and skipping ropes. You can drop any donations into the school office. We would be extremely grateful.

Bags of Help Clothes Bank

There is a clothes bank next to the entrance of Little Herons Nursery (UKS2 gate). This is emptied on a regular basis and the school receive a small donation based on the amount of clothes the charity collects. We would be grateful for any donations

Spring into Sport

The Spring Term at West Monkton will see athletes from the school involved in a wide variety of competitive and friendly events. A busy January football programme concludes on Thursday the 23rd when Monkton's players are set to travel to Exeter for the day to take part in the area round of the national Kids' Cup competition. January will not be solely occupied by football as Monkton's runners will be on their marks for the district 1,400m cross-country race at King's College on Monday 27th (3.50-5pm). Players from the school will also be involved in a dodgeball event at Blackbrook on Wednesday 29th (3.50-5pm) and a Boccia competition on Thursday 30th (3.50-5.45pm). February will open on Monday 3rd (3.50-5.30pm) with the Year 5 and 6 boy footballers again travelling to Heathfield, this time for a programme of friendlies, while Thursday 6th will see Monkton's basketball players at the same venue for a friendly event 3.50-5.30pm). A major event in West Monkton's sporting calendar takes place on Monday, February 10th, when the school's girls' futsal squad travel to Torquay for the day to represent Somerset in a competition against top teams from counties across the South-West of England. A very busy sporting programme is lined up for March, starting with competition netball at Taunton Vale on Wednesday 4th (3.45-5.30pm), which will be followed the next day by basketball friendlies at Heathfield School (3.50-5.30pm). Heathfield will also be hosting a Years 5 and 6 boys' football event on Monday 9th (3.50-5pm). Thursday, March 12th, will see Monkton teams involved in Key Steps Gym competitions at Taunton & Bridgwater College. The Years 3 and 4 team will be in action in the morning and the Years 5 and 6 team during the afternoon. See bottom of the page for other sporting fixtures for February and March.

What's happening this fortnight?

PTA School Disco	Friday 17 th January
Year 2 (Robin) Trip to Rodwell Farm	Monday 20 th January
Year 1 (Pelican) Trip to Rodwell Farm	Tuesday 21 st January

Year 3 Trip to We the Curious	Tuesday 21 st January
Family Learning – First Aid	Thursday 23 rd January
Year 2 (Puffin) Trip to Rodwell Farm	Monday 27 th January

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.

Puzzle Corner

Winter Word Search



COAT
COLD
FROST
ICE

IGLOO
SCARF
SNOW
WINTER



Dates for the Diary

Half Term – WC 17th February, returning to school 24th February.
SPORTS DAY – Thursday 18th June and reserve date of Thursday 9th July.

Phrase of the Fortnight



Family Learning

First Aid – open to parents and carers of KS2 children. Thursday 23rd January 1-4pm and 5-8pm. Places still available on both. Sign up under the forms section in parentmail.

Coming soon ... 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

New Mobile Phone Policy – Our school operates a 'No mobile phones' policy. Visitors to the school site are asked to hand in their mobile phone to be kept in a secure locked drawer in the school office. This is as having mobile phones in school could be a safeguarding issue and this new policy is for everyone's safety. If you are not happy to hand your mobile into the school office you can always leave it in your car or at home. Thank you for your understanding.

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

Sporting Fixtures for February and March

- Wednesday 12th – Netball Friendlies, Taunton Vale, 3.45-5.30pm.
- Thursday 13th – Years 3 and 4 Catch Ball Friendlies, Taunton & Bridgwater College, 4-5-30pm.
- Friday 14th – County Sports Hall Athletics Competition, Court Fields, 9.30-11.30am.
- Monday 24th – Cross-Country Relay Competition, King's College, 3.50-5pm.
- Wednesday 18th – Netball Friendlies, Taunton Vale, 3.45-5.30pm.
- Thursday 19th – Years 3 and 4 Catch Ball Friendlies, Taunton & Bridgwater College, 4-5.30pm.
- Monday 23rd – Years 5 and 6 Boys' Football Friendlies, Heathfield School, 3.50-5.30pm.
- Wednesday 25th – Dodgeball, Blackbrook, 3.50-5.50pm.

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.