



Thoughts of a Headteacher...

Dear West Monkton Community,

I write this on the last day of term with a huge sense of optimism. There are children outside modelling clay, classes testing houses against inclement weather and groups working on their allotment patches. There is a sense of the school building towards full-speed again and it is wonderful to see, feel and hear... There is much to look forward to and, after a good break, we all can't wait to get started again.

Some parents have asked about Parents' Consultations. Our plan is to provide progress reports upon return to school after Easter and then arrange for face-to-face consultations in the second half of the Summer Term with a focus on transition. We feel this will give parents/carers the best opportunity to talk about progress made in the year as a whole and then discuss the focus of their child's start to the following year. We're also hopeful that the guidance may allow an element of us physically meeting rather than being reliant on virtual meetings...

You will know that we have been relaxed about the uniform policy during lockdown. As the roadmap begins to open up shopping again, we would like to move back towards appropriate school footwear, if possible. For some families this may not still be possible, if this is the case, please let us know.

Please do have a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 20th April after the Monday INSET Day.

James Blackmore

Headteacher

A Big Thank you - Comic Relief

Thanks to your donations we raised £827.23 for Red Nose Day. The children and adults had lots of fun on the day. Thank you.



Year 4

As part of their homework, Year 4 children have been thinking of ways to support the local environment. We've had lots of litter picks, bug hotels and planting of flowers and trees. They've all done a super job and we're very proud of them!



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 two more winners winning £36.90 each. Congratulations! The total funds raised so far for the school is £182.80. Thank you so much for supporting the school. Please visit <https://yourschoolottery.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.

World Book Day Vouchers

The World Book Day Vouchers are valid in bookshops beyond 28th March.

Welcome Back Honey!

Honey, our therapy dog, will be back in school following the Easter break. The children are very much looking forward to seeing her. If your child has any allergies to dogs please let the school office know.

What's coming up ...?

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Friday 2 nd April | Bank Holiday |
| Sunday 4 th April | Easter Sunday |
| Monday 5 th April | Bank Holiday |

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Tuesday 6 th April | Easter Holidays |
| Monday 19 th April | Inset day |
| Tuesday 20 th April | Return to School |

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 a busy Summer Term of Family Learning Opportunities planned! We have chosen to continue to use technology to help deliver workshops to families via Zoom. Please keep an eye out for parent mail and Dojo posts advertising details of each workshop. We continue to run these thanks to the funding and support of SS&L.

Dates for the Diary - more to follow!

Let's Cook! Wednesday 21st and 28th April 4-5pm. Open to all families (limited spaces).

Wellbeing and Spirituality Session: Monday 10th May 4-5pm. Open to all families.

Fast Forward to Phonics in Year 2! Date: 10th June. Open to Year 1 families.

Phonics: All you Need to Know for Year 1! Date: 16th June. Open to Year R families.

Lucy Lawrence

Year 1 Teacher and Family Learning Coordinator



Parish Planting Initiative

West Monkton Parish Council together with Monkton Elm Garden Centre are delighted to launch a free parish-wide planting scheme to enhance the natural beauty of our community. There is a free planting pack and sunflower competition (please print your voucher from the recent parent mail and take to Monkton Elm). Happy growing everyone!!!!



West Monkton Parent Board

Any comments or questions to parent board please email on parentboard@wm.oak.education and look out for the minutes from our meeting on Wednesday that will be published on our website.

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.