



Thoughts of a Headteacher...  
Dear Parents

I am having to write this edition's welcome at the very last minute, with lots of polite reminders from Dawn-Marie - it certainly is indicative of how busy and productive the school is at the moment. We have recently had dyscalculia training with an Educational Psychologist and have moderated our writing assessments across The Oak Partnership - fantastic pieces of work that will continue to enable teaching and learning, in the classroom, to be as effective as possible. Our innovative and creative work has certainly not gone unnoticed by the Initial Teacher Training (ITT) providers in Somerset - as a result, we will be formalising our relationship with them for the new academic year. Whilst this does not impact upon daily school life, it is indicative of our response to teaching and learning, post-COVID, and testament to the skill and dedication of our teachers. I am sure there will be more to inform you of as we move towards September. With the appointment of Mr Seviour as Deputy Headteacher for September, there are exciting times ahead and whilst it looks like we still need to be very aware of COVID guidelines, I can see signs of our school emerging out of this year in a good position for the future. We're making every day count at the moment - thank you for your support...

*James Blackmore*  
Headteacher

**The BACH Car Park**

The BACH car park will not be available for parents to use during drop off/pick up from the week commencing **17<sup>th</sup> May**. With the ease of lockdown, the BACH has reopened fully for hirers and their car park will be in use. Please make alternative arrangements (the school car park is only available to blue badge holders).

**Wanted - A Plea from Year 1!**

As we prepare for the summer we are looking at our outside space. We are looking for donations of big logs (big enough for children to sit/perch on), a large tyre (maybe tractor) and good condition pallets - which could be delivered to school. If you think you can help please see Mrs Lawrence or Miss West.

**Year 4 Allotments**

Year 4 would like to say a huge thank you to all children and parents who have kindly contributed to our allotment patch. We have been very lucky with the weather (the rain meant children could be a little relaxed on their watering duties) & touch wood, the plants seem to be thriving! Keep checking our Class Dojo pages for regular updates!!

**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 10 winners so far. Congratulations! The total funds raised so far for the school is £430.40. Thank you so much for supporting the school. This has been our main fundraising area so far this year and we really do appreciate all your support. Remember friends and family can buy tickets too! Please visit <https://yourschoollottery.co.uk> to buy your ticket!!

**Reminder - Coronavirus Symptoms**

The symptoms of coronavirus are: a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell and taste. If your child displays any of these symptoms, a PCR test must be booked (lateral flow test does not count). Attendance will not be allowed until a negative result is communicated with the school.

Thank you.

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

Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Young Minds Matter
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	PTA Lottery Draw
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Young Minds Matter

Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Parent Board Meeting
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 Trip to Oakhampton
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	PTA Lottery Draw

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.

## Family Learning

Thank you to all the families who joined us for E-safety and Mindfulness sessions in May.

We are excited to have a number of families involved in our first cross trust course called 'Young Minds Matter' during the remainder of this month.

### Save the date and wait for more information:

Thursday 10th June - Phonics workshop for Year families in preparation for Year 2.

Wednesday 16th June - Phonics workshop for Year R families in preparation for Year 1.

June (Dates to be confirmed) - A 2 session course of Forest school sessions for families.

Mrs Lawrence



## West Monkton Parent Board

Our next meeting is Wednesday 26th June.

Please can you see your class representative if you have anything you would like them to raise. Please see our page on the website for more information:

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

## Science Week – WC Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Please see the recent Parent Mail regarding this. Donations gratefully received via PM > Payments >Shop! Thank you.

## Festival of Sport

You will no doubt remember that, due to Covid 19 protocols, the school was unable to hold its annual sports day along the traditional lines. Instead, the event saw the children taking part in the various competitions in their own PE “bubble” groups.

This year, the school is aiming to hold a new format event, whilst still ensuring that all safety and Covid measures are still observed. The new-look event is planned as a two-day “Festival of Sport”, which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Day One** will commence with the KS1 field events in the morning. They will operate on a rota basis around 10 stations. A picnic lunch will be held on the field from around mid-day before the track events for both EYFS & KS1 take place in the afternoon. The afternoon will conclude with the festival’s half-way point celebrations. Parents and guardians should pick up their children from their classrooms.

**Day Two** will open with the KS2 field events in the morning. They will also take place on a rota basis around 10 and will include competition in the discus, javelin, shot put, long jump etc. There will also be a picnic lunch again on the field from around mid-day. Parents are invited to attend from around mid-day to lunch and watch the track events. Track events for KS2 will start early afternoon and go on until towards the end of the day before the afternoon concludes with a whole-school celebration at 2.50pm to reveal the identity of winning house team. All children should be picked up from their classrooms as normal by their parents or guardians at the end of the school day.

All timings and further information will be relayed nearer to the date of the Sports Festival.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Should it not be possible to hold the festival, due to poor weather, the alternative dates of Monday and Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, have been pencilled in as back-up alternatives.

Mr Williams

## Pastoral and Safeguarding

With lockdown easing and the summer approaching, you may be considering letting your child go out to play with their friends for the first time. Below is some advice from the NSPCC to support you.

Mrs Blackmore

### Need-to-know: is my child ready to go out alone?

Getting the balance right between allowing children their independence and ensuring their safety when away from home can be difficult.

This guide provides advice and practical tips to parents on judging if a child is ready to be out on their own and how to prepare them for different situations such as walking to and from school by themselves, attending sports or holiday clubs, or going out to play with friends.

It explains the importance of parents talking to their children from a young age about the risks and how to stay safe when they’re out alone, such as what to do if they’re approached by a stranger, are bullied or get lost.

There is also a pull-out that parents can fill in with important information on their child’s club, such as who they can talk to if they have any concerns.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1103/out-alone-keeping-child-safe.pdf>