



**Thoughts of a Headteacher...**

I hope you have all been enjoying the various autumn activities that are associated with this time of year. There is certainly an 'order' to autumn events that, even as a child, I hold dear, from the beginning of the school year until Christmas. As a child, growing up in Bridgwater, the carnival and fireworks came closely after the fun of Halloween. From this point there was then a clear run to Christmas with the beginning of advent and the usual festivities. Working in a school, it's a privilege to feel the same feeling each and every year, just as I would have done as a child and I write to you, following walking around our playground, at lunch, with the familiar smells and sights of autumn filling me with the very same feeling. As we approach such a special time of year, I feel a tingle of excitement in the way the school looks and feels in anticipation for the times ahead. Have a happy couple of weeks, when our next newsletter will see us even closer to the beginning of the advent period...

All the best...

*James Blackmore*

Headteacher

**Stay and Play**

We will be holding a stay and play session on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November (3:15 -4:15pm). We are inviting parents to stay behind at collection time to join in with our play equipment and see what OPAL play is all about. Wellies and a coat are advisable. This event will be weather dependent. Please complete the form on Parentmail if you wish to attend.

**BBC Somerset**

Four of our Y5 pupils had the opportunity to be interviewed for BBC Radio Somerset (by Claire Carter @ breakfast). This was broadcast on Wednesday 13th November. Our pupils did a wonderful job and we are extremely proud of them for going out of their comfort zone and being amazing ambassadors for our school. They were asked their opinions on a wide range of questions. Questions and answers were broken up into these time slots as part of the programme's segment 'Playground Politics': 06:50, 07:25, 07:55, and 08:25. If you want to listen in the show is available online on BBC Sounds APP/ iPlayer.

**PTA**

The PTA Christmas Disco will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Reception and KS1 – 6 -7pm (parents to stay with reception children) and KS2 - 7:15-8:30pm. All children need to have a completed form. Forms are available from the school office.

**Reporting Absences**

Where possible please call from a landline and state clearly your child's name, class and reason for absence.

**Pokemon Cards/Items from Home**

Just a note to parents to communicate that, before half term, I led an assembly which worked to collect the pupils' voice concerning the issues we were still having with Pokemon cards. You may remember that I had previously communicated that I was reluctant to 'ban' features of children's play as I prefer a model where the children can self-regulate their behaviour. However, there had been a series of issues that were upsetting children and families whilst detracting from learning time. In agreement with the children, we had decided to 'press pause' on bringing in items from home that may get lost or damaged and that, after some PSHE work in classes, we would review the stance in the new year. Many thanks in advance for your support and understanding. James Blackmore.

**Community Café**

As a school, we're keen to promote community and invite parents to meet and connect over a cuppa in a relaxed and friendly environment. Happening once a week on Tuesday afternoons (2 – 3:30pm), our Community Café meets in the BACH (by the KS1 gates). Run by local volunteers and operating purely on a donations basis, it's a great place to enjoy a good coffee, biscuits and treats. Of course, children are welcome too, but only when accompanied by an adult. The team are always happy to receive any old magazines etc to be made available at the Café. There are opportunities to join the team too, so we invite you to drop in and chat to those there, if that might be of interest to you.

**Parentboard**

We have our next meeting this week with a focus on feedback from the OPAL project – please contact your class representative if you have any views you would like to share.

**What's happening this fortnight?**

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Boys County Cup Competition
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Community Café from 2pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Parentboard – for class representatives – 2:30pm

Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Stay and Play from 3:15pm
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Books for Schools campaign begins
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Community Café from 2pm

Headteacher: Mr James Blackmore

Chair of Governors: Mr Paul Spencer

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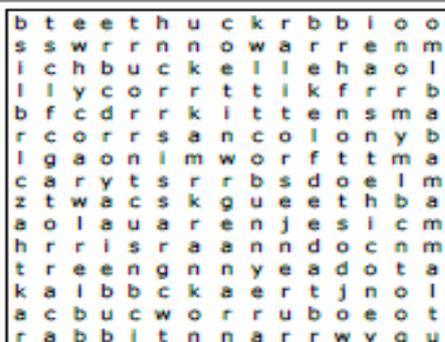
**E:** office@wm.oak.education **W:** www.westmonktonprimaryschool.co.uk

# West Monkton C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Where everyone has the courage and confidence to fly.

## Puzzle Corner

### Rabbit Word Search



Buck	Foot
Bunny	Grass
Burrow	Kitten
Carrot	Mammal
Colony	Rabbit
Coney	Teeth
Doe	Warren
Ears	

[www.kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk](http://www.kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk)



## Dates for the Diary

Nativity – Reception - 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>  
December at 2pm

KS1 – 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December at  
2pm.

## Phrase of the Fortnight

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**Whatever  
you do,  
do it well.**

- Walt Disney

**Family Learning:** We have had another couple of busy weeks with families taking part in KS1 phonics and maths workshops. Also we were pleased to invite Solveig Curran from Live Naturally back to work with families on cooking healthy family meals. Coming up in the new year watch out for more information on an opportunity for some first aid training, fitness classes, Year 2 Literacy Boost course and much more! We are very proud to share our love for learning with our wider community and thank you all for your continued support!  
Mrs Lawrence

## Books for Schools

Thanks to one of our parents, our school has registered for The Sun newspaper's campaign, 'Books for Schools'. We need to collect 3,500 tokens between Saturday 23rd November and Saturday 18th January in order to receive new books for our school library. 20,000 schools will get the chance to get a free pack of books worth more than £600. Please send any tokens into your child's teacher. Many thanks, Mrs Ward

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## Website

For the second time, this year, we have changed our website supplier in order for us to make the upkeep of the website as easy and effective as possible. We are hoping to add a lot more content from the children as time goes by so please do take a good look...

## Shoe Boxes

A huge thank you to all who donated shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. As usual we are humbled by your generosity!!!