



Dear Parents

COVID-19

The decision to delay the end of lockdown has presented another challenge at the end of a long year. Having said this, we are hearing of local school cases, leading to the closure of year groups. After a substantial amount of time without hearing of bubble closures, it is certainly a time to be cautious. With this in mind, if there is a positive case within the school community, can I ask that we are notified using the dedicated email address, set up earlier in the academic year: covidsupport@wm.oak.education as well as through other mechanisms (Dojo, school office etc.). This dedicated email will be checked, out-of-hours, with regularity.

Parking

Unfortunately, we are receiving multiple complaints about parking outside the school and in the BACH car park. I am attending a meeting next week but, in the meantime, I am appealing to all car users to carefully consider and respect local residents by not blocking driveways or park on junctions. Similarly, we are no longer able to use the BACH car park. Sometimes the gates are open because the BACH is being used - this is not to be used for school drop off/pick up. With a school of our size, there is always going to be a pinch point at the start and end of the day but I am politely urging all of our community to consider this. At best, it could be inconsiderate to others and, at worst, it could endanger an adult or child, which is not worth considering. I really do appreciate your support in this matter.

Could you be a governor?

Lastly, I would also like to use the newsletter platform to appeal to any of our community (or even wider!) who may consider a role as governor in the school. Supporting school leaders and teachers in taking the school forward, I believe that the role of school governor can provide a sense of fulfilment and, hopefully, prove interesting. I would be very happy to speak to anyone that may wish to talk more about such a role and would encourage them to speak to the office to book some time with me.

As we approach a busy build up to the end of term, I would like to thank you for your support and wish you a good fortnight...

James Blackmore
Headteacher

Festival of Sport

As you are already aware, we are unable to invite parents/guardians on to the school site. However, the festival will go ahead as planned for the children. The festival will run over two days, Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd June. Tuesday 22nd will consist of EYFS and KS1, followed by KS2 on Wednesday 23rd. Where possible, children are asked to wear a coloured t-shirt to match their house group. If you are unable to provide a t-shirt of the house colour, then please send your child in their PE kit instead. Lunches will now remain as normal. If your child usually brings a packed lunch, please provide this as normal. The weather is set to be mild next week. However, it would be strongly advisable to send your child in with a sun hat and wearing sun cream. **Important: For the above dates we are asking that ALL parents collect their child at 3:15pm.**

West Monkton STEM Explorers Week

A huge thank you to everyone who was able to support STEM week with a donation! We raised an amazing £276 which was spent on resources for experiments like slime, ice cream making and lava lamps as well as the super Science Shows from Ben at Explorer Dome.

PTA School Lottery News

We have had 15 winners so far. Congratulations! The total funds raised so far for the school is £629.20. Thank you so much for supporting the school. Please visit <https://yourschoollottery.co.uk> to buy your ticket!!

Thank you from Year 1

Thank you to Colin Garner for sourcing and donating log stumps. Thank you to the Baker family for the donation of pallets and planters. These will all be put to good use updating our outdoor area. We are still looking for a large tyre (tractor size) and would also welcome donations of play sand.

What's coming up ...?

Saturday 19 th June	PTA Lottery Draw
Tuesday 22 nd June	Sports Day – EYFS and KS1
Wednesday 23 rd June	Sports Day – KS2

Saturday 26 th June	PTA Lottery Draw
Tuesday 29 th June	Year 1 Trip – Puxton Park
Saturday 3 rd July	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 so much to all the families who have signed up and enjoyed family learning sessions this year. We are proud of our continued work to build a community of learners where parents, teachers and children learn alongside each other, showing children that learning is for life.

We have our final 2 workshops this academic year 'Dazzling Dragons' an art workshop for Year 2 and 3 families (spaces still available so please see Dojo for more information).

We look forward to putting together a programme of family learning events for 2021/22 which will include more opportunities for families to come into school and share learning.

If you are interested in any further adult learning please come and see Mrs Lawrence who is always happy to help!



West Monkton Parent Board

Thank you to Parent Board who met at the end of May to discuss school vision and values. Parent Board are keen to be a voice of all parents so please do find your parent board representative if there is a non-urgent message you would like school to be aware of or discuss. Please see our website page: http://westmonktonprimaryschool.co.uk/web/parent_board/447163 or email parentboard@wm.oak.education

Little Ripples Project

A child in Year 2 has become the South West ambassador for The Little Ripples Project, part of The Pure Sea Campaign. The child took part in The Pure Sea 2.5km fun run in Clacton on Sea recently. He was "The Shark", running against other sea creatures, including Lobster's, Octopuses and a variety of other Sharks.

He raised £320 out of a total of just over £850. Part of his role as ambassador is to get other young people interested in the environment.

As a bit of background information, The Little Ripples mission is to educate the next generation about anti plastics and how to actively reduce plastics from entering our oceans. The project currently has a large, dedicated group of supporters and Volunteer Beach Officers located all around the UK, Spain, Mexico and Australia, who are regularly taking part in beach and river clean ups, as well as many public campaigns, festivals, auctions and events to provide funding for marine research centres, and similar organisations dedicated to rescuing marine life damaged by plastic pollution.

The young person will also be talking to other groups such as Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Prince's Trust, in addition to the established engagement with schools.

He really needs some more helpers in saving our marine life. It would be great if you would like to get involved in clean ups or fundraising activities in Somerset or the wider South West.

Alternatively, if you would like to suggest beaches or rivers for the young person to suggest the campaign should concentrate on, that would be fantastic.

If you are interested in getting involved or have any suggestion on areas that need to be cleaned, then please get in touch with Miss Curson, in the first instance and she will pass your details across.

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>

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.