



Dear Parents,

Now that the beginning of term has settled, I intend to write home, as part of a longer letter, welcoming you back to a new academic year and the Autumn Term. It has been lovely to see lots of familiar faces as well as being able to introduce myself to many new ones. If I haven't managed to catch up with you yet, please do come and see me, before or after school on one of the three gates. We have four new teachers in school and wish them well in their first term at West Monkton; I always look forward to the Autumn Term and the chance to 'start again.' We are even more determined to provide better and better opportunities for the children and are looking forward to helping each and every one of our pupils to succeed and reach their full potential. There is so much to talk about and I very much look forward to informing you in newsletters to come.

*James Blackmore*

Headteacher

**Important Information - Opal Project**

We are extremely excited to announce that we are introducing our OPAL (Outdoor Play & Learning) project this half term. Since the beginning of the new academic year we have been trialing a number of new, exciting things with our children. So far, it has been a great success. More children are loving being outside, no matter what the weather, as there is now so much more to do. Whether it is playing with tyres and planks, digging in the digging area or sand pit, enjoying imaginative play or exploring our new mud kitchen and water transportation area, OPAL is offering a creative and exciting alternative to the regular activities on the school playground. In addition to the areas already being introduced, over the next half term we will be adding a small world area and moving playtime and lunchtimes towards a free flow system where children can access all parts of the school site. Through this kind of play not only are children more active at lunchtime, they are also having the opportunity to further develop life skills such as cooperation, team work and problem solving. They are becoming motivated and enthusiastic builders, engineers, explorers and designers. You can still help us more by donating any unwanted materials you have at home such as; plastic or metal buckets, kitchen utensils – pots, pans, baking trays, sieves, colanders, watering cans, wheel barrows and guttering, large pieces of fabric, toy trucks, diggers, cars, small world creatures – dinosaurs, farm animals etc and unwanted wellies. Please donate the above into the blue containers based at the KS2 & KS1 gates.

**Wellington Boots & Waterproof Coats**

To enable our activities to take place wellies and waterproof coats are vital. We will be introducing a pair of wellies and a coat as part of the uniform policy. Please could you send your child into school with a pair of wellies and coat as of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. These can be kept in school at all times but please feel free to take them when they are needed outside of school. We have a bank of spare wellies that are available if needed. Please discuss this with your child's class teacher. I am sure some of you will be getting a little envious of all the fun the children are having. Thank you for your continued support.

To check out the OPAL philosophy go to [www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk](http://www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk)

**Therapy Dog**

We have a school therapy dog on site. If anyone doesn't want their child in contact can you notify the office.

Reminder – Please may we ask you not to bring your dogs onto school grounds unless they are assistance dogs.

**Parking**

Parking on site is available for blue badge holders only. Please display your blue badge on your dashboard to enable the Premises Manager and Caretaker to identify those able to use our disabled parking bays. Please do not park on the white zig zag lines on the main road outside the school. The approach to and exit from a pedestrian crossing is marked with these lines. Drivers must not park or overtake in this area, as parking would block the view for pedestrians and oncoming traffic. We thank you for your continued understanding and support.

**What's happening this fortnight?**

Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the Teacher – Yr 2
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the Teacher – Yr 4
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Yr 6 Trip to Hestercombe

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Start of Harvest Week
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Celebrations
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	St Augustine's Family Service at 10:00am

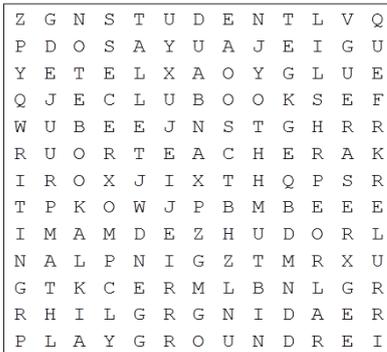
# West Monkton C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Where everyone has the courage and confidence to fly.

## Puzzle Corner



### Back to School



BOOKS	NOTEBOOK	RULER
DESK	PAPER	STUDENT
ERASER	PENCIL	TEACHER
GLUE	PLAYGROUND	WRITING
LUNCHBOX	READING	
MATH	RECESS	



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## Kidzone Youth Group

This is a free youth group for children in years 3-5. Based at Creech St Michael Baptist Church centre on a Friday evening 6:30pm-8:30pm. All welcome. Please look at [www.creechbc.co.uk](http://www.creechbc.co.uk) for more details.

## Phrase of the Fortnight

**TODAY**  
*is the day to*  
*learn something*  
**NEW**

## Family Learning

Family Learning: Bread Making Workshop and Presentation 'The truth about food'

Date: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September Time: 1-3pm

Open to: EYFS and Yr1 parents

Booking via parentmail ... fully booked!

Due to the popularity of this course we will be running an extra session. Keep an eye on parentmail for further details!

## ALDI VOUCHERS

We are collecting the Aldi vouchers in school to be in with the chance to win 20,000! Please drop these into school. You are given 1 voucher per £30.00 spend. Thank you.

## 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 with Paul Elliston 2-4pm

Pound Fitness 6.15pm

Yogalates 7.30pm

**Wednesdays**

(No bookings)

**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

**Safeguarding** - Next week the NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. programme is visiting our school to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse.

I'm pleased to tell you that we will be working with the NSPCC this half term, the UK's leading children's charity, who'll be starting our 4 week support programme by delivering their Speak out. Stay safe. assembly on 23rd September. This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they'll be presenting the assembly to all the children in our school as well as a workshop for Years 5 and 6.

There will be more information to follow this week.

*Louisa Blackmore*

Pastoral Coordinator