



West Monkton Church of England School

Where everyone has the courage and confidence to fly.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Monday 27th September 2021

Dear Parents,

I welcome you to our first Newsletter of the new academic year. It has been a busy but successful start to another new year - thank you for all your support in the first few weeks of term.

I must begin by praising the behaviour and learning attitudes of the children; as a staffing team, we have been so impressed and are very hopeful of the year to come. Well done to all children and families! Not only this but uniform has seen a marked improvement following the recovery from lockdown - for this we thank you.

This half term's value is Faithfulness. Our Christian values underpin our curriculum and the children are so well versed in articulating our values. With the return to the school hall for Collective Worship, this has enabled us to come together again, as a school family, to celebrate, pray and learn, with 'faithfulness' as a strong focus. I would encourage you to use meal times/bed times to discuss our values so that the children can see the connection between home and school.

You will see from this newsletter that we are beginning to highlight some key dates. With the stark reality of COVID cases both in the school and the wider community, we may need to be flexible but we are certainly planning for a regular calendar of school events.

Have an excellent fortnight...

James Blackmore
Headteacher

Extra-curriculum Clubs/Activities

It is our intention to reinstate after school activity clubs but we are working towards this gradually over the half term in line with other MAT primary schools - you will have seen the Choir offer with Mr Holman. As first steps in our 'expansion' of provision, we have also signed up to a large number of sporting fixtures and festivals across the term

We sincerely hope we can continue to 'open up' fully but please be aware schools will be advised to 'shrink' their activities/ commitments if school outbreaks occur- you may have heard this has happened to a number of schools locally already. - Mr Blackmore

Morrisons Gardening Initiative – It's Good to Grow

Morrisons supermarket have just started a voucher scheme to help provide schools with gardening equipment. We have registered as a school, and would be really grateful to any parents who use Morrisons to remember us with their vouchers. From September, for every £10 spent in store or online, you'll get one grow token that WM can redeem for a wide range of gardening and growing equipment.

Please follow this link for more information, and watch this space for more about how we are developing our Outdoor Learning provision over the next year.

<https://www.itsgoodtogrow.co.uk/>

Mr Benbow – Forest School Lead

Key Stage 2 Choir

We are absolutely thrilled to inform you that we are allowed to start singing again! From Friday 1st October Mr Holman will be offering Key Stage 2 Choir Rehearsals. Rehearsals will be held in the Dance Studio between 3:15 – 4:15pm every week, and there could be opportunities to perform in local concerts representing West Monkton.

We are asking that children sign up for the whole of Autumn term (9 weeks in total), with a payment of £13.50 for the term. Please go to Parent Mail > Payments > Shop section to sign up. There are 30 spaces available.

Choir does require commitment, practising with music at home, and self-discipline. Students will be expected to focus and exhibit a mature attitude. Please discuss this with your child and decide if you both agree that this is something he or she should be involved in. Behaviour expectations at our after school clubs are the same as during school time, children who display consistent disruptive behaviour may be asked to leave the club. We are really looking forward to getting the choir up and running again, hopefully without any further disruption.

Bikes and Scooters

In support of a previous letter, this term, please dismount from scooters and bikes once past the green pedestrian gates. It has been lovely to hear children tell us of their awareness of this when coming in to school in the morning.

Additionally, it has been pointed out to us that some children are not wearing helmets as part of their ride to school. Whilst we are not able to enforce this, we would be heartbroken if anything were to happen to our children/families so please do encourage your child to wear a helmet. We will be following up on this as part of our Collective Worship.

Please do note two important dates this half term:

Thursday 7th October - INSET Day (as per Mr Robinson's letter in Summer Term) - teachers are participating in a bespoke training project on assessment in the classroom; this is Day One of the project.

Friday 22nd October - CHILDREN ARE NOT IN SCHOOL - this is an additional day added to the October Half Term Holiday to compensate for the Bank Holiday marking the Queen's Jubilee later in the academic year when the children are not in term time.

Other dates:

Monday 18th-Tuesday 19th October - Parents' Evenings (details TBC)

Friday 22nd-Sunday 31st October - HALF TERM

Monday 1st November - Start of Autumn 2

Thursday 4th November - INSET Day (Day Two of project)

Friday 12th November - Children In Need Day

Wednesday 15th December - Christmas Jumper/Christmas Lunch Day (TBC)

Thursday 16th December - Party Day

Friday 17th December - End of Autumn Term

Donations Wanted

If anyone is having a clear out, I would be very grateful to receive any donations of Lego or small world figures to be used in pastoral work with the children. If these could be brought to school labelled for my attention that would be brilliant!

Many thanks,
Mrs Powell

Business2School

Business2School together with BBC Sport are looking for unwanted sports equipment and kit. All contributions will be shared amongst registered state schools.

Sports celebrities and many interesting people will be promoting and start donating nationally.

This is an opportunity for children to try new sports that maybe they hadn't considered before.

West Monkton School, sports clubs and leisure centres will take in donations and the BBC are working on the listed schools for later distribution.

If there is anything you do not want, or that are too old, please could you either donate to your local registered leisure centre or donate to us here at West Monkton via the Key Stage 2 gate in the donations bin provided.

Please find information on social media @Bus2Sch or <https://www.justgiving.com/business2schools> for more information and details of places taking donations

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, including Clarks shoes and wellies. Collection is usually from the school office.

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 29 winners so far. Congratulations! The total funds raised so far for the school is £1249.60. Thank you so much for supporting the school. At the moment if you buy a ticket you are automatically entered into a draw to win a Harry Potter experience. 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!!

Family Learning

We are pleased to announce we have been successful in achieving funding from SS&L for our 'Oak Partnership Trust Family Learning Project 2021-22'. Our aim is to celebrate lifelong learning and provide courses for adults which not only help them help their children but also learn new skills. Each year our offer changes and we are looking forward to offering sessions in school and online. Please watch out on Dojo for more information.

As always if you are interested in adult learning or volunteering, please see Mrs Lawrence who will be happy to help!



Parent Board - We need your views!

As we get into the swing of the new school year we are looking forward to continuing strong partnerships with all members of our school community. We have an established ParentBoard, who have continued to support staff at school with termly meetings where school issues are discussed and opinions given. Our aim is to have 2 representatives from each year group on the board, these parents/carers would need to be happy to be contactable by other parents and attend meetings either virtually or in person. If you are interested in joining please see Mrs Lawrence or email: parentboard@wm.oak.education

DATES FOR THE DIARY

PTA Lottery Draws – Every Saturday

Thursday 7th October – Inset Day

Friday 22nd October – Start of Half Term Holiday

Monday 1st November – Back to School following the October Half Term Break

Thursday 4th November – Inset Day

Monday 20th December – Start of Christmas Holidays

Tuesday 4th January – Back to School following Christmas Break