



Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to use my newsletter section to praise and advocate the work of the PTA and for the support our school community have given to them in order that they can help our school projects. You will have seen the additions we are making to the school grounds. With children spending 20% of their school days in active play, we are dedicated to revolutionising playtimes to match the high standards we aspire to in the rest of the curriculum. The loose parts shed on the playground, the mud kitchen, the forest school area and chicken coop are just a handful of developments we have made that just could not have happened without the enthusiasm, dedication and skill of our PTA. On behalf of all of us in school (who are so very excited about what we are trying to do) we thank the PTA. As well as this being a heartfelt thank you, this is also a plea to ask that we may consider helping the PTA continue to realise the exciting plans we have for our children. With budgets more stretched than ever before, we are reliant upon the kindness and generosity of our school community and so PTAs are needed, for all schools, like never before. In essence, we need you! If you feel like you could give some time to help lead the PTA or even support the odd event, then please come to the upcoming AGM (TBC) or speak to myself in school. Whatever time you can give would be very much appreciated and would be pivotal in helping make our school an even greater place to be! Thank you for reading...

James Blackmore

Headteacher

Important Information - Chickens incoming!

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of our marvellous PTA and school community, we are delighted to be welcoming our newest members of the school community this week, in the form of four laying hens. We have been able to provide our miniature flock with an incredible hi-tech home, complete with its own integral run to both keep the birds safe and to give them ample space to thrive. Once the hens are settled in, responsibility for their care and (fingers crossed) collection of delicious eggs will be shared by the whole school, who will also have the fantastic opportunity to use this amazing resource to learn about food production, sustainability and the value of nurturing and caring for our new feathered friends!

Sport at West Monkton -First of all, may I belatedly extend my good wishes to all those who have returned for the new school year. I would also like to wish all our newest children a happy and productive stay at our school. As far as sport is concerned, we have a busy programme of both competitive and friendly fixtures coming up between now and the festive holidays. We start on Monday, September 30th, when the school's runners will be contesting the area 3 x 900m cross-country relay competition at King's College. During **October**, there will be handball (Monday, 7th) for Years 5 & 6 and boys' Year 3/4 football (Monday, 14th) sessions at Heathfield School (3:50-5pm). The school will also be involved in friendly tag rugby matches at Bishop Fox's School on Tuesday, October 8th. West Monkton's girl footballers are due to compete in the Somerset FA Futsal competition on the 24th October and will be in friendly 7 aside action at King's College on Wednesday, October 16th, and the month's activities will conclude with the school team contesting the area sports hall athletics competition, also at King's, on Tuesday, 22nd.

November is a particularly busy sporting month, starting with Year 3/4 boys' football friendlies at Heathfield on the Monday 4th, while the following afternoon will be taken up by tag rugby friendlies at Blackbrook Pavilion. These friendlies will continue at the same venue on Tuesday, 26th. There is plenty more football taking centre stage during the month with Year 1/2 friendlies at Heathfield on Monday, 11th, and girls' friendlies at King's on Wednesday, 13th. The boys' year 5 & 6 team will be in competitive action at Heathfield on Monday, 18th. King's College will also be the location when Monkton's cross-country runners take on athletes from other local schools over a 1,400m course on Monday, November 11th. There will be football friendlies for year 1 & 2 at Heathfield on Monday, December 2nd, and the sporting term will end when Monkton girl footballers are involved in the county cup competition against other local schools at King's on Wednesday, 11th. Apart from the tag rugby at Blackbrook Pavilion, which takes place between 2:30-4pm, all the events are due to get under way at 3:50pm. Please check for scheduled finishing times. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information. Mr Williams (PE Lead)

Parentboard Meetings

The next Parentboard meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th October at 2:45pm.

'Hello Yellow' – World Mental Health Day

On Thursday 10th October, we would like to invite the children to wear a yellow accessory or item of clothing in exchange for a £1 donation (or more if you wish). All monies raised will be donated to the campaign. We want to make the day as bright as possible, so we can show young people they are not alone with their mental health.

NSPCC 'Dance-a-thon' - will be held on Monday 14th October throughout the school day. Children to wear their best dance gear, the brighter the better. (no football tops). Sponsor money to be back by Wednesday 16th October.

What's happening this fortnight?

Thursday 3 rd October	Bread Making Workshop
Sunday 6 th October	Harvest Service at St Augustine's Church
Wednesday 9 th October	Parentboard Meeting

Thursday 10 th October	World Mental Health Day
Monday 14 th October	NSPCC – Dance-a-thon
Tuesday 15 th and Wednesday 15 th October	Parents Evenings

Headteacher: Mr James Blackmore

Chair of Governors: Mr Paul Spencer

A: Bridgwater Road, Bathpool, Taunton, Somerset TA2 8FT **T:** 01823 412582

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

4 by 4 Sudoku for Kids

Fill the grid with the numbers 1 to 4 in such that each number is only used once in each row, column and region (marked 2 by 2 block).

			3
	1		4
4	2	3	1
1	3	4	2

4 by 4 Sudoku for Kids

4	3		
1	2	3	
		2	
2	1		

4 by 4 Sudoku for Kids

4			
3			
	4		3
	3		4

4 by 4 Sudoku for Kids

	2	4	
3			
	3	2	
	1	3	4

4 by 4 Sudoku for Kids

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Save the Dates

Parents Evenings to be held on Tuesday 15th October and Wednesday 16th October from 15:30 -18:00pm. Booking will be available shortly through parentmail.

Phrase of the Fortnight



Family Learning

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

Dates: 3rd, 8th and 10th October. Time: 1-3pm

Open to: EYFS and Yr1 parents

Booking via parentmail ... fully booked!

Coming up.....

Phonics Workshop for EYFS parents – 25th October

Literacy Boost Course for Year 1 – 15th and 22nd October and 5th and 12th November.

Parentmails will follow shortly for these.

Harvest Celebrations – at St Augustine's Church

There will be a family service held on Sunday 6th October at 10:00am at St Augustine's Church. All welcome.

Shoe Box Appeal – We shall be launching our very popular Operation Shoe Box appeal in the next couple of weeks. Leaflets and shoe boxes will be available from Mrs Martin the week beginning 7th October.

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

Bounce and Burn 5.45pm-8.00pm

Thursdays

Yogalates 9.15am

Sewing 10am-12pm except 2nd 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 – This week the NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. programme has visited 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