



West Monkton Church of England School

A place for growing together and learning to fly.

Headteacher Helen Newstead Chair of the LSC Tom Moore

Thursday 4th September 2025

Subject: Important Update: Water Contamination and School/Nursery Operations

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to yesterday's communication regarding the contaminated water supply, I am writing to update you on the current situation.

We now have a clear plan in place to enable the safe reopening of the school. Subject to this plan being implemented fully (as we are reliant on other services to complete essential mitigation), we **hope to reopen tomorrow, Friday 5th September**. We will confirm by **6.00pm this evening** whether the school will reopen.

We have been working closely with all relevant professionals and can share the following key information:

1. Cause of Contamination

Water samples from the school are being tested by **Wessex Water** and **Somerset Scientific Services**. Both agencies are treating this as a priority, though results may take several days to a week.

2. Immediate Measures for Replacement Water

- Until results are confirmed, children, staff, and visitors **must not use water from school sinks** for drinking or handwashing. Toilets remain in use.
- **Bottled water** will be provided for drinking.
- **Portable handwashing facilities** have been ordered for hand sanitisation.
- Clean water is available for cleaning requirements.

3. Food Services

- To reduce risk, all meals will be prepared at another Trust school.
- Due to limited capacity, meals will be prioritised for:
 - **Free School Meals (Years 3–6)**
 - **Universal Free Meals (Reception–Year 2)**
- Meals provided for these children will be as a **cold packed lunch** (sandwich, pudding, and fruit snack).
- Families who have paid for meals will be reimbursed.
- All other children to bring a packed lunch as normal.

4. Breakfast and After-School Club

These clubs will run as normal, but we are unable to prepare or serve food. Please either:

- Feed your child before/after the club, or
- Provide an **appropriate labelled snack** for them to bring.
- We will be in touch with regards any appropriate credit for this once things have stabilised.

5. Reception New Starters

In line with our transition plan, and subject to reopening, Reception children will attend as follows:

- **Day 1 Friday:** 8:45am – 12:00pm
- **Day 2 Monday:** 8:45am – 1:30pm
- **Day 3 Tuesday:** Full day, 8:45am – 3:15pm

6. Little Herons Nursery

The nursery is included in this plan and, subject to confirmation, will operate as normal from tomorrow. Rest assured risk assessments and mitigation is in place for children to be fed.

7. Year 2 Circus Workshop

This has been rescheduled for **Monday**.

What We Need From You

To support us in keeping the school and nursery open, please provide your child with **two labelled bottles of drinking water each day**. While bottled water will also be available onsite, this additional supply will help us meet everyone's needs.

We fully understand that this situation may cause concern and disruption. Please be reassured that every decision is being made with your child's health and safety at the forefront. Tomorrow, following registration, we will hold a whole-school assembly to explain the changes and reassure the children.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office via email.

Thank you once again for your patience, understanding, and cooperation.

With best wishes,



Helen Newstead

Headteacher