



Autumn 1, 2025

Newsletter

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025-26! I expect it feels like ages ago now, but I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer! A particularly warm welcome goes to our new families joining us for the first time – we're delighted to have you as part of our school community.

As I write, I can see two of Wessex Water's bowsers outside my window and it reminds me that we didn't quite have the start we'd planned! I want to thank you again for your understanding as we navigate our water supply issue. As you know, cold supply is back on and we have already placed the order for the replacement of our hot water tanks.

On a more positive note, the children have been brilliant, coping with all of the changes and settling into school life, including our youngest Reception & Nursery children.

Staffing Update: This term we officially welcome our new teachers, Mr Smart and Miss Yetton to the school – who like the children, are now finding their feet. We also welcome Miss Moorwood who joins us as a Learning Mentor.

This term our **school value** focus is **Faithfulness**. We'll be exploring together what it means to be faithful – to our friends, our learning, our commitments, and our community. Through Collective Worships, classroom discussions, and activities, the children will have the chance to reflect on how they can show faithfulness in their everyday lives.

Site Safety: Just a reminder and for those new to school, please do not park in the school car park unless you are staff member, visitor (with prior agreement) or hold a disabled badge/have prior agreement to use the school car park. Additionally, please do not walk through the carpark unnecessarily and stick to pathways. For morning drop offs, just a reminder that parent/carers are to drop their children at the respective gates (**and not enter on to the school playground, staff will take messages for teachers**). If your child is distressed for any reason just speak with the staff member on duty for support or to request to take them to their classroom. Finally, on the note of keeping our school safe, please do take note of our safeguarding section.

Thank you for your continued support – it makes a real difference to our community. I look forward to seeing you all at the school gates and during our upcoming events.

Mrs Helen Newstead

Headteacher



School Photos

Individual Photos for EYFS, Y1 & Y2
23rd of September 2025

Individual Photos for Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6
24th of September 2025

Sibling Photos
25th of September 2025

PTA Event
Family Quiz
17th of October 2025

Kestrel class trip to
Hinkley Point
3rd of November 2025

Eagle class trip to Hinkley
Point
17th of November 2025

PTA Event
Christmas Fayre
28th of November 2025

PTA Event
Disco
12th of December 2025



“CLASS NEWS”

SNOWY & TAWNY OWLS

Tawny and Snowy Owls have had a brilliant first few weeks at school! They have done amazingly to settle into their new class and routine. We have had lots of fun getting to know each other and making new friends. Our new topic is 'Marvellous Me' and we have been enjoying sharing about our families & who is special to us. Miss Edmunds and Mrs Paling can't wait to see more amazing progress throughout the half term! We are super proud of you, Owls!

PELICAN & YELLOW WAGTAILS

The Pelicans and Yellow Wagtails have been amazing settling into their new routines of Year 1. Both classrooms are set up with tables and chairs but also areas of learning where children can continue their own learning independently. The Wagtails have loved the role play home corner and the Pelicans enjoy the doll's house and small world. This half term we are doing our first History unit all about their own history and timeline.

In CLL we have a lovely book called 'Once there were giants' which follows the life of a little girl. In maths the children are exploring place value and sharing their counting, grouping and recording skills. We love to share photos of learning and experiences on Tapestry - so if you have a child in Year 1 and you haven't logged in please do!

We are looking forward to a busy year with topics around toys, explorers, the environment and animals! Mrs Shaw, Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Page, Mrs Downs and Miss Lloyd are looking forward to a fun year of learning and growing!

ROBIN & PUFFIN

Wow! What a fantastic start we have had in Year 2! We enjoyed our circus workshop for our Stunning Starter, which allowed us to think about resilience and taking on new challenges. Mrs Merrick and Mrs Manning, are pleased to say that we are beginning to see this spirit carry through into our everyday learning and hope this continues.

This half-term, we have a Science focus on living things and their habitats. We have enjoyed some visits to our Forest School area for bug hunts and will spend more time outdoors to help us with this learning. Our Maths learning has a focus on place value and in CLL we are learning how to write instructions. We are very much looking forward to the year ahead!

PEACOCK & FALCON

Peacock and Falcon class have started life in Year 3 with an incredible thirst for knowledge and positive attitude to learning. So far, we have delved into the story of 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' - in which children have created comic strips and used role play to deepen their understanding.

Meanwhile, in Geography the children have been outlining the different layers which make up our planet and on top of this, in science, the children have been exploring how we see by using light. Keep up this tremendous start to the year Peacocks and Falcons

“Learn continuously! There is always one more thing to learn.”

CRANE & RED KITE

Year 4 have kick started their autumn term by studying The Stone Age! They have created cave paintings using sticks and paints. We have met the main character from our story 'The Stone Age Boy' Om, who made a special visit all the way from the Stone Age. She came to tell Year 4 all about her story meeting a young boy and we have begun to investigate into the lives of Stone Age people.

We look forward to our Stone Age day on the 24th of October!

BUZZARD & MAGPIE

Year 5 have made an amazing start to the new school year, diving straight into their exciting topic of Earth and Space! The children have been working hard to expand their knowledge, using the book *Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover* as inspiration. They have shown great enthusiasm in learning about space exploration and asking thoughtful questions to deepen their understanding. Their curiosity and effort have shone through in every lesson, making it a fantastic start to their learning journey this term.

The children are also enjoying a cross-curricular approach to their learning, where creativity and knowledge come together. To launch the topic, they created their very own versions of *Planet Night*, inspired by Vincent van Gogh's famous painting *Starry Night*. This gave them the chance to blend art with science, producing vibrant and imaginative pieces of work that captured the wonder of the universe. It has been a brilliant beginning to the term and we are excited to see where their learning journey takes them next!

KESTREL & EAGLE

Year 6 have settled into their new classes remarkably well. It's been wonderful to see how quickly they've adapted to new routines and embraced learning challenges. Children in year 6 have already begun working collaboratively, showing great enthusiasm and dedication in lessons. Their positive attitude and ready-to-learn attitude are setting a fantastic tone for the year ahead.

This half-term, we are exploring the interesting world of ancient Greece. Year 6 will be exploring Greek history, mythology and culture using a range of resources including artefacts to gain a deeper understanding of this influential civilisation. Through a cross-curricular approach, pupils will investigate how the ancient Greeks lived and how their legacies continue to shape our world today. We look forward to sharing our learning with you on our social media and in the next newsletter.

I am so lucky to be based in Forest School this year, and what a wonderful start to the term we've had with Flamingo, Parakeet, Tawny Owls, Puffin, Pelican and Peacock classes making full use of this wonderful space. There has been lots of digging and getting muddy in our new mud kitchen along with multiple dens and shelters being built. All the children have been truly getting stuck into the Forest School way of play and exploring, building their resilience, team work, creativity and problem-solving skills!

We are always looking for donations to make our Forest School even better, so if you have any of the following going spare then please do drop it off for all the children to make good use of: logs, decking boards, rope, string, tyres, metal pots and pans, kitchen utensils, sturdy plastic trugs, buckets, guttering pipes and crates.

Philippa Sgorlon - Forest School Leader



Safeguarding Information

Safeguarding your child

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please direct to one of our safeguarding team members:

Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Newstead, Mrs. Paling, Mrs. Merrick & Mrs. Samways

Nadia Connor or Dele Maxwell (Little Herons Nursery)

If you are worried a child is at risk of harm or in danger, please contact:

Children's Social Care on:

0300 123 2224

Or by email at:

childrens@somerset.gov.uk

Community Safety

A polite reminder of some of the 'school rules'...for health and safety reasons, we ask that **any 'ride on vehicles are not brought on to the school site and left in the designated shelters.**



Mobile phones. For safeguarding reasons, we request that **mobiles phones are not brought/used on the school site. This includes at drop off/collection times.**



Please note we are **nut free school with some children with severe allergies.** Please do check ingredients and ensure items containing nuts (including 'Nutella' type spreads) are not brought into school—thank you!



Thank you!



WEST MONKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

**WEST MONKTON PTA'S
FAMILY QUIZ
NIGHT**

Will your family team be the winners of the night and take home the trophy?

**Friday
17 October**
At West Monkton School Hall
Doors open at 6pm
Quiz starting at 6.30
To be finished by 8.30ish

£5
per Team
(maximum of 6 people)
Refreshments will be available to buy on the night

To book your team, please visit:
www.pta-events.co.uk/westmonkton



Christmas Disco – 12th December 25

Raffle prizes needed

West Monkton School PTA will be hosting their annual Christmas Fayre on Friday 28th November 2025.

The ever popular raffle and silent auction will be back!

Donations for prizes would be very much appreciated.

Please message our Facebook page if you're able to donate.

West Monkton PTA

✉ westmonktonpta@outlook.com

📘 <https://www.facebook.com/WestMonktonPTA>

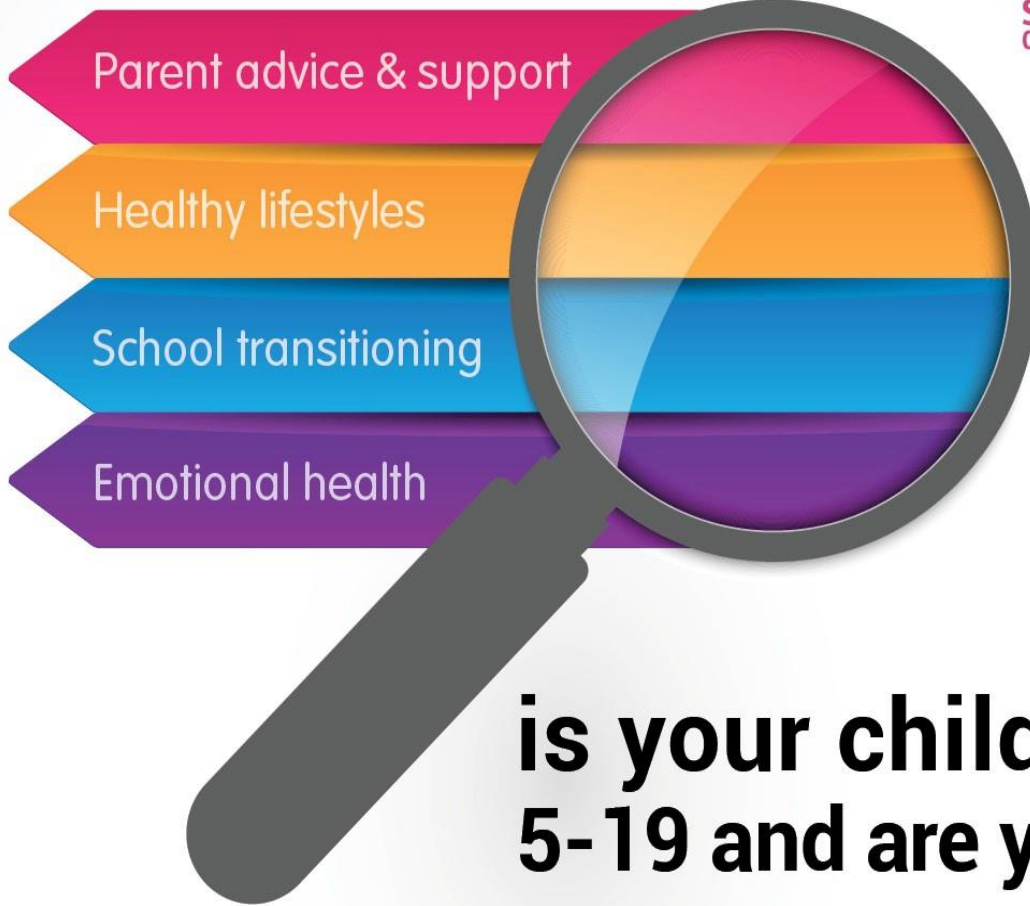
📍 [west_monkton_pta](#)

📍 West Monkton PTA, Bridgwater Road, Bathpool, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 8FT

👍 Registered with the Charity Commission as 277944



Scan the QR code for more details and booking



**is your child
5-19 and are you**
looking for confidential
help and support?

A safe and easy way to contact
your School Nursing Team

Just send a text or scan me

07480 635 515



Disclaimer: This is not an emergency service; it operates Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm and is only available by using a UK mobile number. Your messages are stored on our secure system and can be seen by the School Nursing Team who run our ChatHealth Service. Although this is a confidential service, in the event of an safeguarding issue the School Nurse has a duty of care to act on this and may escalate the concern.

**Improving
LIVES**