



## Autumn 2, Part 2

# Newsletter

### HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a positive and productive start to the academic year.

#### Staffing Update

We say farewell to Mrs Katie Winter, who is left us this term. We thank her for her dedication to the children here and wish her all the best in her next chapter. At the same time, we're delighted to welcome two new members to our team: Mr George Souster and Mrs Debbie Howe, who bring great energy and much needed support to our school community.

#### PTA News

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent PTA Quiz Night – it was a fantastic evening of fun and fundraising. We also extend a warm welcome to our new PTA Chair, Miss Claire Uppington, and offer our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Tracy Bird for her outstanding contribution and leadership over the past years. The difference you and the team have made, Tracy, is immeasurable and impact of which is long lasting whether that's new chairs in our classes or fond memories of trips for our children! Additionally, Mrs Kelly Dunn, who has also stepped down from her post as Treasurer – thank you for the time you have given, many of which may have been behind closed doors on a laptop, securing the charity's finances, but still so invaluable! We wish you both all the very best and thank you again!

#### Parent Survey

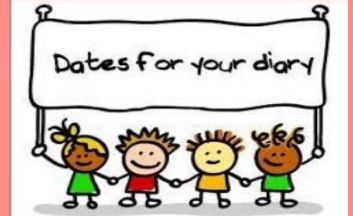
Thank you to all families who took the time to complete our recent parent survey. Your feedback is incredibly valuable, and we're especially grateful for the many positive comments about the school. It's wonderful to hear how much you appreciate the work of our staff and the learning environment we strive to create amongst our growing community! Rest assured these data have already been evaluated and will be fed into the appropriate workstreams, including feedback to our local school committee (governing body).

#### Music Mark!

Huge congratulations to Mrs Heap in driving the school's music offer and helping us be recognised for our dedication and improvement in music education. As a result, we have been awarded The Music Mark!

That just leaves me to wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back soon for the next exciting chapter of the school year.

Warm regards,  
**Helen Newstead**  
Headteacher



Half Term 27<sup>th</sup> October  
2025 - 2nd November  
2025

Return to School - 3<sup>rd</sup>  
November 2025

Kestrel Class trip to  
Hinkley Point

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

Year 1 trip to Tiverton  
Toy Museum

10<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Eagle Class trip to  
Hinkley Point

17<sup>th</sup> November 2025



SNOWY & TAWNY OWLS

Tawny Owls -

IL- I have enjoyed playing in the sand  
IS- I have enjoyed learning the sound of  
the day

Snowy Owls -

BW- I have enjoyed learning maths where  
we learn numbers  
BC-  
I have enjoyed doing PE

PELICAN & YELLOW WAGTAILS

*"In Year One this term I liked maths but especially counting backwards."* Acer

*"I liked drawing club and using my imagination to think of the things I can draw and adding secret things I can write about."* Arlo

*"I liked learning new things this term especially writing."* Cataleya

*"I liked learning about all the different 2D and 3D shapes in maths."* Finn

ROBIN & PUFFIN

*"This term in Year 2, we have been learning about Harvest. Did you know sometimes they have fireworks as part of the Harvest Festival celebrations? In the valley, sometimes people even paint their front door steps and put patterns on their hands."*

*"We've also been learning about bug hotels – we actually made our own ones. Mine was made out of conkers, leaves, sticks and bamboo and I designed it so the bugs had somewhere to play and rest."*

*"I had a playroom in mine."*

*"I had sticks, leaves, and used toilet paper to give them shelter. I also had one big leaf that I put on top so the toilet paper wouldn't go soggy."*

*"This term, we were lucky to have Forest School as well, where we made a massive den – our own big bug hotel! We also made mud cakes and we got to rebuild the den because Lucas accidentally knocked it down – it was fun! We've even got to make a necklace and use tools – I made a sunset."*

Felicity, Emily, Moses & Izan 🌟

PEACOCK & FALCON

*"This term in Year 3, we have been learning about exchanging tens in maths for subtraction and use of the column method. In Geography, we've been learning about volcanoes. Did you know there are about 500 volcanoes under the water, and they could still erupt? There are 3 types of volcanoes, these are: extinct (not going to erupt again), active (can erupt) and dormant (this means they haven't erupted for a long time)."*

*"In CLL, we are learning how to describe things using words that are called adjectives. We are also trying hard to 'show and not tell' by using similes where we use 'as' or 'like'. For example: 'The lion's face was dripping like caramel..'"*

*"This term we've loved Science, learning about light and shadows. We got to draw around each other's shadows. Did you know depending on the time of the day, your shadow will get shorter or longer?"*

Arthur, Albie J, Lottie & Betsy 🌟

## Catch Up with Mrs Newstead...

### CRANE & RED KITE

"This term in Year 4, we have been learning about the Stone Age. Did you know, they made their own jewellery out of clay (for brooches and necklaces), animal skins and teeth (animals, including fish)? We wouldn't want to wear teeth around our neck, that would be gross!"

"To keep warm they used animal skins for clothes and would make their own spears out of wood and flint to kill the animals. They did this for food too – mostly deers, rabbits, fish – sometimes even animals as big as woolly mammoths!"

"Today we are attempting to build Stonehenge with biscuits and we're making clay pots – we can't wait!"

"We've been looking at the book, Stone Age Boy – he fell down, down, down into the darkest deepest cave...He lost his glasses but in the end he became an archaeologist, which means, he studied old things."

Elsie, Viaan, Libby & Billy

### BUZZARD & MAGPIE

"This term in Year 5, we have been learning about 'Curiosity and Perseverance'...Did you know these are Space rovers that were on Mars just over a decade ago?"

"Yesterday, we went in the 'Wonder Dome' – it was weird but good, satisfying, bizarrely loud as you could hear children from the other side of the dome as if they were right next to you and it did make you feel a little bit dizzy. At one point it even felt like we were going upside down! We would definitely recommend it to Year 4s for next year, watch out for the surprise..."

"We've just written a diary entry for Curiosity and her punctured wheel. I worked really on my handwriting and spelling on this piece."

"I tried to use rich vocabulary."

"I tried to make my writing less tiny!"

"We're looking forward to next term we're not sure what it is yet, but we think it might be something with clay!"

Edward (TJ), Thomas, Daisy & Bella (CN 😊)

### KESTREL & EAGLE

"This term in Year 6, we have been learning about Ancient Greece. We now know about the Trojan War and the many Gods. Our favourites are: Zeus, Aphrodite, Hades and Poseidon. Many of the Gods have a cool power and are the God/Goddess of something and all have a symbol that represents them. For example, Zeus is a 'lightning bolt'. In Art, we've been sculpting with clay to make Ancient Greek Vases and this week we'll be painting them with our design patterns. We got to practice first, which was good, however for some of us we felt the practice was better..."

"Mine looks like the bottom of a pineapple. 😊"

"In CLL, we've written a story about the Ancient Greek Gods. Did you know Perseus cut off Medusa's head? This was a good thing to save his mum and because Medusa was a slithery, evil serpent who used to turn other beings to stone just for looking into her deadly eyes..."

"This year, we've stepped up in maths to do long division and 4-digit by 2-digit multiplication. It's harder but ok!"

"Our favourite part was definitely the clay!"

Ada, Harley, Ben & Georgie L

# 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](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)



We have recently met our new village agent, Rachael Knight who is really keen to get involved in our school community.

Thrive Somerset (formerly known as the Community Council for Somerset, or CCS) is a local charity committed to helping individuals and communities flourish. One of the most impactful ways it does this is through the work of **Village Agents**.

These trusted, locally based professionals provide one-to-one support to people who are vulnerable, isolated, or simply unsure where to turn. Whether it's helping someone access health services, apply for benefits, find transport, or connect with local groups, Village Agents are practical, compassionate problem-solvers embedded in the heart of Somerset life.

They often work quietly behind the scenes, but their impact is enormous—preventing crises, reducing loneliness, and giving people the tools they need to regain independence.

To learn more, visit: [www.thrivesomerset.org.uk](http://www.thrivesomerset.org.uk) or call 01823 331 222

## What can the Village Agent support with?



### Healthy & Well

NHS Hydration Advice

Spotting a UTI



### Able to Manage your Affairs

Save Energy & Money

Top Tips on saving energy & ££'s

Check you have a competitive energy bill



### Independent & Safe

Spotting a scam

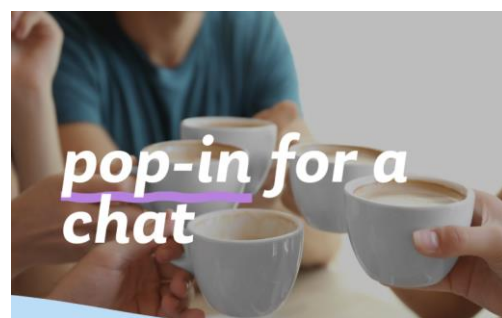
Avon & Somerset Police



### Part of a Strong & Thriving Community

Good Neighbours Schemes

Help With Food & Community Larders



## TALKING CAFE

Monkton Elm Garden Centre  
1st Wednesday of the month  
10am - 12 noon

Monkton Elm Garden Centre  
(Cafe), Taunton

- Health
- Finances
- Housing
- Feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Drop-in to the Talking Cafe for support and advice from a Village Agent.

[info@thrivesomerset.org.uk](mailto:info@thrivesomerset.org.uk)  
[www.thrivesomerset.org.uk](http://www.thrivesomerset.org.uk)



funded by



Somerset Council



The Community Council for Somerset, operating as Thrive, is a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England & Wales No. 3542239 and is a Registered Charity No. 5089260.



**A big thank you from the Foodbank for all your Harvest donations**

*"Thank you so much for your incredible effort and generous donation this Harvest period. We are truly grateful for the amazing support you have shown towards Taunton Foodbank and the local community.*

*As a local charity we are totally dependent on the goodwill of our supporters. We are reliant on gifts such as yours as they help us to maintain our service to people in the area.*





# WEST MONKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

## West Monkton PTA

✉ [westmonktonpta@outlook.com](mailto:westmonktonpta@outlook.com)

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

📷 [west\\_monkton\\_pta](https://www.instagram.com/west_monkton_pta)

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

👍 Registered with the Charity Commission as 277944



★ Help to support West Monkton School's PTA by signing up to: **Your School Lottery**

For just £1 a week, you can enter the weekly draw where 74.2% of ticket sales goes back to our school.

For more information or to sign up simply scan the QR code or visit [yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://yourschoollottery.co.uk)





**WEST MONKTON SCHOOL PTA'S CHRISTMAS FAIR**

JOIN US AFTER SCHOOL FOR FESTIVE FUN INCLUDING OUTSIDE STALL HOLDERS, PTA STALLS, CHRISTMAS CRAFTS, RAFFLE DRAW AND GAMES.

**28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**3.15 - 4.30**

**IN THE SCHOOL HALL**



**Christmas STALL HOLDERS WANTED**

for West Monkton School PTA'S Christmas Fair

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of November  
3.15 - 4.45pm

£15 a table, must have own public liability insurance

PLEASE EMAIL [westmonktonpta@outlook.com](mailto:westmonktonpta@outlook.com) for more information



## Christmas Disco - 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Scan QR code to book your tickets



# Teaching Assistant Vacancy



We are looking for a Teaching Assistant to join our team at West Monkton C of E Primary School

## Teaching Assistant

An exciting opportunity to support young learners and be part of a supportive team.

- Full time, term time only, plus some insets for training
- Permanent contract
- Salary: £17,009 pro rata

### ADVANTAGES IF YOU JOIN US:

- ✓ You get to work with a great team
- ✓ Join an exciting trust
- ✓ Growth Opportunities
- ✓ Learn new skills

Deadline for applications is Sunday 2nd November at midnight

✉ [recruitment@oak.education](mailto:recruitment@oak.education)



APPLY AT THIS QR CODE

### ABOUT US

The Oak Partnership Trust is a family of schools that cater for children and young people from 2 - 19 years old. Established on 1st January 2019 with a clear purpose of being an inclusive community of schools which inspires a passion for knowledge and the courage and confidence to fly.

Our Trust consists of Selworthy Special School, Blackbrook Community Primary School, Ruishton C of E School, Stoke St Gregory C of E Primary School, Hill View School and West Monkton C of E Primary School.



CONTACT US  
01823 792266

### MORE INFORMATION

<https://oak-naht-recruiter.com>  
<https://oak.education//>



## Be careful what you wear when you're out to scare

Some fancy dress costumes are highly flammable so they can ignite almost instantly and burn fast.



Try to buy from a reputable store or website. Cheap costumes may not meet UK safety standards.



Look for a costume with a UKCA or CE mark



Look for a label that says: "This garment has undergone additional safety testing for flammability"



Remind children to stay well away from naked flames and other heat sources



Facebook: @ChildAccidentPreventionTrust  
Twitter: @capt\_charity  
Website: capt.org.uk





West Monkton Parish Church - All the details about our events are on the church website [www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk](http://www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk) and our Facebook Page

**West Monkton Church**

*Please join us this Christmas*

**Sun 21st Dec**  
 8.30am BCP Communion  
 10am Morning Worship  
 6pm Candlelight Carol Service

**Wed 24th Dec**  
 4pm Christmas Eve Crib Service

**Thurs 25th Dec**  
 10am Christmas Day Holy Communion

**Sun 28th Dec**  
 8.30am BCP Communion  
 10am Morning Worship

**Everyone welcome**

[www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk](http://www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk)



**THE BIG CHRISTMAS SINGALONG**

SINGALONG TO WHAM SLADE WIZZARD BAND AID SHAKIN STEVENS POGUES AND MANY MORE

JOIN US AND SINGALONG TO ALL YOUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS SONGS

REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE TICKET ONLINE

DON'T FORGET YOUR XMAS JUMPER!

**SAT 13TH DEC - 7PM**

**WEST MONKTON CHURCH**

West Monkton Church

**Christmas Tree Festival**

Entry open to everyone, including clubs, business, organizations and families.

Amaze us all with imaginative decorations and creations

Full entry details on our website

**Switch on 7pm Fri 12th Dec**

[www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk](http://www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk)



Josephine Cresswell and Stephanie Berner present



# A Classical Christmas

A mix of carols and classical song to get you in the festive mood!

Friday 28th November 7pm

West Monkton Church

TA2 8QT

Ticketsource £12

On the door Adults £15

16s and under £10

Under 5s free

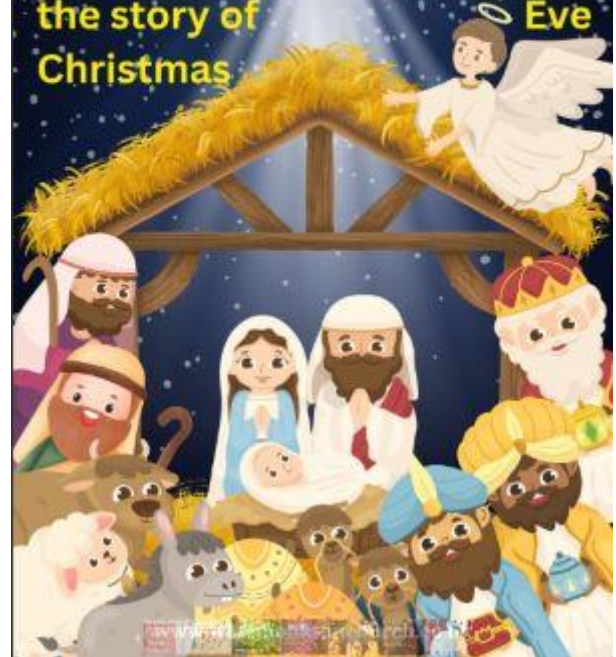


www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk

West Monkton Church

Come and  
take part in  
the story of  
Christmas

4pm  
Christmas  
Eve



WEST MONKTON CHURCH

Sounds @ St Augustine's

# LISTEN TO CHRISTMAS

Come, sit and listen to a selection of carols sung by the best known choirs from across the country through our sound system.

Drop in anytime during the evening to listen to the beautiful voices singing your favourite carols.

Light a candle or leave a prayer for a much missed loved one.

Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 6.30-8.30pm

www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk

WEST MONKTON CHURCH

# CHRISTMAS FAYRE & CRAFTS

10AM-12PM  
SAT 6TH DEC 25  
WEST MONKTON  
VILLAGE HALL

## FREE ENTRY

### KIDS GAME ZONE

LOCAL CRAFTS REFRESHMENTS LUCKY DIP CAKES

RAFFLE CHRISTMAS GIFTS JIGSAWS BOOKS TOYS

BACON BAPS

www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk