



Autumn 2, 2025

Newsletter

Dear Parents & Carers,

As autumn leaves fall and the nights draw in, we find ourselves reflecting on the beauty of seasonal change and the values that guide us. Our value for this term is **peace**, which feels especially meaningful during this week of Remembrance. On Monday, we were privileged to welcome Rev Jim for our school Collective Worship, where he shared thoughtful conversations around the subject with the children. Additionally, on Remembrance Day, the whole-school marked the occasion with a two-minute silence—linked by technology so every class, office and nursery could join in showing our respect.

This term is full of exciting events! Today we celebrate **Children in Need**, and there are plenty of other fundraising activities ahead. Of course, the joy and anticipation of Christmas will soon fill our school with festive spirit!

You may have heard about the **staff fun run** happening on **Sunday, 23rd November**. This event is close to our hearts because we all understand the importance of play—and we see first-hand the impact of limited provision at school. We're determined to change this for our children, and your support means the world to us. Whether you cheer us on, make a donation, or both, every contribution helps. A little clue to spot me on the day: *"As the Headteacher, I'm always aware and trying to do my best to keep our school community safe... 😊"*

On that note, a gentle reminder: if you're a member of our community who walks by the school—perhaps with your dog—please refrain from talking to the children. While well-intentioned, it can sometimes cause concern for them or others. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Finally, a big shout-out to the **54 families** who signed up for the fantastic, free swimming offer from Blackbrook Leisure Centre! What a brilliant way to stay active and have fun!

I look forward to all that this term will bring—the learning, the laughter, and the sense of togetherness that makes our school so special.

Warm regards,

Helen Newstead
Headteacher



Eagle class trip to Hinkley Point
17th of November 2025

PTA Event
Christmas Fayre
28th of November 2025

Christingle Service
3rd of December 2025

Reception, Year 1, 2 & 3
PANTO
3rd of December 2025

Year 4, 5 & 6
PANTO at the Tacchi
10th of December 2025

PTA Event
Disco
12th of December 2025

EYFS Christmas Nativity 2025
8th of December 2025 @ 2pm
& 9th of December @ 2pm

KS1 Christmas Nativity 2025
15th of December 2025 @
2pm & 16th of December @
930am & 2pm

Christmas Choir Concert
16th of December 2025
630 - 730pm

Year 5 Trip
Somerset Museum
16th of December 2025

Christmas Lunch &
Christmas Jumper Day
17th of December 2025

Year 5
Community Carols at the
BACH
18th of December 2025
230pm

“CLASS NEWS”

SNOWY & TAWNY OWLS

The Snowy and Tawny Owls have started their new topic 'Look at us glow' this half term. There will be a different focus each week, where they will learn about a new celebration such as Bonfire Night, Birthdays, Thanksgiving and then our biggest one of all 'Christmas'. This will help us with our Christmas play and we will learn the Christmas story. The children have almost learnt all of their phase 2 sounds in phonics and we will then work on consolidating writing CVC words before moving onto the new sounds. In maths we are continuing lots of number work where we will look at making different numbers, more/fewer and even more subitising. I am really looking forward to seeing their learning progress this half term!

PELICAN & YELLOW WAGTAILS

The Yellow Wagtails and Pelicans have immersed themselves in our new topic 'Changing Childhood: Toys and Tech through Time'. They enjoyed bringing a toy into school from home and exploring artefacts from the past in school. Our key text for CLL this half term is 'Lost in the Toy Museum' so a trip to Tiverton Museum to take part in a day of toy workshops was perfect. Luckily we didn't lose any toys there. In Maths we are continuing to develop our understanding of number while investigating addition and subtraction. In PSHE our unit 'Celebrating Differences' provides us with a chance to consider how we are all unique and celebrate our achievements, while also considering what to do if someone is unkind. All the children have been excited to have Music with Mrs Heap this half term and PE with Mrs Page. We look forward to being the choir in our Nativity show at the end of the term!

ROBIN & PUFFIN

This half-term we have a Place and Time focus, learning all about 'The Great Fire of London'. Year 2 have impressed us so far with their enthusiasm and curiosity around this topic, and we love that they are enjoying it already! Our CLL work, will focus on writing a narrative linked to this unit of work. In Maths, we are continuing our work on addition, and gaining confidence with solving calculations in different ways. Our Faith and Beliefs learning will be focused around 'The Nativity/The Christmas Story'. We are sure that our engagement with the Nativity performance will also help aid our understanding of this, and look forward to sharing this with you near the end of term! We have a wonderful but busy half-term ahead.

PEACOCK & FALCON

This half term in Year 3, the children will be busy exploring a range of exciting topics! In History, we've begun learning about **World War II**, discovering what life was like for children during the war and how it changed everyday life. In **Design and Technology**, the class are designing and sewing their own **friendly monsters**, practicing their cutting and stitching skills with creativity and care.

In **Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)**, we're learning how to write a **non-chronological report**, focusing on using clear headings, interesting facts, and organised information. Finally in math's, we will be starting to learn about multiplication.

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

CRANE & RED KITE

This half term, Year 4 have been using the book 'The Time Keppers: The Tesla Trap' to write a narrative. We have learnt about characters who are real pioneers in the development of electricity and technology; Nikola Telsa and Thomas Edison. In science, we have also been building circuits and experimenting what happens when we add more batteries or bulbs to a simple circuit.

Things to look forward to;
Year 4 chocolatier workshop 9th of
January 2026

BUZZARD & MAGPIE

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to their new history topic, *Was Alfred Great?* Throughout the next half-term, children will be exploring the fascinating world of the Anglo-Saxons through a creative, cross-curricular approach. For our 'Stunning Starter' they began by designing and making their own replica Anglo-Saxon brooches and buckles out of clay, carefully shaping and decorating them with patterns. This hands-on activity helped them appreciate the artistry and craftsmanship of the time while sparking curiosity about what life was like in early medieval England. Through art, history and research, the class will now be delving deeper to decide whether Alfred really deserved the title 'The Great'.

It's been a busy and exciting start to the term in Year 5, with plenty happening beyond the classroom too. Alongside their history work, Magpie pupils have been taking part in swimming lessons, building confidence and improving their skills in the water. They've also been enjoying Forest School sessions, developing teamwork, problem-solving and a love of the outdoors. Buzzard pupils have these two great activities to come over the coming weeks.

KESTREL & EAGLE

🌟 Year 6 – Lighting Up Our Learning!

This half-term, our Year 6 topic is Light and Electricity, and we've certainly started with a spark! Kestrel Class enjoyed an exciting 'Stunning Starter' visit to Hinkley Point, where they explored how electricity is generated. Eagle Class are eagerly looking forward to their trip next week. This visit has really ignited our curiosity and set the scene for our Science and English learning this term.

In Maths, we're tackling fractions, building confidence and precision as we work through tricky problems. The children have also begun their Forest School sessions, where they've loved learning new outdoor skills, working as a team, and enjoying time in nature.

Now that we're all settled back into the school routine, there's lots to look forward to this half-term as our Year 6's continue to shine brightly in everything they do!

A few photos from the Year 1 Trip to Tiverton Toy Museum





Forest School is in full swing, embracing the autumnal weathers, with the children having lots of fun building, creating and getting muddy! One of our primary resources that we utilize daily is wood. A little plea to everyone out in their gardens for any wood that you may be able to donate to our Forest School. Any tree's that you have removed, branches cut back or large shrubs pruned, we are always in need of branches, logs and stumps of every size (although the bigger the better!) Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing and has a spare set of clothes as they can get muddy and wet. A big thank you in advance for your continual support in this vital provision.



School Library

We are looking forward to the children being able to use the School Library again very soon. Please make sure you have consented for the “**Library School Home Agreement**” under **Consents** via Arbor for your child to be able to make use of this wonderful resource.

Many thanks, Andrea Lloyd
Library Lead

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

Here at West Monkton we are deeply committed to the wellbeing and mental health of all our pupils. We offer a range of supportive provisions, including The Nest, dedicated pastoral care, and whole-school events such as *Hello Yellow Day*. These initiatives reflect our belief that every child deserves to feel safe, supported, and valued.

We continually strive to do everything we can to help our pupils thrive—emotionally, socially, and academically. As part of this commitment, we recognise the importance of clear and consistent routines. Positive routines can have a significant impact on wellbeing, helping children feel secure, confident, and ready to learn.

Talk, listen, reassure

Emotional check-ins help children feel heard and valued. Ask questions like:

- “What was something good that happened today?”
- “Did anything feel tricky?”
- Let them talk at their own pace. Behaviour changes (clinginess, tiredness, moodiness) are common in September — patience and connection go a long way.

Five Minute habits that matter

- A morning hug or chat
 - A quick bag check and praise
 - A bedtime moment to reflect on the day
- Small things, done regularly, build big emotional strength

Together, we aim to create a nurturing environment where every pupil can flourish.



Key routines that support children's WELL-BEING

- 1 Sleep time**
 - Regular bedtimes and wake times
 - Avoid screens an hour before bed
 - Try a calming wind-down routine (story, bath, quiet time)
- 2 Mealtimes**
 - Encourage family meals where possible
 - Predictable meals help children feel nourished and safe
- 3 Mornings**
 - Keep mornings calm, encouraging and predictable
 - Include a healthy, filling breakfast
 - Prepare bags, lunches, and clothes the night before
- 4 After school**
 - Balance homework, play, and rest
 - Allow for downtime or creative activities
 - Prepare for the following day
- 5 Screen time**
 - Set clear limits, especially before bed
 - Encourage screen-free moments to reconnect

@the_enlightened_parent



WEST MONKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

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

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

★ 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

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.

28TH NOVEMBER

3.15 - 4.30

IN THE SCHOOL HALL



Christmas Disco 2025
Friday, 12th December
Scan the QR code for details and tickets



easyfundraising

You shop, retailers donate to

West Monkton School PTA

every time you shop online

Logos for: ebay, TUI, M&S, JOHN LEWIS, TESCO, 8,000+ online retailers

Search for us on: easyfundraising.org.uk

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

Did you know you can help raise money every time you shop, download the "easyfundraising" app from your app store and follow the instructions to help raise extra funds for our school



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No.... it is the teaching/support staff from West Monkton Primary School, running 5km through the village to raise money.

They are on a mission to **raise money for the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)** provisions at the school. The fundraising hopes to provide some new play equipment, new climbing frames and get parts to fix current equipment for the KS1 playground at first and then focus on provisions for the KS2 playground.

For anyone coming onsite to collect their children at the end of the day, you would have noticed how a large majority of the equipment that is there, is unusable and taped up. The children are rapidly running out of equipment that is safe to play on. Unfortunately, like with most things these days, parts to fix them cost a lot of money.

The teaching staff at the school have decided to do something about it and try and do some fundraising of their own. So, on the **23rd of November**, they will **be running 5km** in and around the West Monkton/Monkton Heathfield area. Now as amazing as the teachers are at the school, they are not athletes so for some this is a big challenge. Every penny raised for this challenge will be given to the school to help get our playgrounds back to where they should be.

As a charity, we as the PTA are setting up this fundraising page for the school but it is a completely West Monkton Primary School teaching/support staff event.

On the day of the event, you will be able to stand along the route and give them lots of support and encouragement.... we've been told they might be a few costumes involved as well!

We know how fantastic and generous you are at any school fundraising event and we're sure this will be no exception! Keep an eye out on the school Facebook page for more information about the event.





West Monkton Parish Church - All the details about our events are on the church website www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk and our Facebook Page

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

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 16th Dec 6.30-8.30pm

www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk

West Monkton Church

Come and take part in the story of Christmas

4pm Christmas Eve

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

*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



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



WEST MONKTON CHURCH

CHRISTMAS FAYRE & CRAFTS

LUCKY DIP
CAKES

REFRESHMENTS

LOCAL CRAFTS



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

FREE ENTRY

KIDS GAME
ZONE

RAFFLE

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

JIGSAWS

BOOKS

TOYS

BACON BAPS

www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk

Parent Café



We have joined with our village agent, Rachael, to hold a parents coffee afternoon.

This will be a great opportunity to meet other parents and chat with like-minded people and is open to all parents and carers in our school community.

Our first Parent coffee afternoon will be held on Thursday 27th November. Starting at 2.10pm and ending at 3.10pm in time for the gates to open.

At the coffee afternoon you will find Vic – Pastoral lead in school, Rachael – village agent and we hope to have our local PCSO Tony in attendance to offer advice.

We look forwards to seeing you on the 27th.

For more information on the village agent: <https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/help-advice/#:~:text=Our%20Village%20Agent%20service%20supports,feelings%20of%20loneliness%20and%20isolation> If this link does not work, copy and paste into a new browser.

