



Autumn 2, part 2 - 2025

Newsletter

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we reach the end of this busy and joyful term, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we have achieved together. The children have worked incredibly hard, showing the progress in their learning through recent quizzes and assessments. Their dedication has truly shone through.

Alongside their academic efforts, the children have put their hearts and souls into celebrating Christmas. From the beautiful nativities in **EYFS and KS1**, to the **Year 6 carol services at St Augustine's Church**, and **Year 5 supporting the Community Sing-Along**, the festive spirit has been alive and well! Our **Ethos Team** worked tirelessly to decorate trees for the Christmas Tree Festival, and **Years 3 and 4** learned about Christingle before visiting the church for a special service. **KS1** even took part in the **Posada**, bringing this wonderful tradition to life.

If that wasn't enough, we enjoyed our very own **pantomime on site**, and the whole of **KS2** had the fantastic opportunity to visit the Tacchi Morris Theatre to see *Jack and the Beanstalk*! This week, we also served a delicious Christmas dinner to over **1,200 children** across our Trust and to other local schools—a huge thank you to our amazing kitchen team for making this possible!

I am so grateful for your support with fundraising this term. Thanks to your generosity, our **staff community fun run raised over £1,500** for new play equipment, and our wonderful **PTA raised over £1,000** from the school discos. It's incredible to see how we can raise funds while giving our children such memorable experiences.

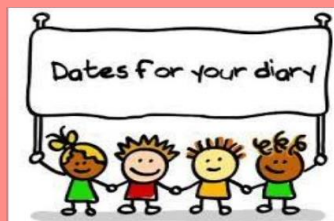
We were also delighted to welcome **Miss Ellie-Mae Renwick** to our support staff team. She has already embraced the West Monkton way of life and is making a fantastic contribution.

Before we break for Christmas, I do need to make a plea regarding **parking at drop-off and pick-up**. Despite our best efforts, concerns remain. Please park safely in designated public spaces and be mindful of our neighbours. Unless previously agreed, or if you have a valid and displayed disability badge, **please do not park in the staff car park**. With over 400 children leaving at the end of the day, additional cars increase the risk of harm. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

Finally, that just leaves me to wish you all a **wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year**. Thank you for your continued support—here's to another exciting term ahead in 2026!

Warm regards,

Helen Newstead – Head Teacher



Last day of school 18th of
December 2025

Inset day 19th of
December 2025

Inset day 5th & 6th of
January 2026

Return to school 7th of
January 2026

Year 4 - Chocolatier
Workshop

9th of January 2026



SNOWY & TAWNY OWLS

Snowy

Finley- I liked learning all about Christmas and doing our Nativity

Ella-I enjoyed learning different celebrations. I liked learning about Christmas the most and being in the Christmas post office.

Tawny

Avery- I liked Christmas because we got to discover new things

Immy- I liked Bonfire Night because there are fireworks

PELICAN & YELLOW WAGTAILS

Year 1 have been busy writing stories and performing all the songs in the Nativity.

Kosi - We have been learning about Christmas. Jesus was born at Christmas and he is cool because the shepherds and the kings visited him.

Kurdistan - We learnt a lot of things in maths, I liked adding up and taking away.

Beauden - We did singing in the Nativity, I liked three kings were riding best.

Isabella - We wrote stories about being lost in the museum, in mine Jesse was lost in the dolls house.

ROBIN & PUFFIN

Erin - Y2

"I really enjoyed learning about the Great fire of London. I liked it when the museum lady visited and showed us things from the past and how cheese smelt."

Oscar - Y2

"I liked doing our "create" writing piece about Sammy the fire dog and our museum workshop. I liked using the quills. I really enjoyed making my own fire truck."

PEACOCK & FALCON

George - Peacock - "I have improved a lot in my maths and had so much fun doing it"

Adeline - Peacock - "I loved painting the sunset sky"

Grace - Falcon - "I liked writing a non-chronological report"

Oscar - Falcon - "I like getting better at the new hard writing skills in Year 3, plus for Christmas dinner day we got really funny hats"

Catch Up with Mrs Newstead...

CRANE & RED KITE

"This term in Year 4 we have been learning about electricity and how it powers devices, lights and heating all around the world. Did you know that sometimes it can be dangerous and if not used properly it can kill you!"

"We made our own circuit of electricity and we know it worked when the light bulb lit up."

"Our book this term, was 'The Timekeeper's Tesla Trap'. The main characters were Sarah, Luke, Delay (The Villain) and Tesla (a person not the car). Delay stole a valuable piece of Tesla's x-ray machine so Sarah and Luke (Timekeepers) went on a pursuit to get it back! The good news was that they got it back in The Statue of Liberty during a thunderstorm and returned it to Tesla's apartment where it was fitted and the machine worked again – yay!"

"In music we've been learning how to play the ukulele. We played the song: 'Don't be happy!' We got to play a solo which was great!"

Ava, Alfie H, Alice & Arthur

BUZZARD & MAGPIE

"This term in Year 5 we have been learning about King Alfred The Great and how he fought against the Vikings and triumphed! King Alfred was an Anglo-Saxon and lived approximately over 850 years ago."

"Being an Anglo-Saxon, they made their own clothes from sheep wool and their own jewellery from things like animal bones, teeth and if wealthy, they would make brooches with gems."

"Did you know King Alfred ran away and fled to Somerset to a place called, Athelny? He took shelter in a woman's peasants hut where he was asked to keep an eye on the cakes (they were more like bitter bread -yuk) whilst she went to get water from the lake. However, Alfred got distracted by his thoughts and let the cakes burn! The woman returned and was furious!"

Yesterday, we went to Taunton Museum where we saw an actual brooch that King Alfred wore. It was golden, quite small with some beautiful gems and the words King Alfred engraved on the side."

Ava H, Ava P, Abbie & Arthur

KESTREL & EAGLE

"In Year 6 this term, we have been learning about lighting and electricity, particularly about Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla and the invention of the electric lightbulb. Thomas invented it first but then Tesla modified it by creating the 'Tesla Coil'."

"In maths, we've been learning about fractions and understanding how we add them, subtract them, times and even divide. We all know that when comparing, adding and subtracting the denominator has to be the same."

"In Geography, we've been looking at renewable and non-renewable resources, we went to visit Hinckley - a nuclear power station in Bridgwater and this week we have been understanding solar power and considering where in the school we would put solar panels. We think they should go on the roof because our class gets hot and they are out of the way."

In Faith & Beliefs we have been understanding better how Christians celebrate Christmas, starting with Advent and lighting the Advent wreath each week. We also think it's about spending time family, gift giving, Santa, Christmas crackers and Turkey!"

In Science, we were learning about how light travels and how we see light. Did you know, that you can only see if there is light? The light has to travel and 'bounce off' the objects to your lenses (in your eyes) for you to see.."

Alex, Arabella, Amber K & Amelia

thank you

Last week we had a special visit from Santa and his incredibly generous elves at Howards Motor Group, who have kindly donated Christmas crackers and Santa hats that we used at Christmas Dinner Day this week. The children and staff at West Monkton are so grateful for this donation, which made the festivities even more special!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Trampolining Success for Teagan!

Congratulations to **Teagan**, who recently took part in the first round of the school trampolining competition in **Weston-Super-Mare**, proudly representing **West Monkton Primary School**.

Competing in the **Years 1–6 Elite** category, Teagan delivered two excellent routines and achieved an impressive **2nd place**, earning a **silver medal**.

We are delighted to share that Teagan has qualified for the **next round of the competition**, which will take place in **January**. Well done, Teagan – we are so proud of your hard work and achievement!



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 Emily Walker (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



Safeguarding at Christmas

Christmas is often seen as the most magical, family-orientated time of the year. But with this focus on family comes pressure – so much so that that same magic can be lost under the expectation of what Christmas SHOULD be.

Whether it's the anxiety that comes with spending extended time around family members or not having a family to spend Christmas with.

This edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter will look at the many things to consider to ensure that both your child and adult safeguarding responsibilities aren't lost in the craziness of Christmas.



Pressures and Expectations

Christmas time comes with a lot of ideals that many households try to reach. This can bring families and groups closer together – but it can also cause tension. Whether it's the abundance of alcohol or being cooped up for longer periods than usual, conflict can ensue and it can require safeguarding practices to be used.

On top of this, children in particular can have a very specific and idealised version of Christmas in their heads that may not come true in their household. Managing the expectations of those within your circle at Christmas is complicated, but the most important thing to remember is to prioritise the people first.

Pressure creates environments that can facilitate abusive behaviour. So, the key is to create a Christmas atmosphere not based on vanity (presents, lights, and whether you can cook the best dinner), but on welcoming values that make all members feel accepted.



Abuse at Christmas

The holiday season is often called the most wonderful time of the year – or at least that's what the songs say. However, this period can be an anxiety-inducing one for both adults and children [experiencing domestic abuse](#) in all of its forms. It can quickly turn into a frightening time for the victim. In the UK, there is often a surge in reports of domestic violence from men, women, and children trapped with their abusers. This is usually after the core period, however, as Christmas time means there are fewer opportunities to report abuse. With many businesses and schools closed, accessing support can prove tricky for victims.

Mental Wellbeing

A consideration for both children and adults is their mental health over Christmas. Those who are or have been a part of households with child protection issues, domestic violence and mental health difficulties can carry those issues into other environments – sometimes unknowingly.



It's been shown that people with mental health problems struggle with self-harm and suicidal feelings due to the pressure of Christmas. Not only can this create hostile environments for adults but the effects can ripple out onto children and young people, putting them in extremely vulnerable situations.

It's important to know how to best [support those with mental health issues](#) at a time where it can seem like they are discarded.

Online Safeguarding

With the prevalence of smartphones and online gaming, children and young people often spend their time over the Christmas holidays digitally connected to both friends and strangers.

These devices are often top of lists for young people and can provide fun for not only them but also the whole family. The catch is, of course, that anything with access to online platforms bring risks of [cyberbullying](#), [scams](#), and [seeing content not appropriate for children](#).

A parent or caregiver plays a key role in children staying safe online. Any games or gadgets should be checked for safety and appropriate content, while communications and hours spent on them should be monitored.



Safeguarding at Christmas for Adults

The responsibility of creating the 'perfect' Christmas is that of the adults involved. Whether they're parents, teachers or caregivers, pressure can easily get to those who feel like the enjoyment of everyone around them is in their hands.

This intense pressure can cause stress to the point that it can cause heart attacks in adults. Lack of sleep, emotional stress, anger towards others and alcohol abuse can all lead to negative effects on the adult and those around them. Letting go of the 'idea' of Christmas and allowing others to help create a household or space that is calm and loving is vital to not allowing the effects of overindulgence or pressure to play out.



Lifelines and Support Networks

The NSPCC are here to help 24/7 and children can call their [Childline](#) number on 0800 1111

[ThinkUKnow](#) – links to various sites

[Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Shout](#) is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text 85258

Anna Freud Crisis Messenger – If you need support, you can text **AFC** to **85258**. A free, confidential, 24/7 text message support service for anyone who is feeling overwhelmed or is struggling to cope.

[Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Educateagainsthate](#) provides practical advice and support on protecting children from extremism and radicalisation

[Internet Matters](#) provide age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls, and practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world

[Talking to your child about online sexual harassment: A guide for parents](#) – This is the Children's Commissioner's parental guide on talking to their children about online sexual harassment.

[Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) – Detailed information for anyone being bullied, along with advice for parents and schools. Signposts to various helplines and websites for further support.

Local children social care: <https://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse-to-local-council>. If you think a child or young person is at risk or being abused or neglected, contact the children's social care team at their local council. If you do not know where they live, contact your local council's team, the [NSPCC](#) or the Police for advice.

Find a food bank <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/>





WEST MONKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA



On behalf of the PTA, we would like to extend our thanks for all of your support throughout 2025. Whether you attended events, donated prizes, or helped spread the word, every contribution made a difference.

We know that a lot is asked of you, especially around Christmas, but your continued generosity never went unnoticed, and we truly couldn't do this without you.

We have had a great year of fundraising, and we can't wait to use the funds we raised, working with the school, to deliver some outdoor play equipment during 2026.

Thank you once again, and we hope to see you next year for more disco's, tuck shops, our first colour run(!) and other fun events.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, from West Monkton PTA.



West Monkton PTA

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📘 <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



West Monkton Parish Church - All the details about our events are on the church website 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

