



Newsletter: Spring 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of what has certainly been a *wet* half-term, I want to thank you all for your continued support and positivity. Despite the weather, the children have been brilliant, and we are very much looking forward to returning after the break for our **spring term**, with the hope that some brighter and kinder weather will be joining us too.

This week, we have been delighted to welcome two new members to our team: **Kathryn Glasspool** and **Kiera Thomas**, who join us as part of our support staff. I am sure you will join me in offering them a very warm West Monkton welcome as they settle into their new roles.

Community Safety

Recently, you will recall that we have shared a number of reminders regarding keeping our children safe within our wider community—whether that relates to **cars, scooters and trikes, or animals**. As a school, we work incredibly hard to **safeguard your children, and this responsibility does not stop at our school gates. We rely on your partnership, commitment, and support.**

Please may I ask that you help us by adhering to the following:

1. **Drive slowly and carefully past the school.**
2. **Park safely and considerately**, showing respect for our nearby residents.
3. **Do not enter the staff car park** unless you have prior agreement from the school.
4. **Support children in using ride-ons safely**, and ensure scooters and trikes are *not* ridden on school grounds.
5. **Look out for one another and uphold these expectations.**

If you cannot find a suitable parking space, please do not worry—your children will always be kept safe with us until you arrive.

Thank you, sincerely, for your continued cooperation and commitment to keeping everyone safe.

Our School Value: Love

This term, our value has been **love**. It feels fitting to end the half-term reflecting on how we show love not only in our relationships and learning, but also in the way we care for each other as a community. By working together to keep all our children safe, we are demonstrating the very heart of that value—showing we care and ensuring everyone feels supported, respected, and loved.

I wish you all a restful, enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back, refreshed and ready for all the opportunities that the spring term brings.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Newstead

DATES FOR YOU DIARY

Half term
16.02.2026 -
20.02.2026

Return to
School
23.02.2026

13.03.2026
PTA Event
Crazy Hair
Day

27.03.2026
PTA Event
Bingo Night

01.04.2026
Year 5
The WiseUp
Workshop



Catch Up with Mrs Newstead...

SNOWY & TAWNY OWLS

In Snowy and Tawny Owls the children have been learning about dinosaurs and space amongst other things. They have really enjoyed these topics.

"I enjoyed learning about dinosaurs because I liked learning the facts on the screen"

"I liked learning about dinosaurs because I like them"

"I liked learning about space as we learning about the sky"

"I liked learning about space as we learnt a planet song"

Mabel, Leo, Albert & Millie

PELICAN & YELLOW WAGTAILS

Year 1 have enjoyed learning about the story of Fantastic Mr Fox and the 3 little pigs. They have learned about different types of materials amongst other things.

"I have liked hearing Fantastic Mr Fox and the True story of the 3 little pigs. Did you know the wolf only wanted sugar from the pigs and ate them by accident? I wrote my own story called The Three Little Sheep"

"We have learnt about wood, plastic, glass and metal they are all materials things are made of. I liked testing them with water"

"We have added up numbers, I am learning the ways to make 10 like 5 add 5 and 6 and 4. We also use Numberblocks to learn about 6"

Vinnie, Isabella and Marlowe

ROBIN & PUFFIN

The children in Year 2 have enjoyed learning about Mary Anning and fossils and lots of other things. Here is what some of the children had to say about what they have learnt.

"I have enjoyed doing the ammonite fossil art. We had to draw a fossil, then put a different colour oil pastel over it, then get lots of watercolour and spread it over the top"

"We also did some ammonite fossil art with charcoal, it was quite messy though!"

"We have been dividing and multiplying in Maths and now I can do it easily!"

"I really liked my biography on Mary Anning. She discovered the Ichthyosaur - it has a tail like a dolphin but a head like a crocodile! I looked it up at home and it weighs 90kg"

"Mary Anning found Devil's Toenails too"

"We looked at different rocks to see if they could float or sink, were hard or soft, or if they were permeable"

Nellie, Willow, Lennon, Tomas, India, Molly-Mae and Rudy.

PEACOCK & FALCON

In Year 3, we have been writing a newspaper article all about the iron man. We made up our own characters and got to design them! We really enjoyed this!

A few of the learners in Year 3 have enjoyed Family Learning where they have been doing lots of arts and crafts.

Our favourite thing this term has been Forest School. We have been spotting different types of birds and saw robins, blackbirds and magpies.

In computing, we were really excited as we have been learning all about AI – we learnt about hackers and how it is important to be aware of these when using the internet.

We have also loved doing Gymnastics in PE. We have enjoyed using all of the equipment including the balance beams, blocks to jump on and off and practicing hand stands and cartwheels.

Amelia, Elsie & Seth

Catch Up with Mrs Newstead...

CRANE & RED KITE

In Year 4 we have been learning about Charlie & The Chocolate Factory. We were visited by a chocolatier who told us all about how chocolate was made and where it comes from. We even got to make chocolate lollies which we were allowed to eat!

"We have been trialling a new way of learning CLL and have found this a lot easier as we don't have to remember everything in one lesson anymore. We can now learn multiple things over a week or so and it's easier for my brain".

We have also been learning about the digestive system and have learnt how there are thousands of microbes in your body that help to prevent illnesses. We even made a digestive system out of food and water and squeezed it through a sock and a bag to see how food travels in our body. It was disgusting!

Pippa & Tate

BUZZARD & MAGPIE

"In Year 5 this term we have been learning about plastic and waste, particularly how much plastic is ending up in our oceans and on the ground of our wonderful planet. Did you know plastic takes hundreds of years to decompose? Our poor animals and fish in the oceans suffer because they eat the micro-plastics.

In CLL, we have written a persuasive letter trying to persuade an MP to help our environment and not throw away so much waste. We want to stop wasting things that may be others could have and be better at recycling. We learnt about recycling from Gary (Carrymoor Environmental Centre).

For our 'Fabulous Finish' we did a science experiment where we are trying to grow the biggest salt and sugar crystals. We predict the salt crystal will be the biggest!"

Mia W, Oliver M, Sienna L & Amelia

KESTREL & EAGLE

"This term in Year 6 we have been learning about algebra. This is letters and numbers combined, essentially where a letter/symbol can represent a number. This can help us understand formulas to work things out.

We've also been learning about evolution and adaptation for example giraffes having long necks to reach tasty leaves at the top of the tree. We all have to describe the animals, one of us chose a chameleon. Did you know that chameleons have a true colour, often green, but they can change their colour to camouflage in their surroundings so they don't get caught as prey?

In Science, we've been looking at microscopic, mouldy bread to see micro-organisms. They were really funny but also a bit like kinetic sand when it joins together and forms a block – it also reminded us of the venom from Spiderman 3. I think they looked like the plants you can find on the seabed.

Yesterday, we were creating a poster online poster for E-Safety day. We created a poster for sports club so that everyone could be included, particularly supporting those with disabilities. We were taught not to believe, always fact check before sharing and believing AND to protect own and others personal information."

LJ, Dexter H, Gabby & Isla

CONGRATULATIONS!

🏆 A Huge Congratulations to Teagan! 🏆

Teagan competed in the second round of the schools trampolining competition in Weston-super-Mare and achieved an outstanding **1st place** finish out of five competitors in the **Years 1–6 Elite** category.

By completing **two amazing routines**, Teagan brought home the gold and secured her place in the **national finals in Derby on the 13th and 14th of March**.

An incredible achievement and a fantastic performance — well done, Teagan! ✨





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



Could you tell if your child was being exploited?

Join one of our free online sessions led by Child Exploitation Prevention Officer **Andri Nicolaou**

18 March 7:00 - 8:30pm **30 March 10:30am - 12:00pm**

Learn about the different forms of child exploitation and how offenders groom/exploit children both online and offline. We'll highlight warning signs a child may be at risk and practical steps you can take to keep them safe and respond to any concerns.

Visit the **Avon and Somerset Police Eventbrite page** or scan the QR codes below

18 March **30 March**



Parents/Carers can access this FREE online session to

- Learn about different types of exploitation.
- Understand the signs that a child may be at risk or being groomed.
- Discover how offenders groom and exploit children, both on and offline
- Know how to keep your child safe and what to do if you have concerns!

Led by Prevention Officer Andri Nicolaou from the dedicated child exploitation team.

Families are often the first to notice their child is being exploited.

Scan me to book for the 18th March



Scan me to book for the 30th March





WEST MONKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

Crazy Hair Day

Friday 13th March

Easter chocolate donations

**Wear your hair in anyway you want,
the crazier the better!**

We are asking for Easter chocolate donations which will become hampers/prizes at our Bingo event 2 weeks later, which will be on the 27th March.

Collection points for the donations will be at each gate on Friday the 13th of March at drop off.

Thank you for your support

BINGO Night

Family bingo event. £5 a book. Children welcome.
Refreshments and a small bar available.
Buy your books at www.pta-events.co.uk/westmonkton

FIRDAY 27TH MARCH
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM, EYES DOWN AT 6.30
West Monkton School Hall

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



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POP-UP FAMILY TALKING CAFE

**BRITTON'S ASH
COMMUNITY HALL**

**THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY
2PM - 3.15PM**

Britton's Ash Community Hall
Bridgwater Rd, Taunton, TA2 8FT

Join your local Village Agent for
help and advice – supporting
families with children of school
age and under.

For more information:
01823 331222
info@thrivesomerset.org.uk
www.thrivesomerset.org.uk



The Community Council for Somerset, operating as Thrive, is a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England & Wales No. 3540219 and is a Registered Charity No. 1069260.



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Community Food Donation Drive

Support for our Parish Families

Community Food Donation Request

We are reaching out to our kind and generous community members for assistance in gathering tins and non-perishable goods to support those in need within our parish. Your thoughtful contributions can make a significant difference at this time of year.

How and When to Donate

If you have items to donate, please bring them to the BACH during the following times:

- Wednesday or Thursday: 9 AM to 3 PM
- Friday: 9 AM to 1 PM

Your donations will be greatly appreciated and will go directly to helping those in our community who need it most.

Request a Parcel

If you or someone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel, please reach out to us. You can email us at admin@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information and assistance.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity in supporting our community!



Calling all young cricketers!

North Curry Cricket Club is looking for **children in Years 4, 5 & 6** who would like to join

Under 10s / Under 11s hard ball cricket teams

☀️ Winter nets **start this week**

🌱 Moving outdoors in **April**

🏆 Matches begin in **May**

It's a great chance to learn new skills, make friends, and enjoy cricket in a fun, supportive club environment.

All cricket equipment provided

✉️ For more details, please contact **Chris Cherry** on **07791 971962**

👉 or **Martin Hill** on **07789 750561**

or visit the **North Curry Cricket Club Facebook** page and drop us a message.

