



Newsletter: Spring 2, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are again, reaching another end of term — my, this one has passed exceedingly quickly! The children have outdone themselves once more, engaging fully in their learning, not only in class but also during the many trips and visits that have taken place across the school. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity in action. Do take a look at our Facebook page to keep up to date with all that is happening in school; it's a lovely window into their daily experiences.

Staffing Update

This term we are sadly saying goodbye to several valued members of staff.

Mrs Hanlow-Webber (known fondly to the children as Mrs HW) is leaving after many years of dedicated service. With her own children now growing up, she has taken on a new role within the service sector, where she will continue to use her wonderful pastoral skills.

We are also bidding farewell to **Mrs Roberts**, our fantastic HLTA, who for many years has worked across the whole school providing essential cover and supporting children individually. It will come as no surprise that she has secured a pastoral role in another school — something she has aspired to for some time — and we are truly delighted for her.

Mrs Rarity also leaves us today, though not too far, as she has secured a position within our very own Little Herons Nursery. We are thrilled that she is staying within our wider school community.

Finally, **Miss Edmunds**, who leaves us to take on another role in our Trust. So, thankfully, like Mrs Rarity, not too far away. We wish her all the very best!

We are so pleased for them all and wish each of them every success in their next steps, though they will be very much missed.

As a result of these departures, we are delighted to welcome **Mrs Nicholas** to the team. A current volunteer and qualified teacher, she will be stepping into the HLTA role, and we are very excited to have her join us. Welcome, Mrs Nicholas!

In addition, we held interviews today for teaching assistant positions and hope to share the outcomes with you upon our return.

Please join me in extending warm **congratulations** and best wishes to all staff moving on, as well as a heartfelt welcome to those joining us.

That just leaves me to wish you all a wonderful Easter break. We hope you enjoy some well-earned rest and time together, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on **20th April**.

Warmest regards,
Helen Newstead - Headteacher

DATES FOR YOU DIARY

Half term
03.04.2026 –
17.04.2026

Return to
School
20.04.2026

Bank Holiday
04.05.2026

No School this
day

Summer Term
Clubs start –
week
commencing
Tuesday, 27th
April

Strike & Field
Festival

Year 5
Friday, 21st May



Catch Up with Mrs Newstead...

SNOWY & TAWNY OWLS

"I enjoyed everything. My favourite thing was doing my writing". *Bluebell*

"I liked learning Jack and the Beanstalk because they lived happily ever after". *Ian*

"I like PE because we have been kicking things and we have been doing the hula hooping". *Matylda*

"I enjoyed learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly. It is a caterpillar first and then it makes a cocoon and then it turns into a butterfly". *Leo*

PELICAN & YELLOW WAGTAILS

"We learnt about animals and animal groups and we had animals come into school".
"There was a snake that was my favourite".
Asher

"We have enjoyed CLL because we have been writing about Elmer". "I like Elmer because he is colourful". *Ella and Kurdistan*

"I enjoyed learning about animals because there are loads of different animals that you can learn about. Frogs are a carnivore".
Malick

"I enjoyed learning about Elmer. We had to write lots of sentences about Elmer". *Lily*

ROBIN & PUFFIN

"I have enjoyed learning about Mary Seacole because she was determined to go to the war.
Albie

"I enjoyed learning about the new book that we were learning in CLL. It is all good, Granny came here on the Empire Windrush". "It is kind of exciting". *Emily*

"I have liked learning about Florence Nightingale because I like Nurses. She was a famous nurse in History because she wanted to help in the Crimean war". *Millie*

"I have enjoyed learning about maths because it is good skills about learning new things and learning how to count in tens and ones". *Jack*

PEACOCK & FALCON

"I liked writing a story. It was about a girl going to Egypt and defeating a beast and getting her Dad back because he was captured". "Our book was Marcy riddle of the sphinx". *Grace*

"I have enjoyed doing CLL because we get to write our own story and make up what we were doing. It was really fun". "My story was about a girl going into a portal and ending up in Egypt". *Elliot*

"I enjoyed science because we have been learning about what our ear looks like inside and how we hear". "I know there was an eardrum but I didn't know where it was". "I know it is the first thing in our ear to help us hear sound". *Emily*

"I liked learning in science". "Every week we have done a mini experiment". "We have done one with testing different sounds and it was very interesting". *George*

Catch Up with Mrs Newstead...

CRANE & RED KITE

"I have most probably enjoyed learning about CLL the most because I like the new changes that has happened to it". "I like that Miss Steele under lines it that we have to change and it shows us what we have to change". *Jaxon*

"I have enjoyed art the most, The Industrial Revolution and it is fun to use the paint". *Ivy*

"I enjoyed History and The Industrial Revolution because most of the time I am usually into the older days rather than today. It is more interesting. All of their houses were stuck together and not far apart".
Poppy

"I enjoyed History because you can learn about what it was like in the olden days and what they had to go through". "If they were rich, they would have a house that was single with not many houses". *Ava*

BUZZARD & MAGPIE

"I just like learning. Miss Yetton just makes all of the lessons so much fun. I like History because I like learning about people. Basically I am a bit noseey so I like learning about people". *Sophie*

"I enjoy CLL because I enjoy writing so much and learning about Ernest Shackleton. He was a polar explorer and he reached the Antarctic twice. On one of his expeditions his boat got stuck and he rescued his crew back to South Georgia". *Ruben*

"We have learnt about Shackleton's missions and how the endurance got lost under the pack ice in the red sea". *Jess*

"We also learnt how he led all the crew by himself and how he promised he would get them home safely. He fulfilled this promise. He went on quite a few missions. The ship got found 100 years ago under the pack ice". *Reuben*

KESTREL & EAGLE

"I have enjoyed maths because really maths. When it is a challenge it makes it hard which makes it fun". "My favourite thing is algebra". *Toby*

"I have enjoyed singing the Shrek songs". "My favourite subject is probably learning about Darwin and his theories in CLL and animal adaptations and evolution. Darwin went to Galapagos Island to learn and investigate turtles and how he was eating them. We did a debate if he should eat them. Most said he shouldn't because the turtles might have had life and a family". *Molly*

"I personally enjoyed learning about evolution because I learnt stuff that I didn't really know. You don't really have to enjoy it but it is things you just need to know and your opinions can change on it". *Ian*

"I have enjoyed leaning about Darwin eating turtles because it is a new discovery and learning more about the world". *Yasmin*





We have had a wonderful term in Forest School with a big focus on safe tool work across Key Stage 2. Alongside Forest School West Monkton has established its first School's Eco-Committee with the members choosing to support the Keep Britain Tidy campaign 'The Great Big School Clean' by conducting a whole week of litter picks. As a school we collected an enormous 5 bags of litter across the school grounds and around the community garden area. Our outside space is looking better than ever! Thank you Eco-Committee and all the individual volunteers who helped out, every little bit of litter picked up makes an enormous difference to our environment.

As we move into the summer term I have a few Forest School pleas! If any parents or carers have access to surplus logs, tree trunks or wood chip we would kindly accept these resources in our Forest School area to help improve the site.

Also, in order to carry out some of the riskier elements of Forest School, as well as making continual site improvements, I would welcome any volunteers who would like to volunteer their time to support sessions being run on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday each week. Please do get in contact with Mrs Sgorlon via the school office if this is something that interests you.





Festival of Sport

Please see dates below, fingers crossed the sun will shine ☺

Tuesday 14th July 2026

- **AM:** KS1 Field Events – *School Event*
- **PM:** EYFS & KS1 Track Events – *Parents welcome on site to watch and celebrate*

Wednesday 15th July 2026

- **AM:** LKS2 & UKS2 Field Events – *School Event*
- **PM:** LKS2 & UKS2 Track Events – *Parents welcome on site to watch and celebrate*





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

Car Seat Awareness

With the better weather approaching and many people undertaking more car journeys with their children, I thought it would be useful to re-send this information regarding the UK law on the use of car seats and child-safety in cars as a reminder. Sadly, we are still being made aware of some children arriving at school in cars without any safety restraint, including some who have been standing between the front seats of the car and this is a real concern. If children are not properly restrained in cars, the results can be catastrophic in the event of an accident.



Did you know?

*"Seat belts did not become a legal requirement for rear passengers until 1987? Even more remarkably the use of children's car seats wasn't made a legal requirement until 2006! Since then, all infants from birth until a certain age or height **must** be in a specially designed car seat. This is a legal requirement and failure to do so will likely result in you receiving a £500 fine but, of course, the threat of a cash fine pales into insignificance when compared to the realities and outcomes of an accident."* www.incarsafetycentre.co.uk

Main points of the law:

- 1) Height based seats are required to used REAR FACING for a minimum of 15 months.
- 2) A suitable* child car seat must be used until the child reaches a height of 135cms or 12 years old, whichever is reached first.

*suitable = a seat that is intended for the child's height, weight and the vehicle it is to be used in.

The purpose of the regulations and the law is to improve levels of safety for children in vehicles. It is our responsibility to ensure our children are protected to the best of our ability.

What are the legal requirements for rear-facing car seats?

New laws dictate that children must travel in rear-facing car seats until they are 15 months old. Furthermore, you must never fit a rear-facing car seat in the front of your car where there is an active passenger airbag.

What are the legal requirements for forward-facing car seats?

From 15 months old onwards, it is believed that your child's neck will be strong enough to more reasonably handle the impact of an accident and, therefore, forward-facing car seats may be used. However, it is recommended that rear-facing seats are used for as long as possible.

What car seat is legally required for my child?

There are two categories of seats: those that are manufactured to the latest EU standard ECE R129, known as i-Size and are based on a child's height; and those manufactured under the EU standard ECE R44-04 which are weight-based.



The type of car seat your child needs depends on their height and weight.

Group	0+	0+ and 1	1	1,2	1,2,3	3,5
Weight	Newborn to 13kg	Rear facing newborn to 13kg Front facing 9kg to 18kg	Front facing 9kg to 18kg Rear facing group 1 seat available	Rear facing 9kg to 25kg Mostly rear facing but some front facing	Front facing 9kg to 18kg with harness 15kg to 36kg with seat belt	Front facing 15kg to 36kg with seat belt
Height	Top of head level with top of seat	Eyes level with top of seat (front facing)	Eyes level with top of seat	Eyes level with top of seat	Until max weight or harness starts to dip below shoulders. Use with seat belt until 12 years or 135cm tall	Until 12 years or height of 135cm

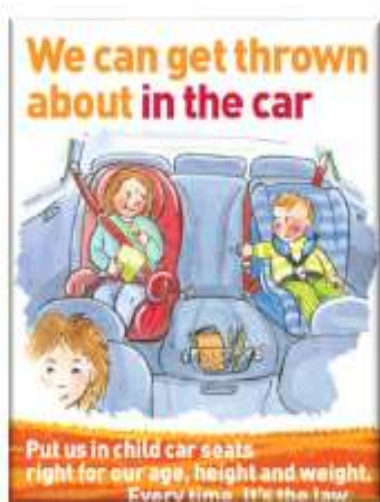
When can a child legally travel without a car seat?

In the UK, children must be restrained in a car seat until they are 12 years old or at least 135cm tall. From that point onwards, they must use a seat belt like all adults.

There are a few exceptions to this:

- A child can travel in a taxi or mini-cab without a car seat if the driver doesn't provide one however, they must wear a seat belt.
- The same rule applies for coaches and minibuses – children must travel in rear seats and use seat belts.
- If you have to make a short, unexpected journey as an emergency, it is legally acceptable to restrain your child with just a seatbelt instead of a car seat providing your child is 3 years or older.
- Children with special or additional needs or medical conditions will have bespoke requirements outside of normal laws. Usually, they are required to be restrained by means designed for their needs.

While these exceptions exist, it is advisable not to take any unnecessary risks. Accidents happen in buses and taxis too.



Further, really important safety note:

Of course, not all children like wearing their safety harnesses and seat belts and we know this can be a tricky area. Children do wriggle and attempt to get themselves out of these restrictive straps. However, if you become aware that your child has slipped off their shoulder straps, please take a few moments out of your journey, stop the car and re-position them as, if they are not properly restrained in the event of an accident, this can make a huge difference to the outcome of that accident.



WEST MONKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA



Save the date: Saturday, 20th of June @ West Monkton Primary School

Further details to follow 😊

Thank you for your continued support

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

Team Monkton – Netball Competition



"The Year 6 girls made West Monkton proud this week! They took part in a competitive netball tournament going up against schools from in and around Taunton. Teams who have been playing together for years both within school as well as netball clubs!

Whilst we may not have achieved the results we were hoping, the resilience, persistence and determination shone above all other teams! Having only played together a couple of times prior to the tournament, Mr Smart and other coaching staff at the event recognised the progress the girls had made in only a couple of weeks!

The girls showed sporting qualities that make great athletes and I am sure with continued practise playing together, we can expect to see some more amazing games in the future! Three cheers for excellent... excellent play! Hip hip... HOORAY!! 🎉 "



LET'S CELEBRATE!

We are always so proud to celebrate the success of all of our children. Here are some children who have made fantastic achievements in sporting activities outside of school.

Your dedication, hard work, and commitment are truly inspiring, and you should be incredibly proud of yourselves. Taking part in sports beyond the classroom shows great determination, teamwork, and passion, and it is wonderful to see these qualities shine through. Well done to each and every one of you—you have represented yourselves brilliantly, and we are all very proud of your success.



Layla completed her Swimathon in support of Marie Curie. She swam a whopping 15 lengths in just 25 minutes and raised a grand total of £535 - Well done Layla



Teegan took part in the National Schools Trampolining final held at Derby Arena, where she proudly represented West Monkton. She was one of 14 competitors in the Elite category where she came an amazing 4th place - Well done Teegan

LET'S CELEBRATE!



Bobby has competed in Rowrah's British Mini Bikes Championships and came an amazing 3rd place. Bobby did lots of training for this event and is already making a name for himself - Well done Bobby



Amber has been working very hard in her Basketball and was chosen as "most valuable player" in her last training session, she also played in the West England Regional Hockey finals recently representing Taunton Vale. This was her first time being in goal and her team came a fantastic 6th place winning 4 matches - Well done Amber

SWISH

WHY BUY NEW? SWAP OR DROP INSTEAD!

Join us for a fun exchange—reduce waste,
save money & live sustainably!



WHAT TO BRING:

Clothes

Shoes

Bags

Accessories

Children's Clothes

Items can be dropped at
the BACH on 15th April to
17th April between 9am
and 3pm

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL | 12:00PM - 4:00PM

**AT BRITTONS ASH COMMUNITY HALL
BRIDGWATER ROAD, TA2 8FT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KATE ON 07505 984006
OR EMAIL
COMMUNITY@WESTMONKTONPARISHCOUNCIL.GOV.UK



15-16 | **TAUNTON**
MAY | **2026**

**A FAMILY-FRIENDLY
CELEBRATION OF STORIES
AND ILLUSTRATION**

INCLUDING EVENTS WITH MANY BESTSELLING AND BELOVED CHILDREN'S AUTHORS

ROB BIDDULPH **A.F. STEADMAN**
KATHERINE RUNDELL **MIKEY PLEASE**
ANDY DAY **RACHEL BRIGHT**
JOSEPH COEHLO **EMMA CARROLL**

AND MANY MORE, THE FESTIVAL PROMISES A VARIETY OF EVENTS AND
AN ARRAY OF OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDING COMIC BOOK CREATION
AND WRITING WORKSHOPS, COSTUME APPEARANCES, STORYTELLING
AND CRAFT ACTIVITIES TO SUIT ALL AGES.

EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE AT TAUNTON BREWHOUSE AND OUR BEAUTIFUL BOOKSHOP.

FOR TICKETS AND DETAILS PLEASE VISIT [WATERSTONES.COM/EVENTS](https://www.waterstones.com/events) OR THE SCAN THE CODE.



ECO ZONE STALL HOLDER SHOUT OUT



**MAIDENBROOK
COUNTRY PARK**

FUNFEST 2026

Family Fun, Entertainment and Activities	12noon to 5pm
Open Mic Session	5pm to 7pm
Live Music	7.00pm to 10pm

Join us for a day of fun and excitement at Maidenbrook Country Park. Get ready for a jam-packed day filled with games, music, food, and more! Whether you're a thrill-seeker or just looking to relax, there's something for everyone at FunFest. Don't miss out on this awesome event!

Mark your calendars now!

**11 JULY 2026
from 12 noon**

**STALLS | FOOD | BAR
VEHICLE DISPLAY | OPEN MIC
LIVE MUSIC BY THE CHOSEN FEW**

MAIDENBROOK COUNTRY PARK, TA2 8JT



SOUTH QUANTOCK BENEFICE

The Parishes of Broomfield, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Kingston St. Mary and
West Monkton

Good Friday
by His wounds we are healed

South Quantock Benefice Pilgrimage walk. 10am from Broomfield to West Monkton via Kingston St Mary and Cheddon Fitzpaine. Refreshments at all churches.

West Monkton Church
EASTER SERVICE

You are invited to bring flowers to decorate the cross at the start of the service

Refreshments afterwards

10am Sunday
5th April

He is Risen

www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk

Sunday 12th April

8.30am Holy Communion – Kingston
10.00am Holy Communion – West Monkton
6.00pm Deanery Reflective service with local musicians – St Andrew's Church

Sunday 19th April

8.30am BCP Communion – West Monkton
9.30am Holy Communion – Kingston
10.00am Morning Worship – West Monkton
11.00am Holy Communion – Broomfield
6.00pm Reflection and Prayer – Cheddon

St Augustine's

TIM PITMAN

the 'Voice of Somerset'

sings

Tickets
£15

Includes
welcome drink

7pm Fri
24th Apr

Tickets - westmonktonchurch.co.uk

Coffee & more

Sat 4th Apr

The smell of flowers will fill the church as

our flower arrangers prepare for Easter. Come along and breathe it in.

10am
West Monkton Church.
www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk

Coffee & more

Sat 2nd May

The bellringing chamber is open for you to come on up and try your hand at bellringing.

Legend has it bellringers are more contented with life...

10am
West Monkton Church.
www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk

Contact

You can contact:

RECTOR: Rev Jim Cox jimcox11@gmail.com Tel: 01823 802790 (07967 817337)

For enquiries about weddings, banns of marriage, baptisms, funerals or crematorium services within any of the four churches in the South Quantock Benefice or for other general enquiries please see the page links for baptism / thanksgiving or weddings for information and contact Michele as below:

By email: office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk
By phone: 01823 451257

Or by writing to:

The Benefice Office, The Vicarage, Kingston St. Mary, Taunton, TA2 8HW

Office open: Mon, Tues, Weds & Fridays 9.00am - 2.00pm. Closed Thursdays and Bank Holidays

SERVICES:

Morning Prayer - Every Tuesday 8.30am -

on Zoom - [contact us](#) for details