



Newsletter: Summer 1, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our **Summer Term!** It has been wonderful to return to sunshine and warmer days, and it's fair to say that children and adults alike are welcoming the joy that this brings.

This term, our school value is **gentleness**, and we are helping the children to understand that, much like in *The Lion and the Mouse* story, gentleness is often about bravery and strength. Being gentle can mean standing up for others, staying by our friends, and choosing kindness even when it isn't the easiest option. The children have especially enjoyed singing along to Ben King's *Stand By Me*, which has become a lovely soundtrack to this message.

With the improved weather and curriculum changes, children are making the most of learning outdoors—particularly through **Forest School** and **PE**. Just yesterday, one child shared with a huge smile how quickly they managed to run around the track, a perfect reminder of how physical activity can boost both confidence and wellbeing.

Staff News

I am absolutely delighted to share some wonderful personal news—during the Easter holidays, **Mr Smart got married!** Please do join me in congratulating Mr and Mrs Smart, and in wishing them a lifetime of happiness (see photo).

I am also pleased to welcome **Mrs Nicholas**, who has joined us this term as a **Higher Level Teaching Assistant**. She has settled in brilliantly and is already proving to be a real asset to our team.

Year 6 SATs

In the week after next, our incredible **Year 6 children** will be sitting their end of Key Stage 2 assessments (SATs). I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work, resilience and determination they have shown. We are immensely proud of every one of them. This is their chance to shine—and I have no doubt they will shine brightly. **Year 6, the whole school community is behind you!**

Finally, if you are out and about this term, do keep an eye out for our **Year 5 pupils** as they take part in their **Bikeability course**. You may spot some very familiar faces—children and adults alike! 😊

In the meantime, I wish you all well and look forward to seeing you throughout the term.

Warmest wishes,

Helen Newstead
Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Bank Holiday -
04.05.26

No school this day

Bikeability – Year 5
students

05.05.26 – 08.05.26

Bikeability – Year 6
students

18.05.26 – 21.05.26

Year 6 Bowling Trip

15.05.26

KS2 The Oak
Partnership Trust
Choir Performance at
the Tacchi Morris

18.05.26

Year 5 Strike and
Field Festival at
Monkton Wood
Academy

21.05.26

Inset Day - 22.05.26

Half Term
25.05.26 – 29.05.26

Inset Day – 01.06.26

Return to School –
02.06.26

CLASSROOM NEWS

SNOWY & TAWNY OWLS

This half term the Snowy and Tawny Owls are setting sail to learn all about pirates, the layers of the ocean and the sea creatures that live there. We started the topic by all dressing up as pirates and learning the History around them. We will then move onto comparing the seaside from the past to how it is now and then learn all about how the ocean is made up of different layers.

During CLL, the children will begin to learn about verbs in order to write their very own sea creature poem.

In Maths we will be exploring money, addition, subtraction and continuing our number skills.

I can't wait to see how they take all skills learnt so far and show it independently in all of their work.

PELICAN & YELLOW WAGTAILS

This half term Year 1's learning centres around 'Protecting our planet' where we learn about, seasons, weather and climate. As part of this work we will visit the community garden and have forest school sessions where we look at things we do that can positively affect our environment.

In maths we are learning about measure and continuing to work on addition and subtraction. We continue to build our knowledge of phonics to support reading and writing, whilst sharing some great stories including Supertato and The Extraordinary Gardener.

We look forward to ending this half term by show casing some of our work to our parents on the last day of term. We continue to love arts and crafts in Year 1 so if anyone is clearing out and has any stickers, paint, paper etc. please consider donating them to us.

ROBIN & PUFFIN

Year 2 have a Science focus this half-term on 'Plants'. We will investigate what plants need for growth, the structure of plants and how they can be grouped. The Community Garden have very kindly donated some plants for us to use in school - we are very grateful for these donations!

Our CLL key text is 'The Selfish Giant'. We will be using the fantastic vocabulary from the story to help us produce our own setting descriptions.

Whilst in Maths, we are developing our knowledge of money, and learning about fractions and time. In PSHE we are learning about relationships; this includes thinking about families, friendships, physical contact and trust.

We are combining our learning about plants with our Art skills, to invite Year 2 parents to our West Monkton Flower Show at the end of the half-term! Our art projects are already underway and we have been impressed with the children's perseverance so far.

PEACOCK & FALCON

This half term, the children will be busy learning across a range of exciting subjects. In science, they are exploring animals, including humans, and discovering how living things grow and survive. In writing, they are developing their skills by creating non-chronological reports, focusing on clear structure and factual language. Geography lessons have taken them all the way to Antarctica, where they are learning about its unique environment and wildlife. Meanwhile, in maths, the children are building their understanding of fractions and how they are used in everyday life.

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

CRANE & RED KITE

This half term, Year 4 will be taking a journey through the decades as we explore changes in Britain all the way from the 1950's until modern day!

We will be exploring changes in technology, leadership and societal changes through time.

We cannot wait to celebrate this learning with our Decade Dance at the end of the half term.

BUZZARD & MAGPIE

This half-term, year fives will be investigating the enquiry question, 'How Amazing were the Aztecs?' Children will learn about their origin, culture and the Aztec influence on our world today.

Pupils will learn about the Aztec calendar which involved the fifth sun god; Aztec foods and that they ate a lot of the same foods as we do today (for example, avocado, corn, chili peppers, popcorn) and the construction of chinampas (floating gardens) to support their farming and survival.

Pupils will also be learning about the impact of Herman Cortez's invasion.

For our fabulous finish, Y5s will be publishing a class myth anthology and display it in the school library for our school community to enjoy.

KESTREL & EAGLE

Year 6 have been working extremely hard all year in preparation for their SATs. We've been incredibly proud of their dedication and effort. To recognise all of their hard work and positive learning behavior's, we're taking the year group on a trip to Hollywood Bowl at the end of SATs' week. We'd like to take this opportunity to say A HUGE thank you to our amazing PTA who have generously offered to cover the cost of the trip, which will include lunch at the venue.

After a busy SATs week, we'll be shifting our focus to writing to complete the Year 6 curriculum. We will also be continuing our rehearsals for our production of Shrek – we can't wait to see it all come together! Lots to look forward to for our wonderful Year 6 pupils!

LOST PROPERTY

Come Take a Look!

LOTS OF ITEMS UNCLAIMED!

We have lots of unclaimed lost property waiting to be reunited with their owners!

CLOTHING BAGS WATER BOTTLES AND MORE!

POP IN AND HAVE A LOOK -
you might just find something you've been missing!

LET'S GET THESE ITEMS BACK TO THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNERS!

Family Learning

We have a lot of wonderful opportunities for families to come into school and have fun with their children. Please look out for emails with adverts for more information.

Summary of events...

Ukelele for KS2 families - Tuesdays 5th and 12th May 3:15

See previous advert and quick link is

here: <https://sslcourses.uk/CourseDetailsView.asp?ID1=1100&ID2=2164&ID3=1>

Whisk Together - Family cooking Tuesday 5th May 1.30-3:30

Quick line to sign up: https://ebsontrackprospect-somerset.tribal-ebs.com/Order/CreateOrder?uioids_inlist=3307

Family Bites and delights cooking course Friday 1st, 8th and 15th May 3:15

Some spaces still available email Mrs. Lawrence family.learning@wm.oak.education for more information.

Sports Day Ready - Monday 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th June 3:15

See advert attached and quick link is here: https://ebsontrackprospect-somerset.tribal-ebs.com/Order/CreateOrder?uioids_inlist=2949

Art and craft session Wednesday 20th May 3:15

More information to follow from Miss Steele

Stay and Play session - Friday 19th June 8.45

An opportunity for Reception families to find out about Year 1. More information to follow.

Embracing change - Wednesday 17th June 3:15

Helping to support children as they transition to different year groups. More information to follow from Mrs Shaw.

Secondary Transition - Thursday 4th, 11th, 18th June 3:15

Course of 3 sessions to support our Year 6's with transition to secondary school. More information to follow. Quick link https://ebsontrackprospect-somerset.tribal-ebs.com/Order/CreateOrder?uioids_inlist=3311



FREE*

Family Ukelele - Starter

Tuesdays 28th April - 12th May
15:15 - 16:45

Would you like to learn together with your child, and help support their learning both at school and at home? Come and join our courses which are specifically aimed at families.

This short course introduces learners to the basics of ukulele playing, including chords, strumming, and simple songs. Learners will develop their ability to play individually and as part of a group, read chord charts, understand rhythm and timing, and build confidence in performing music. Learners will engage in practical playing activities, listening tasks, and simple exercises. It is designed to take families from zero experience to playing popular songs together.

Build confidence in a fun, relaxed environment.
An ideal, non-screen activity for parents and children to learn together!

Scan the QR code to sign up



*Please see our website for eligibility information

Book online, or call us
sslcourses.co.uk 0330 332 7997



SS*L CHANGING LIVES THROUGH LEARNING



Congratulations to Moses, Albie, Teddy, and Finley, who recently took part in the Cheddar Rugby Festival. They represented themselves brilliantly throughout the event, showing great teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. All four boys did extremely well, gave their best effort in every match, and should be very proud of their achievements. To top off a fantastic day, they each won a medal as a reward for all their hard work and commitment. Well done to all of them!



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 (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

Focus – The Hidden Meaning of Emoji's – Helping Children to Stay Safe Online

The hidden meaning behind emojis

Children are beginning to explore the digital world at a younger age, whether through games, messaging apps or learning platforms. Alongside this, they're also discovering emojis: colourful little symbols that help them express feelings, reactions and sometimes much more.

With the release of Netflix's *Adolescence*, attention has been drawn to how emojis can carry hidden or inappropriate meanings, even among younger users. While this series focuses on teenagers, it's a reminder that even younger children are seeing and copying what they encounter online.

While most emojis are harmless and fun, a growing number of them are being used to communicate hidden messages—sometimes these are linked to bullying, inappropriate content or even illegal activity, such as drugs. That's why it's essential for parents to understand the double meanings behind some of these seemingly innocent icons.

How you can support your child

Talk early and often : ask your child what emojis they like and what they mean to them.












Set age-appropriate boundaries: keep communication apps limited to age-safe platforms.

Model good digital habits: let them see you using emojis kindly and appropriately.

Stay curious, not critical: if you spot something that concerns you, ask questions gently before jumping to conclusions.

UNDERSTANDING EMOJIS

What do these emojis really mean?

| Emoji | Meaning |
|---|--|
|  | Body parts, often sexual innuendo |
|  | Sexual references |
|  | 'Plug' or drug dealer |
|  | Reference to being on drugs or emotionally numb |
|  | Delivery, sometimes drugs |
|  | Mischief or risky behaviour |
|  | 'Lean' or drug-laced drinks |
|  | 'Red Pill' ideology—part of online misogynistic group |
|  | Drop the truth—sometimes linked to extremist or aggressive views |
|  | Used to mock people who haven't woken up to Red Pill views |
|  | Refers to the belief that 80% of women are only attracted to 20% of men - used to justify misogynistic beliefs |

⚠ NOTE: THESE SYMBOLS ARE NOT INHERENTLY HARMFUL, BUT CONTEXT IS KEY. WHEN USED TOGETHER OR IN SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES, THEY CAN REFLECT EXPOSURE TO TOXIC OR EXTREMIST ONLINE CONTENT. THE SYMBOLS MAY ALSO HAVE DIFFERENT MEANINGS DEPENDING ON AREA AND AGE OF CHILDREN.

Start safe, grow safe

Children are naturally curious and the internet will always be part of their world. The earlier we help them build healthy habits, question what they see and feel safe coming to us with concerns, the better equipped they will be to navigate more complex content as they get older.

If you are worried about the emojis your child is using or their online activity, speak to our safeguarding team.

We're here to support you with guidance, resources and a listening ear.



WEST MONKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA



WEST MONKTON PTA'S
SUMMER FAYRE!

ENTERTAINMENT WANTED!

CAN YOU HELP MAKE OUR SUMMER FAYRE UNFORGETTABLE?

We're looking for performers to entertain and delight our community!

BANDS **MAGICIANS** **SINGERS** **DANCERS**
...OR ANY OTHER AMAZING TALENT!

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2026

If you (or someone you know) would like to perform, please get in touch!



WEST MONKTON PTA'S
SUMMER FAYRE!

HAIR BRAIDING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We're looking for kind, patient volunteers to offer hair braiding at our Summer Fayre.

Help make the day extra special for our children!

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2026

If you can help, please get in touch! Every braid makes a difference.

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



SOUTH QUANTOCK BENEFICE

Coffee & more

Sat 2nd May

The 'Art of Bellinging' by Bill Tapper.

The ringing chamber will be open after for you to try your hand ringing.

10am
West Monkton Church.

www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk

WEST MONKTON CHURCH

With future plans in the workings for a more inclusive community space within the church to create more versatility for all users, we have a lot of fundraising to do!



Preserving Traditions,
Embracing Change.

VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY



We Need Help With:

- Fundraising ideas ✓
- Helping at events ✓
- Cakes & Refreshments ✓
- Churchyard gardening ✓

Everyone is welcome and there's always cake!

westmonktonchurch.co.uk
for more information



THANK YOU

Contact us: 01823 451257 office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk
Office usually opens: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9am – 2pm
Rev Jim Cox: 01823 802790: (07967817337) jimcox11@gmail.com



Somerset School Nurse Team Newsletter

Welcome to the Somerset School Nurse Team newsletter!

The school nurse team is made up of Specialist Community Public Health Nurses, and Assistant Practitioners. We specialize in promoting the health and wellbeing of children and young people aged 5–19 years and cover primary and secondary schools across Somerset.

This newsletter will be delivered termly, and is intended to keep you up-to-date on all the things we are doing as a service, and will include topics and links relevant to physical and mental health.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful but please do feedback anything you would like to be added.

[Somerset children & young people : Health & Wellbeing : PHE School Nursing](#)



Feedback QR code

ONLINE SAFETY

Are you worried about your child being online?
For more information and advice visit [Facing Children safe online | NSPCC](#)

SHARE Information: Only share what you want to share. Don't share anything that could be embarrassing or hurtful. Don't share anything that could be used to identify you or your family.

MANAGE Your privacy: Check the privacy settings on all the apps and websites you use. Don't give out your location or other personal information.

RESPECT Yourself: Don't be mean or bully anyone. Don't use bad language or swear. Don't share anything that could be embarrassing or hurtful.

TRUST No one: Don't trust anyone you don't know. Don't give out your personal information to anyone you don't know.

Fussy Eating in Children

Do you worry about your child being a fussy eater?

For further information check out the following webinars, or speak with your GP or School Nurse team for further support.

[Webinars on Fussy Eating in Children - patientwebinars.co.uk](#)

ELSA Support

Did you know that most primary schools are able to offer ELSA support to school aged children in their care around a variety of topics including bereavement, anxiety, stress, friendships and managing emotions/feelings.

ELSA stands for Emotional Literacy Support Assistant, and they are specialist teaching assistants with a wealth of knowledge and experience of working with children.

ELSA's are trained and regularly supervised by the Educational Psychologists.

Their aim is to build your child's emotional development and to help them to cope with life's challenges.

The ELSA will help your child to find solutions to problems they may have.

Please speak with the ELSA in your school if you feel this support could benefit your child.

WRAP YOUR CHILDREN UP WITH THE BEST PROTECTION - VACCINATIONS

STAY STRONG. GET VACCINATED.



HOW TO KEEP YOUR SMILE HEALTHY Just for kids!

Did you know you can keep your smile healthy with a regular dental check-up? You can! It's important to get your teeth checked every 6 months.

National Sun Awareness Week

11th May – 17th May 2026

As the nicer weather approaches it is important to remember to stay safe in the sun.

Sun Safety Tips

Make sure you:

- Spend time in the shade between 11am & 3pm
- Cover up with suitable clothing and sunglasses
- Take extra care with children
- Use at least factor 30 sunscreen

For more advice please visit: [Sunscreen and sun safety - NHS](#)

ChatHealth

Parent advice & support
Learning activities
School wellbeing
Emotional health

is your child 5-19 and are you looking for confidential help and support?

A safe and easy way to contact your School Nursing Team

Just send a text **07480 635 515**

Tips for SATs Week

360

As we approach exam season here are some tips to share with your child...

- The SATs start after a quiet school week so get into a routine.
- Help your child get into a routine. They should have a set time to start their revision.
- Encourage your child to take breaks. It's important to take breaks to rest your mind and body.
- Talk to your child about their feelings. They may be nervous or stressed.
- If you're struggling, talk to your GP or school nurse for support.
- It's okay to be nervous. It's a normal feeling.
- Talk to the teacher about your child's progress. They can help you to understand what your child needs to do.
- Encourage your child to take breaks. It's important to take breaks to rest your mind and body.
- Talk to your child about their feelings. They may be nervous or stressed.
- If you're struggling, talk to your GP or school nurse for support.

Somerset School Nurse Team Contact Details

Email: schoolnurseduty@somerset.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 790 9854

Issues with bedwetting?

Check out the video below for advice...

[ERIC Helpline Podcast - Bedwetting \(short version\) on Vimeo](#)

For further advice or support speak with your GP, School Nurse Team or click on the link below:

[Home - ERIC](#)