



# Newsletter: Summer 1, 2026

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow—what a term it has been! It really does feel as though it has flown by.

I would like to begin by saying a huge **congratulations to our Year 6 pupils**, who completed their SATs this term. They were absolutely incredible, approaching the week with maturity, resilience, and—most importantly—big smiles. You truly made me proud, and you should feel incredibly proud of yourselves too. From what I've heard, they even managed to really enjoy the experience, especially the well-deserved celebrations at the end!

## Staffing News

This term, I am delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our team: **Mrs Rebekka Moore** and **Miss Kerrie Hemburrow**. Both have hit the ground running and are already proving to be fantastic additions to our school community.

As you know, following my announcement about leaving at the end of this academic year, this week has been a hive of activity across the school, with recruitment processes underway for key leadership roles. Please be assured that the Trust is being proactive in securing these positions, and we hope to share further updates regarding staffing for September when we return after half-term.

Once again, the children have surpassed themselves this term—engaging positively in their learning both in and out of the classroom. A shout-out to those children who have completed their Bikeability! And to those children who shared so much of their learning with me as part of this newsletter. Please do take a moment to hear their voice. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and commitment recognised and celebrated, particularly this week with events such as our **Art and Flower Shows**, where many of you were able to join us.

So, whilst it may have been a short term, it has certainly been a busy and rewarding one! I do hope you all enjoy a **well-deserved break**, taking time to rest and recharge before our final term of the year.

**Happy half-term, everyone. I look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday, 2nd June.**

Warmest wishes,

Helen Newstead

## DATES FOR YOU DIARY

Inset Day  
22.05.26

Bank holiday  
25.05.26

Half Term  
26.05.26 –  
29.05.26

Inset Day  
01.06.26

PTA Non  
uniform day  
05.06.26

Items for the  
rainbow raffle

PTA Summer  
Fayre  
20.06.26

1pm- 4pm



## Catch Up with Mrs Newstead...

### SNOWY & TAWNY OWLS

*In Snowy and Tawny Owls the children have been learning about the layers of the ocean and sea creatures among other things.*

*"I liked learning in maths when we used the rekenreks"*

*"We learnt about dolphins. We learnt that they can jump and they make clicking sounds"*

*"Fish like Nemo can swim up to 99 miles an hour"*

*"I have enjoyed learning about sea creatures. Dolphins' splash and jump in the sea"*

**Blake, Bluebell, Isabella and Albert**

### PELICAN & YELLOW WAGTAILS

"This term in Year One, I have loved forest school. We have fun running and sliding in mud. We also had a fire which was cool."

*Theo*

"I loved PE with Mr Williams. Running was my favourite part." Arlo

"We have been learning about protecting our planet in science. You must not put litter on the ground because it hurts animals." Llewellyn

"We have to keep our planet clean and don't leave plastic stuff on the beach."

*Rory*

### ROBIN & PUFFIN

"This term in Year 2 we have been learning about plants and how they grow. Did you know, they need water, sun, soil and the right temperature to grow? They can take a long time to grow but they can also grow almost anywhere as long as they have the things above. We also looked inside of a seed and we saw juice and water come out of it. Seeds come in all shapes and sizes.

In CLL, we are doing some writing to describe what's in the picture.

This term, we had Forest School and got to build dens, and we were lucky enough to have some pancakes. We warmed them up on the fire. We were allowed to put either: honey, sugar or chocolate chips on them – yum! In art, we've made flower patterns with clay and paper plates...

*James, Poppy, Rotimi, Amelia M & Jacob*

### PEACOCK & FALCON

"This term in Year 3, we have been learning about animals, particularly: pangolins, axolotl and a capybara. We have researched about them, finding fabulous facts. Did you know, Axolotl can regrow their organs? So, if something fell out it can simply regrow – how amazing! Capybaras are huge and in fact are the biggest rodents on Earth – like a gigantic rat! Lastly, the pangolin is pretty cool because it's one of the rarest animals in the world and can roll up in a ball to disguise itself from predators and get away quickly. They also have a really long tongue to catch their food, including ants and termites.

This term, we've also had Forest School, where we were allowed to cook a banana and add chocolate and marshmallows to it – it was delicious although the banana went really mushy. We learnt how to be safe around the fire, for example not to breathe in the smoke and turn away if it comes in your direction."

*Amelia, Harper, Georgia & Liliana P*

## Catch Up with Mrs Newstead...

### CRANE & RED KITE

"This term in Year 4, we have been learning about a 'Journey Through the Decades' On Monday, we celebrated with a disco through the decades. We got to dance to music from the 1950s – 2000s.

I dressed up as Michael Jackson - Sienna

I dressed up as Metallica - Eli

I dressed up as a dancer from the 80s - Hannah

We were popstars from the 80s as well - Ava & Elsie

We've also been learning about holiday locations to help Mr Smart choose a place for his honeymoon. 😊 We researched about Sicily and designed a brochure for him.

My airline was called, 'Dazzling Dino Destinations'

Our favourite thing this term was eating Italian food, Miss Steele made an Italian cake – Yum!"

*Sienna, Hannah, Eli, Ava & Elsie*

### BUZZARD & MAGPIE

This term in Year Five we have been learning about the Aztecs. They lived many years ago in Ancient Mexico. Some of their descendants are still alive today. Did you know, Aztecs worshipped many Gods and Goddesses and as part of this every day conducted a human sacrifice - in other words they would execute them? Thank goodness we do not live like this now!

A really disgusting fact about the Aztecs is: if they lost a match for example, in a game a bit like football; the captain would get sacrificed and then the rest of the losing team would have to eat his toenails and play with his decapitated head - This is beyond unbelievable!

A really interesting fact is that during their time they were longing for a sign from God to help them find a place to settle. This came in the form of an eagle that perched on a cactus and is why today an eagle is on the Mexican flag. This has been one of our favourite topics!

*Penny, Sylvie, Mishael, Noah W*

### KESTREL & EAGLE

"This term in Year 6, we have been learning about a lot of maths and doing lots of revision. We studied angles, percentages, algebra, fractions, decimals, powers of 10 - the list is endless!

In CLL, having read the book, 'The Paper Man' we wrote our own narrative based on this story but with different characters. My characters were: Harry and Alex Bobtraps (Harry ES)

My characters were: Ivy and Oscar who were particularly naughty and mischievous (Molly)

Did you know our performance this year is Shrek Junior the Musical? It's going to be great! Miss Rarity is doing an amazing job with the props and Pinocchio is hilarious!

To celebrate end of SATs we went to Hollywood Bowl. It was good fun. Unfortunately for William, his burger was accidentally thrown away so he had a chicken nugget instead!

We can't wait for our final term, going on residential, performing in Shrek and we love our new hoodies!

*Harry E-S, Emily, Molly L & Marley*



## 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](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)

The focus of our safeguarding newsletter is on the importance of sleep and regular routines.

### What's the importance of sleep?

A good night's sleep is essential to feeling good, being able to learn and staying healthy. A lack of sleep can make you feel poorly, unable to learn and not want to go out with your friends and family. If you, or your child, is struggling to get a good night's sleep, follow these top tips:

1. **Think about your bedtime routine - What time do you go to bed? If you are going to bed too late, you will not get enough sleep. Try bringing your bedtime forward by 20 to 30 minutes at a time.**
2. **Make sure you are tired before going to bed - the less time you have to spend awake on bed, the better.**
3. **Have at least 15 minutes of quiet time before going to sleep so that your body and brain can relax and prepare for sleep.**
4. **Don't use your phone or computer before bed - this can stimulate your brain and make it more awake.**
5. **Try having a lukewarm bath as this can help your body to relax.**
6. **Try to go to bed at the same time every day once you have a settled routine**
7. **Choose a relaxing activity before bed, such as reading or listening to calm music.**
8. **Create a cosy environment. Is the room dark enough? Is the room at the correct temperature... not too hot and not too cold?**



## Do you know how much sleep your child needs?

The amount of sleep that your child is recommended to have is based upon their age. The NHS recommends the following:

| Age                 | Amount of sleep     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 5 years old         | 11 hours            |
| 6 years old         | 10 hours 45 minutes |
| 7 years old         | 10 hours 30 minutes |
| 8 years old         | 10 hours 15 minutes |
| 9 years old         | 10 hours            |
| 10 years old        | 9 hours 45 minutes  |
| 11 years old        | 9 hours 30 minutes  |
| 12 and 13 years old | 9 hours 15 minutes  |
| 14-16 years old     | 9 hours             |



## Avoid screens in the bedroom

Tablets, smartphones, TVs and other electronic gadgets can affect how easily children get to sleep. Older children may also stay up late or even wake in the middle of the night to use social media. Try to keep your child's bedroom a screen-free zone, and get them to charge their phones in another room.

Encourage your child to stop using screens an hour before bedtime.

## Your child's bedroom

Your child's bedroom should ideally be dark, quiet and tidy. It should be well ventilated and kept at a temperature of about 18 to 24 degrees. If you can, fit some thick curtains to block out any daylight, especially now as the days are getting longer.

**If you have tried these tips, but your child is regularly having problems sleeping, you may feel that you need further support. You can speak with your GP or health visitor who may be able to provide additional information. Of course, you are also very welcome to speak to a member of staff at school.**



## WEST MONKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

# WHY JOIN?

## 8 REASONS TO JOIN OUR PTA

### 1. YOUR CHILD BENEFITS

The PTA is an important part of the school and helps to enrich your child's school experience. We support the school by helping to provide things like new books, new playground and sports equipment and much more.

### 2. TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As well as fundraising, the PTA organises events which add so much to our children's school experience. Our PTA organises the School Disco, Christmas Market and the Summer Fair, along with many more fun events. This creates a real sense of community and benefits our children.

### 3. FEEL INVOLVED

As a parent or carer in our school you are already a member of the Parent Teachers Association (PTA). Every parent is welcome to our meetings and we love to see new faces. Please consider coming along to our meetings, or volunteer an hour of your time at an event.

### 4. IT'S TOTALLY FLEXIBLE

Whether you're a full-time parent or working nine to five, anyone can get involved. It's less commitment than you think and you don't always have to attend meetings. Small jobs like putting up a poster, helping sort uniform or running a stall keeps everything running smoothly.

### 5. BECAUSE IT'S FUN

Be part of the team which organises the best events and get-togethers. Debrief over a glass of wine (or two). Suggest your most hair-brained idea and watch as it catches on and everyone wants a piece of the action. Laugh. Cry. Be there for each other.

### 6. BE BETTER CONNECTED

Create closer links with the head teacher, teachers and staff. If you're new to the school, the PTA is an excellent way to find out how things work and become part of the community.

### 7. IT'S NOT JUST FOR MUMS

Everyone is welcome, and it's especially important to have dads and male carers represented, as male role models are crucial in children's upbringing. Dads can bring different skills; they can bring a different perspective, and they can bring other dads.

### 8. KEEP THE PTA GOING

As parents move on from the school, there is a real danger that there will no longer be a PTA. Please do consider helping, maybe teaming up as a group of parents, to keep the PTA going, year after year.

### West Monkton PTA

✉ [westmonktonpta@outlook.com](mailto: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



West Monkton Parish Council

## FREE Community Share Event



**Saturday 6th June 12 to 3pm**

**Brittons Ash Community Hall, Bridgwater Rd, TA2 8FT**

- Bring along your spare seeds, cuttings, plants and share with other local gardeners and those gardening on a tight budget.
- Bring along good quality adult and children's books, games and puzzles to share with others.
- Bring along good quality toys that have lots of play left in them and need a new home.
- Bring along non-perishable food, cleaning products and toiletries to fill our Care Boxes that will be distributed to vulnerable local households over the winter months.

You don't need to have things to share in order to come along - everyone is welcome! Our Community Cafe will also be running with free refreshments.

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  
WHAT 3 WORDS: ///BLINKING.ALLEY.CHOIRS

Free Admission - find us on Facebook Events





## SOUTH QUANTOCK BENEFICE

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

**Coffee & more**

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June  
Guest Speaker  
Andrew Pitman  
from Monkton Elm  
Garden Centre.

10am  
West Monkton  
Church.

[www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk](http://www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk)

**WEST MONKTON CHURCH**

**PLANT SALE**

**2PM SUN  
7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

If you have plants to donate, drop off at the church the day before

[westmonktonchurch.co.uk](http://westmonktonchurch.co.uk)

**WEST MONKTON  
OPEN GARDENS**

**2-5PM  
SUN  
7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**£10  
ENTRY**

Tickets purchased at the church and include teas.  
All gardens within walking distance of the church

[westmonktonchurch.co.uk](http://westmonktonchurch.co.uk)



**EVERYONE**

**WANTS TO BE SAFE THIS SUMMER...**





## ...RESPECT THE WATERS

If you got into trouble in the water, would you know what to do?

What about if it was someone you care about in danger?

Find out how to keep you and your loved ones safe with advice from the RLSS and Everyone Active.

### STAYING SAFE AT THE BEACH

-  **RED AND YELLOW FLAGS** will show the safe places to swim, body board and use inflatables on the beach. You will often see a lifeguard positioned between the red and yellow flags.
-  **RED FLAG** is the sign for danger and means **NO SWIMMING**. Never go in the water when the red flag is flying, under any circumstances. Possible reasons may be fog, large waves or pollution.
-  **BLACK/WHITE FLAG** for hard surf craft including surfboards, kayaks, canoes and other craft without engines. Never swim or body board in this area.
-  **ORANGE WINDSOCKS** indicate offshore winds blowing out to sea or strong wind conditions – never use an inflatable when the sock is flying.



### LISTEN TO YOUR HELPFUL LIFEGUARD

Lifeguards are there to help you to stay safe by seeing the dangers, preventing accidents before they happen and responding instantly. They wear a red and yellow uniform, sometimes in black wetsuits, with Lifeguard clearly marked on the back.

#### Where to find your helpful lifeguard

- At the Beach Lifeguard Unit – a white hut at the beach with an RNLI flag
- They patrol along the shoreline and between the red and yellow flags
- On larger beaches they may be on the sand in a white or red truck
- Wardens operate, patrol and rescue services at large inland lakes



### ALWAYS FOLLOW THE WATER SAFETY CODE

Whenever you are in, on and around water:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>STOP AND THINK</b></p>  <p>always swim in a safe place</p>     | <p><b>STAY TOGETHER</b></p> <p>keep children in arm's reach</p>  |
| <p><b>FLOAT</b></p> <p>if you fall in, float, breathe and relax</p>  | <p><b>IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 999</b></p>                           |

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SWIMMING LESSONS.



## FLOAT TO LIVE

**If You Get into Trouble in the Water — Float to Live.**  
No matter how you entered the water, if you feel yourself struggling, Float to Live.



**1**  
Tilt your head back  
Let your ears submerge and allow your face to stay clear of the water.



**2**  
Relax  
Slow, steady breathing will help your body float more naturally.



**3**  
Gently move your arms and legs  
Use small movements only if needed to help you stay afloat.



**4**  
Don't worry if your legs sink  
Everyone floats differently — this is normal.



**5**  
Find your float  
Practise floating in a safe, supervised environment so it feels familiar when you need it.



## HELP US PROMOTE WATER SAFETY

Help us spread the word about the importance of staying safe in the water by creating an engaging poster. Share your finished post with us on Facebook by using the hashtag #EASafeSwimming.

Make your poster really stand out by using bold colours, punchy words and different materials.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page as we'll reshare as many as we can! Scan the code to find our page.



**LEARN TO SWIM**  
WITH  
everyone ACTIVE



**SCAN ME FOR AVAILABILITY**



or visit [joinonline.everyoneactive.com/lessons](http://joinonline.everyoneactive.com/lessons)

# HELPING TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE IN THE WATER



## LEARN TO SWIM WITH AWARD-WINNING LESSONS FROM THE UK'S LEADING PROVIDER

We all love to swim! Not only does being able to swim allow you to enjoy your time a little bit more on holiday, but the most important reason is that swimming is the only sport which can save you or your child's life.

### Why learn to swim with us?

- All Lessons are lifeguarded
- Free public swimming all year round
- Learn from four months old
- Adult lessons available
- Available up to seven days a week
- All teachers are Swim England or equivalent qualified
- Pay monthly by Direct Debit
- Follow your child's progress on our interactive Sport Passport

**DROWNING IS STILL ONE OF THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH IN CHILDREN, SO BEING ABLE TO SWIM IS AN ESSENTIAL LIFE-SAVING SKILL.**

For details of your nearest centre, visit [www.everyoneactive.com](http://www.everyoneactive.com)

everyone  
ACTIVE