West Monkton Church of England
Primary School
"A Place for Growing Together and Learning to Fly."

Autumn 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term, I want to take a moment to celebrate what a fantastic start the children have made to the new school year. It has been wonderful to see pupils settling so quickly into their new classes, embracing new challenges, and demonstrating our school values every day. There is certainly lots to celebrate and I am incredibly proud of the positive attitude and enthusiasm shown by our children.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to two new members of our school team. Mrs Milligan will be joining us in Crane Class as maternity cover and Miss Smith will be joining the school as our new Senior Office Administrator. We are delighted to have them both as part of West Monkton family as we say farewell to Mrs Souster, our current SOA, who moves on to an exciting new role outside of education. There has also been some exciting baby news, as Mrs Barton recently welcomed a new baby bot into the world. We send our congratulations and best wishes to the whole family. Looking ahead we would also like to wish Miss Thompson all the very best while she prepares to begin her maternity leave shortly after half term.

This half term we started a whole school focus on using our "walking feet" in corridors and shared spaces. The children have responded brilliantly helping make our school environment calmer and safer for everyone.
We have also seen significant improvements to safety outside school, with many more children remembering to walk their bike and scooters while on the school site. Thank you for your support with this. Please continue to reinforce this important message at home so that, together we can keep our entire school community safe.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish all our families a happy and restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term.

Best Wishes

Miss K Hayden
Head Teacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Half term
26.10.26 – 30.10.26

Inset Day 02.11.26
Return to School
03.11.26

PTA Christmas Fayre
28.11.26
1-4pm

PTA Christmas Disco
11.12.26

CLASSROOM NEWS

SNOWY & TAWNY OWLS

Paisley: I really like playing in Snowy Owl class

Raffa: I like lunch time and playing outside on the KS1 playground

Jack M: We've been thinking about what we want to be when we're bigger

Jack F: We've been learning about what's inside our body

The Tawny Owls have made a fantastic start to their Reception journey! We have been busy settling into our new classroom, building friendships, and learning all about what makes each of us special and unique. The children have enjoyed sharing their interests, celebrating their differences, and discovering the many things we have in common. We have also loved getting started with our daily phonics sessions, where the children have shown great enthusiasm for learning new sounds and beginning their reading journey. We are incredibly proud of the confidence, kindness and enthusiasm the children have shown this half term! 🦉✨

PELICAN & YELLOW WAGTAILS

Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Paling and Mrs Wallis have been impressed at how the Pelicans and Wagtails settled into their new routine in Year One!

Over the last 7 weeks, the children have immersed themselves into several different books as part of our 'Talk through stories' in CLL where they have retold the story, learnt new vocabulary, and worked hard in their writing. They have also worked hard in their maths and enjoyed their new wider curriculum lessons during the afternoon.

We can't wait to see them continue to achieve new skills after half term. Well done everyone! 😊

ROBIN & PUFFIN

We have had a wonderful, action-packed half term! The children have settled into their routines beautifully and shown great enthusiasm for learning. Here's a look at what we've been exploring.

Maths

We have been learning about place value up to 100, using base-10 blocks to understand tens and ones. We practised partitioning numbers, for example, 45 as 4 tens and 5 ones, and flexibly partitioning it as 3 tens and 15 ones or 2 tens and 25 ones.

Try at home: Give your child a two-digit number and ask them to identify its tens and ones!

CLL (Communication, Language and Literacy)

Using *Dogger* by Shirley Hughes and *Aliens Love Underpants* by Claire Freedman, we explored proper nouns, which name specific people or places (e.g. Dogger, Dave and London) and need capital letters, common nouns (e.g. toy, underpants and space), and action verbs, or doing words (e.g. searching, zooming and climbing).

PSHE

We explored our school community, discussing what makes our class unique and how to ensure everyone feels included and valued. We revisited our school and class rules, focusing on kindness, respect, and safety, and learnt that rights come with responsibilities.

Science

We investigated animals and their habitats, discovering how animals are suited to environments ranging from freezing polar regions to hot deserts and local woodlands. We learnt that animals need food, water, air, and shelter to survive, and finished our topic by exploring food chains.

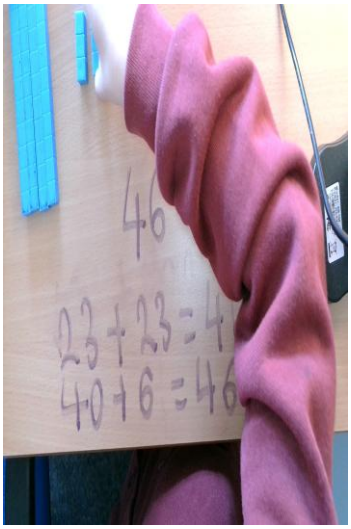
Some photos from Tawny Owls 😊







Some photos from Year 2 classes 😊







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

PEACOCK & FALCON

In Year 3, the children have been exploring a range of exciting topics across the curriculum.

In Maths, we have focused on place value, developing our understanding of the value of digits in numbers.

In CLL**,** we have been developing our character description writing, using similes, expanded noun phrases and the technique of *show, not tell* to bring our characters to life.

In Science, we have been learning about light, exploring light sources, shadows, and how light travels.

In Geography, we have been discovering the fascinating world of volcanoes, learning how they form, why they erupt and their impact on the environment.

CRANE & RED KITE

Year 4 have had a fantastic start to the year, showing enthusiasm and curiosity across all areas of the curriculum!

In English, we have been exploring Escape from Pompeii and developing our descriptive writing skills by creating diary entries from the perspective of someone escaping the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The children have been working hard to describe the events and emotions experienced during this dramatic moment in history.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value, addition, and subtraction. We have also started a big focus on times tables, building our multiplication fluency and confidence through regular practice.

In History, we have travelled back to Roman Britain, learning about the Romans, discovering why they invaded and why they were so successful. In Art, we have got creative by making our own mosaics using lasagne sheets, exploring the patterns and designs inspired by Roman art!

During our Faith and Belief lessons, we have been learning about **Sikhism**, discussing Sikh beliefs, and exploring what these can teach us about how people live their lives.

Well done, Year 4, for all your hard work and enthusiasm this term.

BUZZARD & MAGPIE

Year 5 have had an amazing start to the new school year as they've been exploring the exciting topic of Earth and Space. The children have worked hard to expand their knowledge, using the book Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover as inspiration. They have shown great enthusiasm in learning about space exploration and have asked thoughtful questions to deepen their understanding.

The children also enjoyed a cross-curricular approach to their learning, where creativity and knowledge came together. To launch the topic, they created their very own versions of Planet Night, inspired by Vincent van Gogh's famous painting Starry Night. This gave them the chance to blend art with science, producing vibrant and imaginative pieces of work that captured the wonder of space. We concluded the half-term with a visit from Wonderdome where pupils were fascinated by how the universe was brought to our school with an immersive, presenter-led planetarium show.

KESTREL & EAGLE

In year 6 this term we have settled in really, well and are having a fantastic time learning.

We have been looking at place value and calculation in maths which the children have really excelled at.
On Thursdays we have been honing our arithmetic skills with a practice text on a Friday. All the children are making good progress and we are very proud of their efforts.

In CLL we have loved delving into Greek Myths and writing lots of different genres. Some fantastic poems were produced based on Pandora's box and more recently we have written some great character descriptions of invented mythical beasts and Gods.

Out topic of Ancient Greece has been full of learning too, with the children now understanding exactly what the Greeks did for us! We've created art work, had discussions and have debated lots.

Mr Harper and I are really delighted with our wonderful Year 6 cohort and their outstanding attitudes to learning this term

Staff News





We are delighted to announce that Mrs Barton and her husband have welcomed a beautiful new baby boy into their family!

Congratulations to them both on this wonderful new addition. Mum, Dad, and baby are all doing well and enjoying this very special time together.

Please see the picture for a glimpse of their lovely new arrival. 💙 👶



This week we said farewell to Lisa Souster, our Senior Office Administrator, who has been at West Monkton for the last 3 years.

Many of our families will know Lisa as a familiar, welcoming face in the school office, helping with enquiries and supporting the many needs of our school community. Behind the scenes, her knowledge, experience, and dedication and have been invaluable in supporting our staff and ensuring the smooth day-to-day running of the school.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Lisa for all that she has contributed during her time with us, and wish her every success and happiness in the next chapter.

Safeguarding Information

Safeguarding your child

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please direct to one of our safeguarding team members:
Mrs. Merrick, Miss. Hayden, Miss. Slade, Mrs. Webber & Mrs. Bimson (Vic)
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



Community safety



A polite reminder around some of our 'school rules'... for health and safety reasons, we ask that any ride on vehicles are not ridden on school grounds. This includes in the areas outside of the EYFS, KS1 and KS2 gates. Our school grounds can be busy and we have received reports of collisions/near misses - we would like everyone to feel safe and happy, coming to, and leaving school.



Mobile Phones: For safeguarding reasons, we request that mobiles phones are not used on the school site. This includes at drop off/collection times.



Please note, we are a nut free school with some children with severe allergies. Please do check ingredients and ensure items containing nuts (including 'Nutella' type spreads) are not brought into school - thank you!

UPCOMING PTA EVENTS

Christmas Fayre	Saturday 28th November
Christmas Disco	Friday 11th December
Bingo	Friday 19th March
Spring Disco	Friday 16th April
Summer Fayre	Saturday 26th June
Summer Disco	Friday 16th July





West Monkton PTA

westmonktonpta@outlook.com

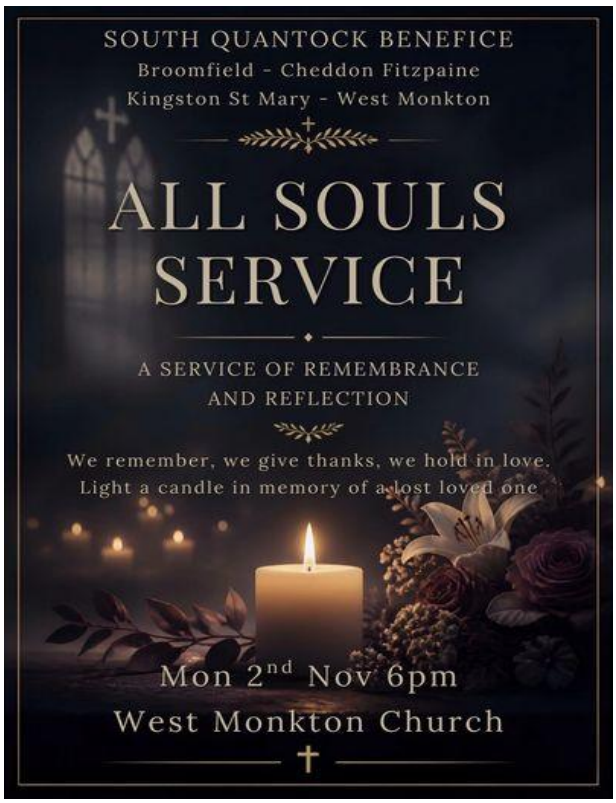
https://www.facebook.com/WestMonktonPTA

west_monkton_pta

West Monkton PTA, Bridgwater Road, Bathpool, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 8FT

Registered with the Charity Commission as 277944

SOUTH QUANTOCK BENEFICE









Oct/Nov/Dec 2026



Somerset Council

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 specialise 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 : Phn School Nursing

Feedback QR code



What is SEND support?

(Webinar for Parent Carers and Young People)

Do you have questions about SEND support and how education settings should meet a child or young person's special educational needs?

Join our **free webinar** to learn more about SEND support in education. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions during a Q&A session at the end of the webinar.

Wed 21 Oct 2026, 7.30-9.00pm | Thurs 22 Oct, 10.00-11.30am

For more information on how to join visit:

Workshops and Information Days



Are you experiencing issues with your child around toilet training?

If so please click on the link below to find useful information and advice...

BEST START IN LIFE

Potty training your child - Best Start in Life - NHS

If your child has already started school and is still in nappies/ pullups please contact the School Nurse Team for support!

Text Chat health: 07480 635 515



With coughs and cold season fast approaching please remind your child of the importance of good hand hygiene..

Washing Your Hands song - CBeebies



If your child is experiencing issues with daytime/nighttime wetting often the situation can be improved by following the...

4 Steps to a Healthy Bladder

1. **Check the bowel**



It is important to rule out constipation as a full bowel will reduce the capacity of the bladder to expand

2. **Check for a UTI (Urinary Tract Infection)**



Bugs in the bladder can cause issues around wetting so it is important to check for infection

3. **Drink plenty!**



The bladder is a muscle and all muscles need exercising, visit the link below for advice regarding how much your child should be drinking

4. **Relax to wee**



Ensure your child is comfortable sitting on the toilet, encourage them to take their time & encourage boys to do sit down wees

Children's bladder health – what's normal and what can go wrong - RHC



Somerset Council

ChatHealth

Somerset Council

Parent advice & support

Healthy lifestyles

School transitioning

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



Improving Lives

Disclaimer: This is not an emergency service, it operates Monday to Friday 8am - 5pm and is only available by using a UK mobile number. Your messages are stored on our secure system and can be seen by the School Nursing Team who run our ChatHealth service. Although this is a confidential service, in the event of a safeguarding issue the School Nurse has a duty of care to act on this and may

Has your child missed their flu vaccination?



If so, the School Aged Immunisation Nursing Team (SAINT) are running a number of walk in clinics.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY!



Somerset School Aged Immunisation Nursing Team | Somerset NHS Trust

Back to school can mean a return of those pesky 'head lice'!



How do I treat head lice?
Medicated lotions and sprays may not always be needed; the 'wet combing' method can be very effective at getting rid of headlice.

The 'Wet Combing' Method:



- Wash your hair with ordinary shampoo
- Apply **lots** of conditioner to the hair (any conditioner will do)



- Comb the **whole** head of hair from **roots to the ends** using a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb). These can be bought online or from a pharmacy
- It usually takes about **10 minutes** to comb short hair, and **20—30 minutes** for long or curly hair



- Use this method on days **1, 5, 9** and **13**, so you catch any newly hatched lice
- Check everyone's hair again on **day 17** to make sure they are free of lice.

If you need medication, this can be bought from a supermarket or pharmacy. Some medicated treatments may need repeating after a week to kill any newly hatched lice

For more information on treating headlice head to...

Head lice and nits - NHS

ORAL HYGIENE



With a significant rise seen recently in child tooth extraction, please can we remind you of the importance of good oral hygiene

- **Brush teeth twice a day**: ideally first thing in morning and last thing at night
- **Use a fluoride toothpaste**: use a pea sized amount containing at least 1000ppm of fluoride
- **Brush for 2 minutes**: ensure your child brushes for 2 minutes covering every tooth and surface
- **Spit don't rinse**: after brushing your teeth spit the excess toothpaste and avoid rinsing



How to Brush Your Teeth Animation MCM

Somerset School Nurse Team Contact Details:

Email: **schoolnurseduty@somerset.gov.uk**

Tel: **0300 790 9854**


NYNEHEAD COURT
FREE
HALLOWEEN
TRAIL & CRAFTS
Wednesday to Saturday
28-31 OCTOBER
HALLOWEEN TRAIL
11am-4pm Daily
Last Trail: 3.15pm
Follow the spooky trail
Search for clues & surprises
TRAIL MAP
HALLOWEEN CRAFTS
Wednesday & Thursday
2pm-4pm
The Orangery
Make spooky creations to take home!
Follow the trail
Search for clues & surprises
Fun for young children & families
FREE FAMILY EVENT
NYNEHEAD COURT
Nynehead, Wellington
Somerset TA21 0BW
01823 662481
admin@nyneheadcourt.co.uk


get a
free Kellogg's
breakfast
every school
holiday*
Morrisons
CAFÉ


COATES
ENGLISH WILLOW
HALLOWEEN
Sculpture Trail
24TH OCTOBER TO 7TH NOVEMBER
13 SPOOKY sculptures to find.
Fun wordsearch with
a prize at the end.
£4.50 EACH
TRICK OR TREAT
www.coatesenglishwillow.co.uk
Stoke St Gregory Taunton TA3 6HY


TIVERTON MUSEUM
of Mid Devon Life
HALLOWEEN
HALF TERM
FRIGHTFUL FARMERS!
Something spooky is going on down on the farm!
Can you find all the creepy characters lurking in the shadows?
Part of normal admission.
24 - 31 OCTOBER
(closed Sunday)
FAMILY FRIGHT NIGHT!
Visit the museum by torchlight (it will be darker from 6pm) and find the museum ghosts!
£3 per child plus normal admission for adults (museum members half price admission and £2 per child). Please bring your own torch.
WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER, 5:00-7:00PM
HALLOWEEN CRAFT
Make a spooky scarecrow!
£3 per child with paying adult (£2.50 per child with a museum member). Drop-in.
TUESDAY 27 & WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER, 10:30-12:30
FRIGHT NIGHT!
Join us for an Adults Only Fright Night! Dare you brave the museum at night? Normal admission (museum members half price admission).
Please bring your own torch.
FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER
7:00 - 9:00PM



We're excited to be bringing Somerset Winter Wonderland back to Taunton this Christmas, running from

Friday 20th November to Thursday 24th December 2026

at Somerset County Cricket Club.

Following a fantastic first year, we're looking forward to welcoming families back for another festive season, with plenty to enjoy, including:

- A fully undercover real ice-skating rink
- Santa's Grotto
- Funfair rides for all ages
- Festive food, drinks and sweet treats
- An indoor Après Winter Bar

Entry to the event is completely FREE, with tickets available for selected activities.

EXCLUSIVE 20% DISCOUNT

We'd love to offer your students and their families an **exclusive 20% discount** on **ice skating and Santa's Grotto bookings.**

We can **arrange a** dedicated discount code for **your school** and provide a poster to help promote the event to families.

Please could you let us know if this would be of interest and how best to share this information with your school community?

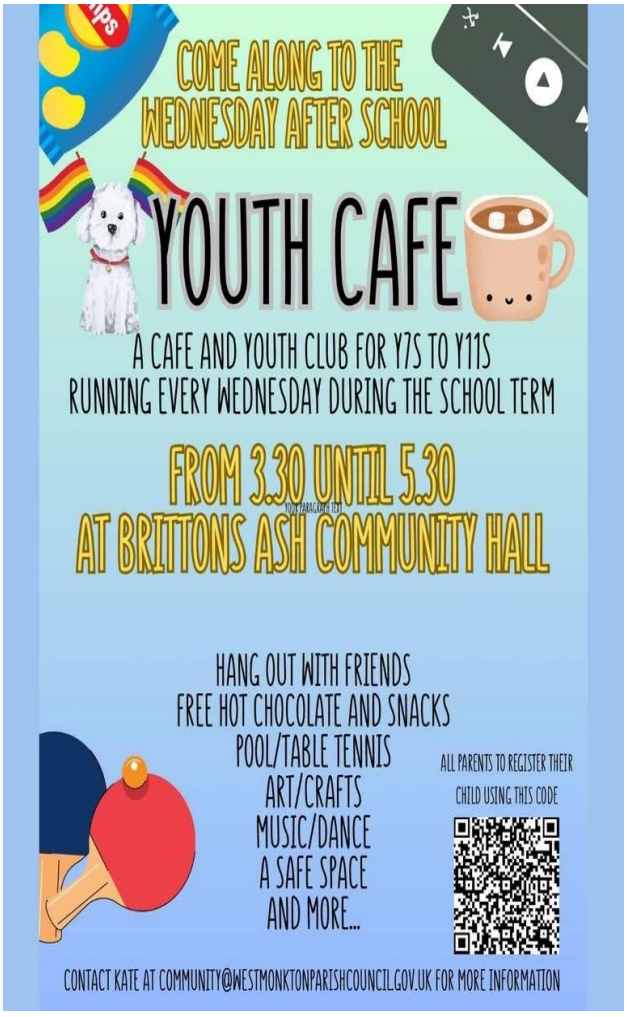
We're happy to provide everything you need to make sharing it as easy as possible.

You can also find out more about the event and what's on here:

https://somersetwinterwonderland.co.uk

Thanks so much, and we hope to welcome lots of your families to Somerset Winter Wonderland this Christmas!


COMMUNITY
CAFE
WEDNESDAYS
2PM TO 3.30PM
AT THE BACH
BRITTONS ASH COMMUNITY HALL
BRIDGWATER ROAD
(NEXT TO WEST MONKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL)
Discover more about the projects and events organised by West Monkton Parish Council, and find out about ways to get involved!
FREE COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS


COME ALONG TO THE WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL
YOUTH CAFE
A CAFE AND YOUTH CLUB FOR Y7S TO Y11S
RUNNING EVERY WEDNESDAY DURING THE SCHOOL TERM
FROM 3.30 UNTIL 5.30
AT BRITTONS ASH COMMUNITY HALL
HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS
FREE HOT CHOCOLATE AND SNACKS
POOL/TABLE TENNIS
ART/CRAFTS
MUSIC/DANCE
A SAFE SPACE
AND MORE...
ALL PARENTS TO REGISTER THEIR CHILD USING THIS CODE
CONTACT KATE AT COMMUNITY@WESTMONKTONPARISHCOUNCIL.GOV.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION


Support
West Monkton Parish Council
Drop In
Bereavement Cafe
First Wednesday of the month 2-4pm
Brittons Ash Community Hall, Bridgwater Rd, TA2 8FT
If you would like talk about your feelings and experiences in a safe, non-judgemental space with other people in a similar situation, then we would love you to come along.
There is no charge for this drop in cafe, nor for refreshments.