

West Monkton C.E. Primary School

Where everyone has the courage and confidence to fly.

Thursday 20th July 2017 (Newsletter 48)

Dear all, it was fantastic to see so many parents and grandparents at our Open Day on Monday. The children really embraced the opportunity to share their work and achievements with their families, and it's great to have the school community coming together. This week has also seen our Time Capsule being buried in the field. The capsule has been filled with various items from all the classes! How exciting!

Whilst we have been busy preparing for the end of this academic year and look forward to a well earned break, we have also been busy getting ready for next year. In the autumn we will publish our curriculum for the next year, so that you and your children can look forward to the variety of learning opportunities planned throughout the year. At this stage, we wish to let you know about the plans for the start of the new school year. In each part of the school we plan to launch the new curriculum with a 'Wow' day, information about these is below:

September Wow Days

EYFS and KS1 have an exciting day of activities planned for **Wednesday 6th September**. The children will be welcomed into their new classes at 8.45am and parents are welcome to come in and see the children's new learning environment, coat peg and tray. School will start promptly at 8.55am. During the first day of term, children will be immersed in activities and experiences introducing them to our topic of 'Land Ahoy!'. This will involve some water and sand play outside. If you would like to send in a set of old clothes and shoes for your child to change into you are very welcome.

If children do not have spare clothes they will take part in their school clothes. These could even be pirate or beach themed clothes (No swimming costumes please).

We are very excited about the wonderful activities we have planned this year and can't wait to get started! Please remember if you have any old beach toys, towels, wind breaks, bunting, shells, pebbles please either leave these in the KS1 bike shed on Monday 4th

September, or bring them to the school office on Tuesday 5th September!

On Wednesday 6th September LKS2 have planned a carousel of activities, and towards the end of the day, children will enjoy a few treats (small sandwiches/cakes/scones etc) linked to the themed day. Please do let us know of any allergies to certain food groups that your child has if you have not previously made us aware. Please send in with your child a named apron/old t-shirt as some of the activities are slightly messy. We would love to give you more details of the day but want to keep this as a big surprise for the children. We are still in need of wellies so would appreciate any that you would like to kindly donate. Many thanks for your support, LKS2 Team.

In **UKS2**, our 'Wow' day will be the trip to the Eden Project on the 11th of September. On the 6th, the children will be starting our 'Lungs of the Planet' topic and we would like them to bring in a 2 litre bottle to make our very own rain forests in a bottle - many thanks for all the donations so far.

Meet the Teacher

We also start each year by giving parents the opportunity to meet the staff that will be working with their children. We do this for Years 1 – 6, as the reception starter parents will have met your teachers through the information evening and transition sessions. This year we will be doing this as year groups in the main hall, so that you can meet not only your child's teacher but also the teacher from the parallel class. These meetings will take place at the beginning of the school day, children will be dropped off to class as normal and the parent will then be invited into the hall. The teachers will give you some key information about routines and expectation, and then answer any general questions. This meeting is normally finished by 9.30am.

The dates for Meet the Teacher in September are:

Monday 11th - Year One/ Tuesday 12th - Year Two
Wednesday 13th - Year Three/ Thursday 14th - Year Four / Friday 15th - Year Five/ Monday 18th - Year Six

Individual Parent Consultations will take place the week beginning 16th October.



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Staff Changes

Following my letter to Reception parents, dated 22nd June, in which you were informed that Mrs Laurie was absent, unfortunately I must now tell you that Mrs Laurie has since resigned and will not be returning to West Monkton. A number of parents have brought in cards or gifts for Mrs Laurie, these will be passed onto her and we wish her all the best for the future.

Already in place for September for the two Reception classes, are Miss Paling and Miss Merrick as class teachers. Together, they have led all of the transition mornings, and the parents evening. Throughout the school, now that we are fully two form entry, we have looked carefully at complimenting skill sets and placing experience alongside new and/or recently qualified teachers.

In addition, Mrs Martin, one of our three Assistant Headteachers, who has been covering the EYFS lead, will continue to be responsible for Reception as well as KS1. This group of six teaching classes have already spent a lot of time together planning for the next academic year, and we are all excited about the year ahead.

For parents of children in Reception, your child's class teacher will always be your first point of contact, as the senior member of staff in Reception your next point of contact would be Miss Paling, and then Mrs Martin.

It is with much sadness that this week we will also say goodbye to Miss Mercer, and also Mrs Topps.

Mrs Topps is leaving on Friday to move to a new school. She has taught at West Monkton for the past 10 years and will be missed. Mrs Topps has taught children from across the school and has created wonderful memories and experiences for her classes. We wish her luck at her new school.

Miss Mercer has been with us for the past two years and she is moving to Bristol to continue her teaching career. We wish her every success and future happiness.

Leavers Assembly

The leavers assembly for Year 6 is tomorrow at 2pm. Parents are very welcome to attend.

Kingfishers

Information regarding Kingfishers, breakfast club and after school club for September has been sent home. A booking form must be completed for ALL children who wish to attend, including those who currently attend, to ensure that we continue your rolling booking for the next academic year.

Any bookings taken from September will be invoiced using +Pay on ParentMail however if you do have a rolling payment in place please continue to use this.

Bikeability

We have ten current Year 5 children booked in for the Bikeability course in October. There are two spaces left, if your child has not yet completed a Bikeability course and will be in Year 6 next year, please ask the office for a registration form. Bikeability will be running on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th October for these children.

We also require two adult helpers. If you would be available to help on these dates please contact the office to let us know. We will run two courses later in the year for the current Year 4 pupils.

September Swimming

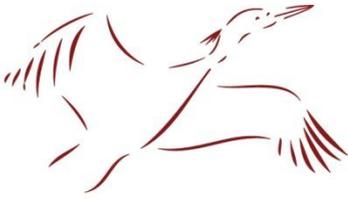
In September, both Year 4 classes (Eagle and Kiwi) will be swimming together for the autumn term. Swimming will commence on Monday 11th September. Letters and information regarding this will come home during the first week of term.

Lunchtime Staff Vacancy

We have an opening for a lunchtime assistant from September between 12pm – 1:30pm each day. If you are interested in the position, please contact the school office for more information and an application form.

West Monkton Parish Council Logo Competition

The Parish Council has decided to hold a Parish competition to design a Parish Council logo. The



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competition is open to all ages and there are four categories, including Primary School attendees. Two or three finalists will be shortlisted from each category by a judging panel. The finalists will make a presentation of their design to the panel, following which, one overall winner will be selected. Each finalist will receive a £10 prize and the winner will receive a £50 prize. The winning logo will also appear on the Parish Council website, Facebook page, papers and signs.

Entries should be original designs that reflect the community and the parish, and have a simple, modern and relevant theme. The design should be in colour and include the words 'West Monkton Parish Council'. It should be big enough to clearly see what is represented, but still be clear when reduced in size to approx. 3.5cm wide x 2.5cm high.

Entries should be on A4 paper, either sent by post to: 2 Hill Farm Cottages, West Monkton TA2 8LW, or scanned and emailed to the Clerk or Assistant Clerk at clerk.westmonktonoc@yahoo.co.uk or assistantclerk@wmpc.gmail.com

Updated Policies

Yesterday we sent home our updated Attendance Policy for information before September, along with a covering letter to highlight the main points of change. Please take the time to read these.

2017-2018 Term Dates

Next year's INSET days are as follows:

- Monday 4th September and Tuesday 5th September
- Monday 8th January and - Friday 9th February
- Monday 4th June

We return to school on **Wednesday 6th September**, and finish for the summer on Tuesday 24th July (2018). School calendars are available from the entrance foyer.

Pro-Coaching Clubs

Information regarding the new clubs for September will have now been published on the pro-coaching website. www.pro-coaching.co.uk

Music and Singing Lessons

Stephen Holman will be continuing to offer Singing and Piano lessons in September for our pupils. We also have Colin Ayres providing Guitar lessons. Their information and registration forms are available from the entrance foyer.

Medicines

Please remember all medicine must be collected from the school office by the end of the day on Friday. Any uncollected medicine will be appropriately disposed of.

Lost Property

Any lost property will be on a table outside the school office on Friday. Anything unclaimed will be donated to a local charity shop, or will be sold as second hand uniform next year.

Pupil belongings

All children need to ensure they take all their belongings home with them on Friday. The teachers will be busy setting up the classrooms ready for September, and anything left behind will be taken to local charity shops.

School Crossing Patrol

The road closure from Milton Hill has significantly reduced the traffic that passes the school. This will become a bus lane from September and as a result the school crossing patrol will not be present from September. All parents, children and visitors to the school should cross the road at the designated pedestrian crossing.

We would like to wish our year six pupils the best of luck on their new chapter of life at secondary school.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer.

Kind Regards,

Ian Robinson - Headteacher