



Thursday 07th September 2017 (Newsletter 01)

Dear all,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a fantastic summer break, and the children are all rested and ready to learn. At West Monkton, we believe 'everyone has the courage and confidence to fly', and we very much look forward to working in partnership with all of our parents to ensure our children receive the best possible education and opportunities.

Wow Days

KS1 had an exciting day of activities on their first day back. They have been immersed in activities and experiences introducing them to our topic of 'Land Ahoy!' The children really embraced the activities and it was a fantastic way to start the year.

Please remember if you have any old beach toys, towels, wind breaks, bunting, shells, pebbles please bring these in to the school office this week.

LKS2 spent the day enjoying a carousel of activities, and at the end of the day, they enjoyed a few treats (small sandwiches/cakes/scones etc.) linked to the themed day. Their work involved all different activities, from pebble painting and welly planting to baking scones and outside games!

In **UKS2**, we started our 'Lungs of the Planet' topic. Our Wow Day will be our trip to the Eden Project next Monday.

Year 5 and 6 Eden Project

The Eden Project trip for Year 5 and 6 will take place next Monday 11th September. We cannot take any children without a signed permission form.

Please remember children should be dropped off at 7am, with the coach leaving promptly at 7:15am. The coach is due back to school at around 6:15pm. Children should wear their school uniform.

All children need to bring:

- A packed lunch and drink - preferably in a carrier bag with disposable containers.
- An extra drink.
- One or two snacks (no sweets).

Year 4 Swimming

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 forms regarding this are being sent home today.

Meet the Teacher

We 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 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, to allow you to 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:

- Year 1 – Monday 11th September
- Year 2 – Tuesday 12th September
- Year 3 – Wednesday 13th September
- Year 4 – Thursday 14th September
- Year 5 – Friday 15th September
- Year 6 – Monday 18th September

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

Pro-Coaching Clubs

Information regarding the new clubs for this half term have now been published on the Pro-Coaching website. All bookings and payments should be made directly.

www.pro-coaching.co.uk

Year 6 Kilve Trip

Outstanding balances for the Year 6 Kilve Trip are now due. These should be paid by Friday 22nd September. Medical forms and further information will be coming home shortly.



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Dogs on Site

Please remember that we are a dog free site and dogs should not be entering the school grounds. The only exception to this rule are service/assistance dogs. We currently have some service/assistance dogs accessing our school. These dogs play an important role in supporting people with their every day lives. These dogs are easily identifiable as they will have a marked jacket on while working/on the school site.

Nut Policy

A ParentMail was sent home on Tuesday regarding our policy as a 'Nut Free School'. We have pupils and a staff member with severe nut allergies at school, and we therefore ask that you do not send in nuts or products containing nuts of any kind to school. We thank you for your cooperation with this.

School Website

We are pleased to announce that the school website (www.westmonktonprimaryschool.co.uk) is now back live following a refresh. It will continue to evolve over the course of this term. You will find lots of useful information here, including newsletters and key school dates and activities. Please do take a look.

2017-2018 Term Dates

This year's remaining INSET days are as follows:

- Monday 8th January
- Friday 9th February
- Monday 4th June

School calendars are available from the entrance foyer and on the school website. Other key dates for the year will be communicated shortly.

ParentMail

All communication, including class letters and newsletters will continue to be sent via ParentMail. Please check your accounts regularly so that you don't miss any important information. If you have not yet signed up to receive communications, please contact the school office.

The ParentMail app is really useful, and is available on the app store for both Apple and Android phones.

Bridgwater Road Bus Gate

The road works at the Milton Hill junction have now finished, and the bus gate is now in operation. We are hopeful that this will have a positive impact for the school with passing traffic numbers reducing significantly.

We still encourage all parents and pupils to use the pedestrian crossing to safely cross the road.

Music and Singing Lessons

Stephen Holman will continue to offer Singing and Piano lessons for our pupils, and we also have Colin Ayres providing Guitar lessons. Their information and registration forms are available from the entrance foyer. Please contact them directly if you would like more information.

Staff News

Congratulations to Miss Howe on her marriage during the summer holidays. It will take a little time to get used to calling her Mrs Sealey!

Congratulations also to Carly Penny, one of our fantastic Nursery Practitioners. Carly and family welcomed baby Ruby into the world in August. We are pleased to hear all are doing really well.

We also welcome two new staff members in Little Herons Nursery:

Rachel Woolvin - Nursery Practitioner.
Emily Walker – Modern Apprentice Nursery Practitioner.

We are delighted with both appointments and are sure they will settle in quickly.

School Uniform/PE Kit

It was great to see a majority of children returning to school wearing the appropriate school uniform and shoes. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled. Please ensure PE Kits are in school every day with appropriate footwear, trainers or daps. Black leggings or jogging bottoms are also permitted during the cooler months.



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Facebook

We have an active Facebook page where we enjoy sharing school events, achievements and news. Should you have any concerns or comments to raise, please come in and speak to your class teacher or phase leader in the first instance, rather than using social media.

School Lunches

We are unable to accept any further late lunch orders for this half term due to the ordering process. New menus for after half term will be sent out in due course. Please always ensure that payment (if necessary) is included, and that you fill in both sides of the menu.

Data Collection Sheets

All pupils from Y1 – 6 (excluding those who are new to the school within the last two months) will have brought home envelopes containing Data collection sheets and collection arrangement forms. Please ensure you check the information on your sheets carefully and amend wherever necessary and return these to the school office by Monday 11th September. If there are no amendments to be made, please sign and return.

Water Bottles

Please can all children bring a *plastic* water bottle to school each day to ensure they have plenty to drink during the day.

Attendance

If your child is unwell, please ring the school office by 9:30am. A message can be left on the absence reporting line, option 2. Ensure you explain the reason for absence, not just give the reason that they are 'unwell'.

Don't forget that children arriving after 9:10am are marked as a U code – *this is the same as an unauthorised absence.*

Please remember that should your child experience sickness and/or diarrhoea, they should not return to school until 48 hours after the last episode.

Medication

All medication not collected at the end of term was disposed of. Any pupils requiring medication must bring this in to school and the appropriate forms completed. Please remember that we cannot hold non prescribed medication for more than 5 consecutive school days. For further information please check our updated policy on General Medicines in School.

Kingfishers Breakfast/After School Club

Our breakfast and after school clubs are very popular, please book as far in advance as possible to avoid any disappointment.

Should you have any queries or need to make contact with, or regarding Kingfishers, please call the main school number and selection Option 6.

Milk / Fruit and Vegetables

Milk is provided free of charge for all children under 5 years of age. Children are automatically enrolled in the milk scheme. Once children are 5 years old, they can receive milk at a cost of 22p per day – parents need to visit the cool milk website (www.coolmilk.com) to sign up.

Fruit or vegetable snacks are also provided free every day for all children in KS1. Children in KS2 can bring in a healthy snack for each day. No crisps or sweets are permitted during the week, other than Fridays when we have a treat day.

Kind Regards,

Ian Robinson - Headteacher