



# West Monkton C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Where everyone has the courage and confidence to fly.

11 October 2018

## Important Information

### *PTA AGM*

The PTA AGM is taking place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm at School. All are welcome to attend.

### *Staff Changes*

We are sure that many of you will have noticed that since we returned to school in September, Mr Tydings, our school caretaker, has not been on site. Over the summer, he made the decision not to return to West Monkton and we wish him all the best for the future. We are also sad to announce that Zoe Farnham, our School Business Manager, and Chloe Dawson, one of our apprentice Teaching Assistants are both leaving us at the end of this half term. We send them on their way with fond farewells, and best wishes.

We have successfully recruited a new Site Manager, Marc Beale, who joins us in half term. Marc will be supporting Mr Martin, our apprentice caretaker. We have also restructured part of our office team due to Zoe's departure. Lisa Lonsdale our Finance Officer takes the role of School Business Manager, with Eleanor Hunt our Office Manager taking the role of Assistant School Business Manager. Finally, we have successfully recruited Caroline Sampson from the Nursery to assist Lisa as a Finance Administrator (she will continue to work in the Nursery as well), and we have a current vacancy for a School Office & Nursery Administrator.

### *Operation Shoe Box*

Samaritan's Purse is an international relief and development organisation that works through local churches to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God amongst communities in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The Operation Christmas Child initiative, which thousands of churches, schools and businesses across the UK and Ireland are already part of, help support children and young people who without the generosity of others would not receive a Christmas gift. As a school we have supported this charity for the past five years and have been able to send over 1000 shoeboxes overseas. This week we will be launching this year's appeal, and on Thursday we welcomed Jeff Cracknell, South West coordinator in to the school. Leaflets and shoe boxes are available for anyone who wishes to take part and can be collected from the main school entrance. Filled shoeboxes must be returned by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November.

### *Wanted van and driver*

In our efforts to further improve the EYFS outside area, we have managed to source a large tractor tyre for free. Unfortunately, it is currently in Westonzoyland! If we have any willing parents who have a van and could collect this for us, please see Mrs Lawrence.

### *Parents Evening*

Parents Evening will be held in the School Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Appointments are to be booked via ParentMail, and will last for 10 minutes. Mrs Ross' Coding Club on the Monday will be covered by another staff member.

### *Years 1 and 2 Noah's Ark Zoo Farm Trip*

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October, Year 1 and 2 respectively are going to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm. For both trips, the coach will depart promptly at 9.15am, and they are due to return to school at 3pm. No child can take part in the trips if they do not have a completed consent form on ParentMail.

### *Year 4 Stonehenge Trip*

Year 4 had an amazing trip last Friday to Stonehenge. They learnt lots of new information and were so excited to finally see the stones. For their homework, they are now busy creating their own version of Stonehenge, so far we have had 'Butterhenge', 'Cakehenge' 'Bookhenge' and 'Veghenge' to name a few of the great entries. Well done Year 4 for displaying great enthusiasm towards our topic.

### *Harvest Celebrations*

As part of our Harvest Celebration Week (kindly organised by Mrs Martin) Year 3 and 4 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a bread-making workshop. The children had great fun, and made lots of the school staff hungry with the delicious smell wafting down the corridor! A huge thank you to Mrs Ireland who ran the workshop, it was a huge success.

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September, the whole school celebrated our Harvest Festival. Again this year we supported R.A.F.T (Refugee Aid from Taunton) and our hall was filled with all kinds of goods such as clothes, shoes, toiletries, non-perishable foods and blankets etc. A very BIG thank you to everyone who kindly donated.



### *Therapy Dog*

For those who may not have seen or met her before, the school has a therapy dog called Honey who is occasionally on site, providing additional support for pupils. Honey comes in to school to listen to children read, and loves her time in school.

Headteacher: Mr Ian Robinson      Chair of Governors: Mr Paul Spencer

**A:** Bridgwater Road, Bathpool, Taunton, Somerset TA2 8FT    **T:** 01823 412582

**E:** westmonktonprimary@educ.somerset.gov.uk    **W:** www.westmonktonprimaryschool.co.uk



# West Monkton C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Where everyone has the courage and confidence to fly.

Dear Parents,

Although the Autumn Term is a long one, this half term seems to be moving far too quickly with so much already happening in school. Our week's focus on Harvest was a big success; thank you very much for your support. Similarly, our work in Collective Worship has really complemented our half term's values of Self-control and Democracy and this was only emphasised with the election of our School Council - well done to all involved. We have worked extremely hard, during INSET Days and staff meetings to develop a renewed Wider Curriculum Policy; this has been the reason why curriculum overviews have yet to be communicated. Over the next week or so, these will be found on our website for the first part of the Autumn Term. Going forward, the half term's curriculum overviews will be uploaded to the school website within the first week of each half term.

Mr Blackmore

## Safeguarding – Reading Well (Reading Agency)

The Reading Agency brings together partners from the public, private, and voluntary sectors to tackle life's big challenges through the proven power of reading.

The agency's 'Reading Well Books on Prescription' helps people understand and manage their health and wellbeing using self-help reading. The books are chosen by health experts and people living with the conditions covered.

The book recommendations for young people's mental health can be found here:

<https://reading-well.org.uk/books/books-on-prescription/young-people-mental-health>

## Puzzle Corner

As we finish off our Harvest week, we would love to see your Harvest Colouring Creations!



© Copyright 2010 JuniorDispatch.com

## House Points Update

<b>Emerald</b>	<b>1517</b>
<b>Sapphire</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>Ruby</b>	<b>1564</b>
<b>Diamond</b>	<b>1444</b>

## Reading Percentages

Percentage of children in the class who have read a minimum of 5 times in the week:

Year 1 - Pelican 68%	Yellow Wagtails 55%
Year 2 - Robin 78%	Puffin 71%
Year 3 - Buzzard 60%	Magpie 77%
Year 4 - Kiwi 59%	Eagle 81%
Year 5 - Crane 77%	Red Kite 85%
Year 6 - Peacock 92%	Peregrine Falcon 91%



## Phrase of the Fortnight

**Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later.**

Og Mandino

