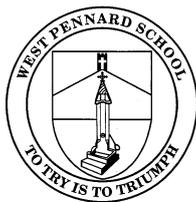


WEST PENNARD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER

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2nd September 2016

Newsletter: Autumn No 1

Action & Information: Whole School

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and managed to make the most of the glorious weather. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school next week but thought that we would get this letter to you in good time to give you advanced warning of the parking restrictions likely to be in place next week (see 'Traffic' item).

As the new academic year commences I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all new families. It is always a pleasure for the children and staff to meet and support our youngest children as they begin their journey through school and we are optimistic that they will settle quickly into their new school life. We also welcome Mr. James Bisgrove, our new year 6 teacher, and hope that he also enjoys teaching at our lovely school.

Please find attached the diary dates for this term. Please keep this easily accessible to help reduce the number of calls we receive from parents enquiring about the various school events. If you are unsure of the official County terms and holiday dates you can access these on-line at www.somerset.gov.uk under the 'Education, Learning & Schools' link & 'school life' link.

We will be holding an **Open Morning** this term and, although this is designed to enable prospective parents to look around, we would be delighted to see more of our existing parents, friends, family members and members of the local community taking the opportunity to view the school at work. The date is **Tuesday 4th October** between 9.30 and 11.30am. Last year, we were over-subscribed with 46 sets of parents putting us down as their first preference. This may dissuade families from out of the catchment area from considering us for next year. However, from our experience, the year after being over-subscribed we usually have spaces! Therefore, please spread the word if you hear of any families who may be concerned.

Year 1 and 2 Parents' Welcome Evening: Tuesday 6th September 6.00pm (year 1) 6.30pm (year 2)

We understand that some parents do not meet their child's class teacher until the first parents' evenings in October and that may be worrying for parents of our youngest children. Therefore, parents will have received an invitation at the end of term from Mrs Robinson and Mrs Morley to meet with them and find out more about the curriculum, routines, homework etc. in the infant classes. We would be delighted to see as many parents as possible on Tuesday evening.

PE Kit

We would be delighted to receive any outgrown PE kit for our spare kit stores. Please would parents ensure that children's PE kits are kept in school at all times. When children wear their kits home after extra-curricular clubs they do need to be returned to school the next day. If your child does forget their kit then we will send a note home to remind you and will check that the kit is in school the next day. Thank you for purchasing our PE kit and supporting our school uniform policy.

Forest School News

Due to family commitments, Mrs Hawkins has decided that she cannot continue to teach forest school as part of our Enrichment Thursdays. She has, however, agreed to continue with forest school, but on a supply basis, giving her the flexibility she needs. Each class will have forest school each half term, therefore doubling the number of sessions the children have previously received. Teachers will let classes know when it is their turn.

School Meals

As always we would like to encourage as many children as possible to have a school meal, ideally each day, or for a number of days each week. As you are aware, **our infant children (Years R, 1 & 2) are all entitled to a free school meal** every day and I know that the vast majority of our youngest pupils are taking advantage of the offer. Parents of **Reception class children** will receive further details shortly regarding their children **starting lunches on Monday 19th September**.

The cost of a **school meal for years 3 to 6** remains at £2.40 for the third year, which represents good value, and the cost for those having lunches every day this half term is £84.00 which you will be able to pay on-line at SchoolMoney.co.uk. If you have more



than one child in years 3-6 taking meals then the '1 in 10 meals' discount will apply and this will be allowed for when payment details are set up online, hopefully by Friday 9th Sept. Payment details will be calculated for those having meals on particular days, unless you inform us of any changes to their current choice. However, we are still able to accept cash or cheques (payable to 'Somerset County Council').

We are extremely proud that all fresh meat, vegetables and fruit are sourced locally, meals are freshly prepared and also adhere to strict nutritional standards. There are always salad options available. If your child would prefer, there is always the sandwich option for the same price and your child can add their choice of dessert or a piece of fruit.

Breakfast Club

The breakfast club, run by Ms Audrey Truan in the school hall, begins on the first day of term. Breakfast, consisting of a choice of drinks (milkshakes, juice, milk), cereal, toast, muffins, crumpets or pancakes will be served between 7.50am and 8.10am. The club will run from 7.45am to 8.25am and will include table-top activities. Children may then go into the playground if the weather is fine. There is no need to book a place at this club. The cost remains at **£2.40** per day which will be collected by Audrey on arrival, or if you wish to pay in advance for regular attendance we will set up the half term payment on-line via SchoolMoney.co.uk. Please make any cheque payments to 'Somerset County Council'.

May I also stress that, as supervision commences in the playground at 8.25am, **only** children who are attending Breakfast Club should be on the school site before that time. If you wish to drop your children off earlier than this then they can go into Breakfast Club for a supervision charge of £1. Any child arriving before 8.25am will be asked to go to Breakfast Club and a charge of £1 made. Children should not be left outside the gate unsupervised prior to this time.

Before School/Punctuality

We ask that parents of KS2 children (years 3 – 6) say goodbye to their children in the entrance playground rather than escorting them to class as we like to encourage increased independence in our older children. In addition, unless it is absolutely vital that you speak with your child's class teacher before school, we also ask that any major conversations take place after school when the teachers are not involved in preparing for the school day. Alternatively, please speak to me as I am always on duty in the playground and I can pass on any messages or arrange for your child's class teacher to contact you.

All KS1 (years R, 1 & 2) children are allowed into classes before school starts and parents are welcome to settle their children although we do like the children to build their skills of independence over time.

We would appreciate it if you would aim to bring your child to school by latest 8:45am so they are ready for registration at 8:50am. I will be sending out letters to parents where children are persistently late. We have a 'late book' in the office where records of arrival times of late children are kept.

Bus Escort

For parents of those children travelling on the Pilton bus, you will be pleased to hear that one of our parents, Mrs Beverley Close, is taking on the post of Bus Escort. We are very grateful to the Pilton Parish Council and the Pilton Show who are funding this post which will initially be for a period of one year. We have also ring-fenced donations from fundraising by the stewarding team at the Glastonbury Festival towards this post. Thank you to all.

After School

We have stressed to the children that, at the end of school, they are to wait sensibly in the gate playground for their parents and that this is not an opportunity to extend playtime in any of the other playgrounds. We would ask that you support us with this request and also ensure that toddlers do not wander away from parents as they wait for their siblings. Once they are in your care we ask that they do not play in the churchyard or stand on the churchyard wall as this is disrespectful on this consecrated ground.

We are trialling a change in the pick-up time of children going home on the Pilton Bus to help ease our traffic congestion problems in the Lane and at the entrance to the school. The bus will now collect the children at 3:30pm to allow for the majority of cars and pedestrians to leave the lane. Please therefore collect your child promptly at 3:15pm so that they are clear of the Lane before the bus arrives.

There is supervision in the playground until 3.30pm for any remaining children who will then be taken to the office. If your child has not been collected by 3.35pm they will automatically be taken to our after school club and a charge of £1 made for each 10 minutes thereafter.

Last year some of our older children were allowed to walk down the Lane and meet their parents at the Village Hall. Although I would prefer all children to wait inside the gate until they are collected, I do understand that some families prefer this option. However, children will only be allowed to walk down the Lane if we receive written parental permission. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Individual Extra Curricular School Clubs / After School Club

Some of the **extra-curricular clubs** start this first week of term but generally those run by school staff start either the second or third week into term. Drama club is only running for the second half of the half term commencing on 29th September. **Please check your clubs schedule for start dates.** This schedule will be posted in the Year 2 window. The list of children booked into the various clubs has been distributed to classes so children can check details and they will be asked to request a letter if they would like to join a club where there are spaces available. There are spaces still available in all clubs except for Tuesday's Art Club.

The After School club fills up fast so if you haven't already sent in your booking form please complete it and send it into the office straight away. Thank you.

Email/Texting

Whole school newsletters to parents will be automatically sent by email to the e-mail address as given on your child's first contact. Therefore, it is vital that you make sure we have an up to date email address that you check regularly. Please email the school at

westpennardprimary@googlemail.com if you wish to alter the email address we currently hold on our system and we will update our records. We will continue with the distribution of hard copy letters to those whose details we have brought forward from last term.

Our very successful and valued text alert system will operate again this year to notify parents of school closures, club cancellations, trip information and miscellaneous reminders. I would also like to point out that we do not pass on anyone's email address or phone numbers to third parties. If there is an FWPS reminder then the information is passed on to us to cascade through our texting service.

Traffic Code of Conduct

As the new year begins, the safety of our children is paramount as always, so may I ask all parents to reread and respect the code of conduct attached to this newsletter. I would like to remind parents that if we have any complaints then the procedure is as follows: a verbal reminder, a written warning and finally, the Police Community Support Officer follows up any further transgressions. Ultimately, however, I cannot police the Lane and it is parents' responsibility to ensure that the code of conduct is adhered to for all our children's safety. Please keep to agreed parking zones, do not park near the bottom of the Lane where it narrows or park/turn in residents' driveways. Most of the complaints that come to our attention are due to excessive speed (10 mph please) and parents parking in the disabled spaces without a badge. If you have a disabled badge please let us know your registration number so that we can quickly clear up any queries from other parents. **Also, please display your badge at all times.** Finally, in the morning, apart from parents using the disabled parking spaces, all other parking in the Church car park is for staff cars only.

Due to work taking place on the Village Hall roof, which they anticipate will continue for another week, only the rear area of this car park is open. You will need to enter and exit on the left side of the hall, but not park by the hall, in order to allow for the two-way traffic. Please factor this in to your drop off and collection routines as this is likely to have a significant impact on usual routines. Please allow plenty of time and take great care. Thank you.

Notification of Reason for Absence

Since the DFES require schools to keep attendance completely up to date daily we ask that if your child is absent for any reason, you **notify the school early that morning or by 10am latest**, either by phone or e-mail, so that we know there is no problem with your child reaching school and also that we are assured they are safe at home.

Swimming – Years 4 & 2

Swimming lessons for years 4 and 2 begin next week on **Friday 16th September** and will take place each Friday until the 9th December, so there will be no lesson on the last day of term, 16th December. Please could parents make a note of this on their calendars as a considerable amount of office time is taken up each week phoning parents and sorting out kit for those who have forgotten to bring them.

The cost of these lessons for the whole term for year 4 children is £26.50, (£2.20 per lesson). For year 2 the cost has been reduced (£24.15) as there is a credit for one lesson which was missed last term due to a class trip. Please pay online via SchoolMoney.co.uk or complete the attached reply slip and return to school as soon as possible.

If you have any spare swimming trunks or costumes that your child has grown out of we would be very pleased to add them to our spare kit box. Please note that Strode Pool's code of conduct states that children must not wear loose fitting swimming shorts. Thank you

Homework Policy/Year 3 Homework folders

Thank you to all the parents who returned their homework questionnaire. Your responses, and those of the children, were shared with the governors and staff and resulted in a lively debate! All overwhelming majority of respondents were in agreement that homework was important in supporting children's learning and progress. The revised policy, containing many of your suggestions, will be sent home with your children's class welcome letter and will be posted on the website.

All year 3 children will be issued with a new navy homework folder for carrying their homework/letters etc home. Please can you forward payment for this of £5.00. They will then keep this folder for the next 4 years.

Mid-morning Snacks / Water Bottles / Drinks/ Sugar

Our 'healthy' option morning snack continues to be very successful and I would like to thank all parents for their strong support of this initiative. On Fridays children are allowed to bring crisps to school but we are delighted that many children continue to choose to bring either fruit or vegetables.

Water bottles – please ensure these are replenished before they are brought into school each day. They should have sports tops rather than ordinary lids and **contain water only**.

Milk will be available from the first day of term for those who have registered with Cool Milk Ltd. If you have not already done so and your child wishes to take up this option you can register on line with www.coolmilk.com or request the appropriate form from the office which should then be completed and forwarded with your payment directly to Cool Milk Ltd at the address given on the form. Children under 5 and those in receipt of pupil premium funding are entitled to free milk which will be supplied from the first day of term. For Reception children attending school in the afternoons, their drinks will be kept in the fridge until they are required.

Parents will be aware that too much **sugar** in diets has been identified as a major health concern. With this in mind we have decided to try and minimise the amount of sugar laden confectionery the children come into contact with whilst at school. We will not be giving out sweets as prizes and would like to request that squash and biscuits prizes are healthy choices. Also, please do not send cakes or sweets into school to celebrate children's birthdays. There is no need, which may be a relief to you all, we will sing them 'Happy Birthday' and make sure your children have a great day!

Birthday Invitations

If you wish to distribute birthday invitations via the school please hand them to your child's teacher who will ensure they are distributed discreetly in children's bags at the end of the week. Last year we had a number of upsets over children feeling excluded and this disrupted children's learning. Thank you for your co-operation.

Music Tuition

For those parents who sent in slips requesting music lessons this year these were passed on to the appropriate music tutor who we hope has contacted you regarding lessons. However if you have not heard from the tutor please let the office know so we can speak to the music tutors when they start their lessons. Also, if you did not send a slip in and your child is interested to learn a musical instrument please contact the school office as tutors are always happy to slot children in.

Finally, should any problems arise please contact me at the earliest opportunity. I am out on the playground before and after school or contactable by telephone. I am never too busy to listen to concerns from parents and know that early attention to a problem can so often smooth out difficulties quickly. I am always excited and look forward to the new academic year and always hope that it will be the best one yet! I will look forward to your continued support and interest over the year.

Yours sincerely

H. Burchell

Helen Burchell

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SWIMMING RETURN SLIP – Yrs 4 & 2 - Form EV2

Name Year

I have read, fully understood and am satisfied with the details supplied about the above mentioned activity and agree to my son / daughter taking part in it. I know of no medical reason why he / she should not participate.

- I will make payment online
- I enclose a contribution of £..... (Year 4 - £26.50, Year 2 - £24.15)
(Cheques to 'Somerset County Council')

I am aware that:

Insurance arrangements are the same as for pupils in school, ie, that the authority only provides cover against proven or agreed negligence by the Authority and its employees.

I should consider making my own insurance arrangements for personal accident cover for my son / daughter for school activities in the UK

Signed Date

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Homework Folder for Year 3 children

I enclose payment of £5.00 for my Year 3 child's (Name)

Homework Folder.

DATES FOR THE AUTUMN TERM 2016

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday	6 th	Parents' Welcome Meeting for year 1 (6.00pm) & year 2 (6.30pm)
Monday	19 th	Reception class to begin school lunches
Monday	26 th	Reception class to attend school full time

OCTOBER

Tuesday	4 th	Open Morning 9.30-11.30 for existing and prospective parents
Friday	7 th	Harvest Festival, St Nicholas Church, 2.00pm
Tuesday	11 th	Parents' Evening 3:30 – 6:30pm
Wednesday	12 th	Parents' Evening 3:30 – 6:30pm
Monday	17 th	Global Enrichment Week: Marvellous Mayans!!!
Thursday	20 th	Discos – Infants 6:30-7:25pm, Juniors 7:30-8:45pm
Friday	21 st	Squash & Biscuits, Yr 6
		Break up for half term holiday
Monday	31 st	Return from half-term holiday

NOVEMBER

Wednesday	9 th	Individual School Photographs
Friday	18 th	Squash & Biscuits, Yr 3

DECEMBER

Tuesday	6 th	'Rainbow Theatre' Pantomime: Dick Whittington
Friday	9 th	KS2 Carol Service in St Nicholas' Church – 2.00pm
Monday	12 th	Infant Nativity 2.00pm
Tuesday	13 th	Infant Nativity 2.00pm
Wednesday	14 th	Class Christmas Parties 1.30pm
Friday	16 th	Christmas Dinner
		Break up for Christmas holidays

Please note there are three further INSET days this year on Friday June 24th, Monday 27th June and Monday 24th July 2017.

West Pennard Church of England Primary School

Traffic Code of Conduct

1. Please slow down to a maximum of 20 miles an hour in Newtown Lane (from the school sign) and a maximum of 10 miles an hour in Church Lane.
2. Cars should use the war memorial as a mini-roundabout ie keep to the left to increase visibility when leaving Church Lane. Please note that the buses are unable to do this.
3. Pedestrians and cyclists are advised to leave promptly at the end of school as the Pilton Bus will be arriving at 3.30pm.
4. Children should be closely supervised and not allowed to run on ahead.
5. **Parking in the Village Hall car park and walking up Church Lane is strongly advised.** Please do not park in front of the Village Hall or in front of the houses directly outside (this is private property). There is plenty of space at the rear of the Village Hall.
6. Cars are advised to be clear of Church Lane by 3.25pm therefore allowing the Pilton Bus to drive towards the school without obstruction.
7. In the morning the Pilton bus should be clear of the lane by 8.30 allowing cars to manoeuvre.
8. All cars using the lane at other times should turn at the top, dropping children off by the 'dropping off' zone (swiftly). **Please note it is an offence to park on the hatched lines.** Cars should not reverse into the hatched lines. This is for buses only and children will be walking to the gates this way.
9. Do not park at the top of the lane, at the narrow parts of the Lane or on the corner at the top of Church Lane by the car park as it is the turning place for vehicles.
10. Do not park in the 'Disabled Parking' area of the church car park unless you have a legitimate badge. Please notify the office if you have a legitimate badge so we are aware.
11. Vehicles driving **down** the Lane have priority.
12. Park considerately without blocking driveways, mounting pavements or verges and **do not use residents' driveways** to turn.

For the safety of the children please drive carefully. The Governing Body expects users of Church Lane to show courtesy and consideration towards residents and all other users. All parents and residents should make every reasonable effort to abide by this voluntary code of conduct and to courteously encourage others to do the same.