

West Pennard Church of England Primary School

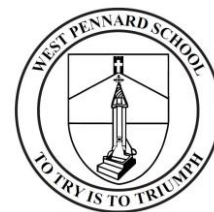


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Headteacher: Miss J. Hale



7th September 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome to Year 6! Firstly, I would like to mention how delighted we are with how the children have settled into the new academic year. They are showing great enthusiasm and eagerness to take on the challenge of year 6 and have accepted the responsibilities that come with being at the top of the school.

Please find below a few points for your information:

Year 6 Squash and biscuits

This will be on **Friday 13th** of October. This is not the last Friday of the half term as it usually is, this is because on Friday 20th October we are visiting an author at St. Benedict's in Glastonbury. The theme to our Squash and Biscuits will be America and the Wild West. I would appreciate as much parental support as possible. Please turn up on the day if possible as it really helps the whole afternoon go with a bang!

Year 6 SATS WEEK 2018

SATS week is the week commencing 14th May 2018. **Children must be in school.**

Manor Adventure weekend (residential)

Friday 18th May – Monday 21st May 2018 – more details will follow over the coming weeks.

PE

Our main PE sessions this term will be on Tuesdays. Additionally, having been a PE coach prior to training as a teacher, I feel that sport is a very important aspect of the curriculum. Therefore, I will be adding more sessions at other times during the week when the opportunity arises. Please make sure that your child has their correct PE kit in school at all times. If children are unable to take part in PE due to a medical condition or illness, then they must have a note from you for them to be excused from the lesson. If it is a long-standing illness then a note from their doctor will be required.

Contact

Last year I used a class 6 email account to keep in contact with parents. This was a great way for parents to contact me regarding any issues they had, no matter how big or small. As it worked so well I would like to continue it this year. The address is wpclass6@gmail.com. I am hopeful that by having this communication tool it will help to promote good outcomes within the class' social dynamic and resolve issues before they became problems. Additionally, it will be particularly useful as it is difficult for me to be free from the class during the school day. Please understand that I will only be in contact via email during normal business hours.



Mrs Leigh

I am delighted to have Mrs Elaine Leigh as our thoroughly proficient classroom assistant. She has made my transition a lot easier since I joined and I know she will provide invaluable assistance to the children as we progress through the year. I have no doubt that your children will grow to appreciate just how much her hard work will matter.

Work....

There is a lot! As you are aware your children will be taking their SATs in May. To prepare them we do give them opportunities to complete practice papers as this familiarises them with the format of the SATs and also highlights areas that we need to focus on. When the SATs come around we all want the children to feel relaxed, rested and prepared. All handwriting is expected to be fluent and joined with pencil or pen. If you need some handwriting sheets in order for your children to practise handwriting at home then please ask. We will be having handwriting practice in school. Children may have to do their SATs in pen this year so if you would like to invest in a nice blue handwriting pen then please do.

Everything else your child will need to learn in school will be provided. Children do not need to bring in big pencil cases of their own or large bags to carry things in but if your child would like their own felt-tips and colours then they can keep those in their school bags just outside the classroom.

Homework

This will usually consist of numeracy, literacy, topic and research tasks. Ordinarily, homework should take about 30 minutes per subject to complete. Children will be bringing spellings home that they have had corrected in their class work. Homework will be handed out on a Friday and is expected to be returned the following Friday. If your children find any of the homework set too much of a challenge please do not allow them to get worried or upset about it. Instead we would much prefer them to come into school the next day and speak to either Mrs Leigh or me. This way we can give them the guidance they need in order to complete it. However as you will understand this needs to be done BEFORE the hand-in day, so we ask you to encourage them to do their homework sooner rather than later. Failure to hand in expected homework will result in your child missing their lunch-play in order to do it.

From time to time, your children may also bring home school work that they have not managed to complete in class. Keeping these systems in place ensures that your children will be making the most out of their time in Year 6 and that the other children feel fairly and consistently treated. The children have also been reminded that they should be reading every day for at least 10 minutes and they have been supplied with reading diaries in order to record this. If possible try to hear your child read as reading out-loud will improve their ability to read punctuation and add expression. Also, please encourage your children to talk about what they read as comprehension skills are an enormous part of Year 6.

And finally...I feel confident that we are all launching into this important year with exactly the right attitude. As teaching staff we only ever want the very best for your children and part of my teaching philosophy is that happy children learn best. Please help me and the school to make this a constant priority.

My kindest regards

Mr James Bisgrove