

West Pennard Church of England Primary School

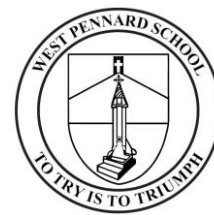


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Headteacher: Mr T. Wheat



7th September 2020

Dear Parents

Welcome to Year 4! Firstly, I would like to mention how delighted we are with how they have settled into the new academic year. They have come back to school from the summer holidays full of positive energy and ready to learn.

Please find below a few points for your information:

PE

Our PE slot with the sports coach isn't until the next half term, therefore I will be taking them for their PE lessons on a Monday afternoon. Unfortunately, Strode swimming pool are not offering swimming sessions to school at the moment so we **WILL NOT** be swimming on Fridays until further notice. Please can I ask that you make sure that your child has their correct PE kit in school at all times; our suggestion is that children bring in PE kit at the start of term and leaves it here, taking it home at half terms. 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

Hopefully you will have already received my invitation to join us on Class Dojo. It is an excellent tool which allows us to reward the children for good work, positive attitudes etc. whilst adding a bit of enjoyment with the Dojo monster and critters! Moreover it is a great way for me to communicate with you and vice versa if you have any concerns or queries. 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.

Meet the Teacher

I have organised a Meet the Teacher meeting on Tuesday 22nd September at 4:30pm in the hall. This will be a good opportunity for me to go over some of the information in this letter in greater detail and will enable you to ask any questions you may have. Due to the current restrictions surrounding people entering the site, the meeting is limited to one parent/guardian per child and we politely ask you to wear a mask or face covering. A sign-up sheet will be coming your way shortly so you can inform the school which parent/guardian is attending.

Mrs Chapelle and Mrs Wade

We are very lucky to have Mrs Chapelle as our thoroughly proficient classroom assistant. The children will of course be very familiar with Mrs Chapelle as she worked so closely with them in year 3 last year. This will hopefully help to form a smoother transition into year 4. Every Thursday morning the children will be taught



by Mrs Wade. Again, Mrs Wade won't be a stranger to them, as she will have taught them before during enrichment activities. The children's enrichment slot will be on Thursday afternoons.

Topic

Our topic this year will centre on the Stuarts. As much as possible, we will look to link subjects to this topic. For example; in English we will be studying the Shakespearean play Macbeth which was written as a tribute to King James I. This play was believed to have been the inspiration behind the infamous gunpowder plot! Which links us nicely to our science topic 'states of matter'. Hopefully this approach will fully engage the children and help to develop their learning. Last year we had a wonderful trip at the Somerset History museum in Taunton where we learnt all about The Monmouth Rebellion. I am hopeful that we may still be able to visit however this will obviously be at the discretion of the museum. As soon as I have more details I will let you know.

Homework

Homework will look slightly different this year as it will set weekly on Google Classroom. In the next week or so, more information will be coming your way on how to access and complete the homework. As before, it will be set on Fridays and should be completed by Wednesday. The first homework will be set on Friday 18th September.

Pencil cases

Everything 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.

Accelerated reader

This scheme has been a huge success since its introduction and it has really helped to improve their reading ability and increase their enjoyment in reading. Just to remind you how it works; every half term the children will do a 'Star Reader' test. This test is designed to test their decoding and fluency skills and results in them being given a book band e.g. 3.5 – 6.5. The idea of the Star Reading test is to make sure children are reading books that are appropriate to their reading ability. When they then take the 'Accelerated Reader' test (after the completion of their reading book) they can focus all their attention on the comprehension of the book. Consistent high scores will of course result in children moving up book bands and hopefully improved Star Reader scores throughout the year. We encourage the children to read every day at home as well as at school. If the children are reading to someone this benefits them hugely. When they do read, please remind them to make a note of it in their new school planners.

And finally...I would just like to reiterate how excited I am about this academic year and being a part of your child's school journey. 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