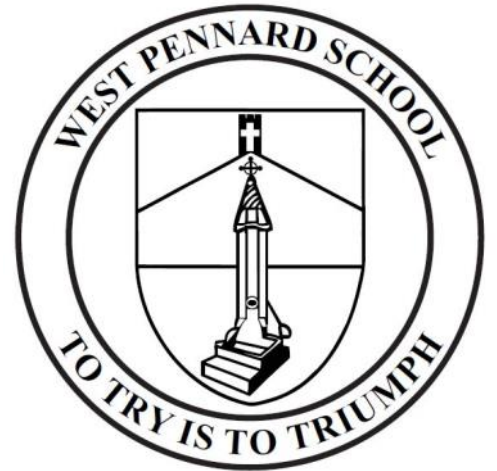


West Pennard C of E VC Primary School



Our Reception children enjoying their new Forest School equipment this



'Since God so loved us, so we must love one another' (1 John 4 v11)

Heads Up

Welcome back to a new term and a new year at West Pennard School! I have said those words many times over the years, but never with more vigour and sincerity than now. It really has felt such a long time that we have been apart as a school and local community and I for one can't wait to see everybody return on Monday and get back to some degree of normality.

Throughout the summer we have been planning the full reopening of the school with the intention of trying to make the experience of school as familiar as possible, whilst adhering to Government guidelines and the highest safety standards. There has been an awful lot to consider, and procedures will continue to be reviewed and refined as the term progresses. Please rest assured that we will fully inform you of any changes that you will need to be aware of. To that end I have worked through and re-issued the letter that I sent out in July, in line with new Government guidance that came out in August. See additional attachment. Most of the detail still stands. Any changes I have made are in purple.

Featured later in this letter are photographs of the classrooms, as they stand. This should help your child(ren) to familiarise themselves with the classroom environment before Monday. Please do talk it through with them and be as positive as you can be. The teachers have planned lots of interesting and exciting activities for the children to explore over the next few weeks and to get them back in school mode.

Finally, please know that we are here for you too. It may have been a difficult time for you during lockdown and may continue to be. Some of you may have found that your employment circumstances have changed. We are here to help where we can and point you in the direction of assistance if you need it. For example, if financial circumstances have changed, you may now find that you are entitled to Free School Meals or help with the cost of school trips etc. See later in the newsletter for eligibility criteria. Please do take up this opportunity if you are eligible. It is a key support that many families across the country take up.

This just leaves me to wish you all a restful final weekend of the holidays. See you all next week.

Best Wishes

Mr Wheat



Very Jolly Phonics

We are delighted to announce that we have been able to purchase a new phonics scheme that links to the reading books that we already have in school. Bug Club Phonics is one of the DfE's approved phonics teaching programmes. It aims to help all children learn to read by the age of six in a fun and accessible way. The scheme was fully funded with the help of the **Wells Festival of Literature**. A huge huge thank you to the team for funding the scheme and in turn helping countless children to learn to read and appreciate books.

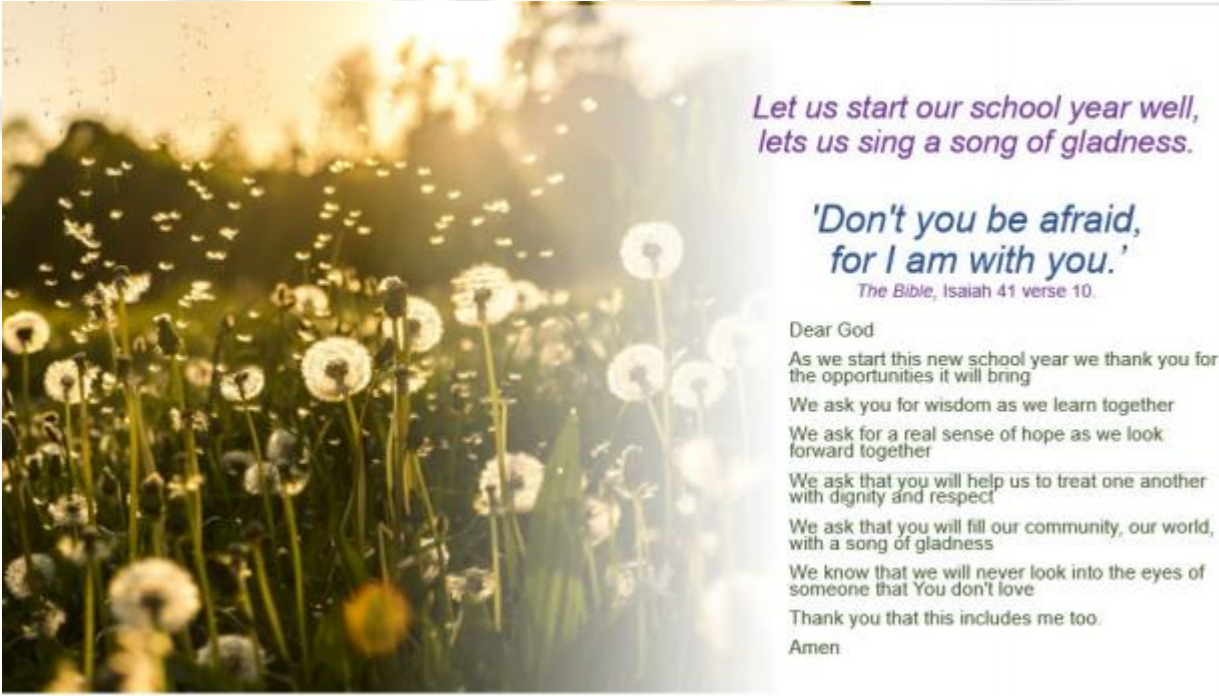


Tel: 01458 832866

Email: westpennardprimary@gmail.com

Headteacher Mr T. Wheat

A message from Ed Gregory, Director of Education, Diocese of Bath and Wells.



*Let us start our school year well,
lets us sing a song of gladness.*

**'Don't you be afraid,
for I am with you.'**

The Bible, Isaiah 41 verse 10.

Dear God

As we start this new school year we thank you for the opportunities it will bring

We ask you for wisdom as we learn together

We ask for a real sense of hope as we look forward together

We ask that you will help us to treat one another with dignity and respect

We ask that you will fill our community, our world, with a song of gladness

We know that we will never look into the eyes of someone that You don't love

Thank you that this includes me too.

Amen

Our Classrooms



Fox Class (Year R)



Squirrel Class (Year 4)



Dormouse Class
(Year 1)



Otter Class (Year 5)



Mole Class (Year 2)



Hedgehog Class (Year 6)



Hare Class (Year 3)

Here and There

As a regular feature on the newsletter I thought it would be useful for us all to share suggested places to get out and about in our local area or even further afield. If lockdown taught us anything, it was perhaps the importance of exercising the mind and body for a general sense of wellbeing. It would be great to hear suggestions of places to go for free with children and also some worthwhile paid for attractions as well.



Treasure Trails is a great way to fill a day and explore the local area. You can purchase and download a 'treasure trail' for places all over the country for under £10 and spend the day as a family solving clues and completing the trail. There are 25 trails alone in Somerset to choose from!



Why not see breathtaking views of Somerset by walking up Ebbor Gorge. Park at Deer Leap car park and explore the gorge for free.

Meet the Teacher Sessions

We can confirm that we will hold meet the teacher sessions over the next few weeks using the school hall or Microsoft Teams and be held outside of the school day. This will ensure social distancing, sufficient ventilation and rigorous cleaning before use the next day. The session confirmed thus far is.

Year 1: Monday 7th September at 6pm

Year 2: TBC

Wellbeing

At West Pennard CE Primary School we take wellbeing very seriously and understand the holistic approach to child development. Feelings of wellbeing are fundamental to the overall health of an individual, enabling them to successfully overcome difficulties and achieve what they want out of life. We have created a new page on our website to support with this. See...

<https://www.westpennardschool.co.uk/about-us/wellbeing>

Free School Meals

Children who attend a Somerset County Council school, whose parents or carers receive certain benefits may be entitled to free school meals. Only the benefits listed here – and no other benefits – qualify you for free school meals for your children.

These are the benefits.

- Universal Credit with an annual household income of less than £7,400 after tax
- Income Support (IS)
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income related) – not Contribution related
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA) – not Contribution based
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMRC) of less than £16,190, as long as the family is not also in receipt of Working Tax Credit.

If you have recently become unemployed, but are still receiving Working Tax Credits, you may be entitled to free school meals.

Click [here](#) to apply

During the coronavirus outbreak, the Government are temporarily extending free school meal eligibility to include children of families who have no recourse to public funds. Therefore, children will also be eligible for free school meals if their legal guardians' household income is £7,400 or below and they meet one of the following criteria:

- they are a Zambrano Carer
- they have the right to remain in the UK under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and are subject to no recourse to public funds
- they are supported under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (Children in Need)

They may also be eligible if they are supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

If you meet this additional criteria, complete the [Free School Meals Application Form Covid-19 additional criteria Form](#) and send it in with the appropriate evidence.