

West Pennard Church of England Primary School



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16th September 2021

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 this half term is on Thursday, we also have a session with a cricket coach, from Somerset County Cricket Club, on Friday. 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. Thankfully, swimming has resumed this year, however we will not be swimming until after Christmas.

Contact

Hopefully you will have 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. Please also keep an eye out for messages via the children's Google Classroom account; these will appear on the 'Stream' tab at the top of the page. I will only be in contact via Dojo or Google Classroom during normal business hours.

Mrs Chapelle and Mrs Clarke

We are very lucky to have Mrs Chapelle as our thoroughly proficient classroom assistant. She will be in class working with the children every day except for Thursday afternoons when the children are taking part in their enrichment activities. As Fridays are my non-contracted day, Mrs Clarke will be teaching the children on that day every week.

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. I am also in the process of trying to organise a class trip based on the Monmouth Rebellion in November. As soon as I have more details I will let you know.

Homework

Homework will continue to be set on Google Classroom. It will be set on Fridays to be completed and 'turned in' by the following Friday. The weekly homework expectations are as follows:

- 1 x Doodle Maths 'Extra' (this will be assigned by me)
- 2 x Doodle Maths daily challenge
- 3 x TT Rockstar sessions (10 mins per session)
- 3 x Doodle English or Doodle Spell daily challenge
- 4 x Reading
- 1 x Spelling list (in preparation for test the following week)

With many of the activities above, the children are well-versed at using these apps so should be able to do so independently.

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