

West Pennard Church of England Primary School



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10th September 2021

Dear Parents and carers of children in Dormouse Class,

I am delighted to be teaching your lovely children and look forward to getting to know them and you in this coming year. Please be assured that their welfare and learning will always be my priority.

Learning in Year 1 looks a little different from Reception and I hope that the transition weeks that have been planned will help your child to settle into new routines smoothly, they have certainly made a great start! It was good to see many of you at the meeting last night, I hope the following is a useful reminder for you, and information for those who were unable to attend.

As well as myself, there will be **Ms A. Truan** (Teaching Assistant) and **Mrs R. Crossman** working in Year 1.

Routines - Please do encourage your child to be as independent as possible. Taking responsibility for their own possessions is an important part of being in Year 1 and consequently, we do not organise or check the children's book bags etc. They are expected to empty them themselves, putting reading books, planners and notes from home in the right place etc.

Reading – books can be changed every day if they have been read at home. Please sign the planner to let us know that your child has indeed read! You might also like to include a comment about the lovely reading you have heard – thank you! Obviously, your child will read to adults in school frequently and so it is very important that they always have their reading book in school. The planners have bookmarks that are designed to support a discussion about reading with your child. I hope you find these helpful.

PE – Please ensure your child's PE kit is **named** and always in school. Please be aware that for safety reasons long hair should be tied back for PE. Indeed, it is an expectation that long hair is always tied back. The target for getting changed is 5 minutes for PE. To enable this to be a reality, please allow your child to practise dressing/undressing themselves at home, against the clock/using a kitchen timer would be even better and certainly more fun!

Bags – As I indicated in my letter before the holidays, I would be grateful if your child could have **just two bags in school**, their book bag and their PE bag. We do not have space in the cloakroom to accommodate other bags especially rucksacks. It is important that coats and



bags do not fall off pegs and become a trip hazard as our cloakroom is the fire exit. Thank you.

Water bottles - I understand the need for your child to be hydrated during the day. To this end if your child's water bottle has a sports cap (as I suggested in my previous letter) it will be on their table to be accessed throughout the day.

Toilets – Children need to ask to use the toilet and this request will always be granted.

Enrichment Fun Fridays– Now that your child has entered KS1 every Friday they will have the joy of Enrichment when they can experience the breadth of creative, sporting and outdoor learning. This will be led by other teachers in school. Dormouse Class Fun Fridays will be in the mornings until half term and thereafter in the afternoons until Christmas.

Learning – Our learning this term will begin with a period of transition to help the class adjust to life in KS1 on the theme of 'the Dormouse', our namesake. We will then have fun exploring the various genres of books in 'Charlie Cook's Favourite Book', before moving onto a theme of 'How to catch Santa' towards the end of term. Further details about this are attached.

Rewards – In Dormouse Class we have a culture of praise and celebration. Consequently, there are many ways that children can be rewarded. There are always team points, pebbles and stickers for wonderful behaviour and work, as well as 'The Rainbow', why not ask your child about this.

Home Learning – There will be a piece of Home Learning set every Friday and this should be completed by the following Friday. This gives opportunity for it to be completed on a school night or over the weekend, whichever is the most convenient to you. Home Learning should take around 15-20 minutes to complete, and will include handwriting practice and Spelling. This will be accessed online.

Please use the **Planner as the primary means of communication**, these are checked every day. In addition, there is a Class Dojo, an online means of communication. This will be checked at either end of my school day though as you will appreciate I am unable to answer any emails from you whilst teaching your lovely children!

As I mentioned last night, please be aware that many children will need to build up their learning stamina after the break. That and the addition of the Year 1 curriculum means that your children will be tired, and consequently even a little emotional, this is entirely normal and to be expected at this point of the school year.

Finally, your partnership in the education of your child is greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in anyway, my door is always open to parents.

With kind regards

Mrs Dorothy Robinson