

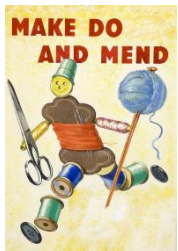
Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year at West Pennard Primary – I hope you all had a refreshing summer break and made the most of the dry weather. I am delighted to be teaching your child and the class are already proving to be great role models to the younger children. They continue to impress me with their positive attitudes to learning and their willingness to develop their skills.

It is great to see the children coming in so positively in the mornings. To encourage this, I ask parents to let children come into class on their own in the mornings. This year we also have the use of the School Planners as a means of communication and Class Dojo which is an online system for reminders and messages. For more complex issues which need my attention, please contact me on the above methods of communication to arrange a meeting or follow up telephone conversation. Please do not hesitate to contact me; I am always happy to listen and discuss any concerns.

Topic

Linked to Art & DT/Music



Our topic for this term is 'Make Do and Mend'. This will be the stimulus for all of our non-core subjects. We will be focusing on World War One for the first half term and World War Two for the second half term. We will be exploring the timeline of events and the impact of the war within our locality. This will include practical activities such as cooking and tasting wartime foods, listening to wartime music and understanding the importance of rationing. We also have the opportunity to be part of a Remembrance Day art exhibition where the children will be creating poppies to display at Wells Cathedral.

We also hope to go on a school trip! Watch this space!

Science

Electricity

The children will be taught to:

- Associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit.
- Compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the on/off position of switches.
- Use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.

Light

The children will be taught to:

- recognise that light appears to travel in straight lines
- use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye
- explain that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes
- use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them



French

The children will be having French lessons every Friday with Madame Taylor who is a language specialist. She will be focusing on locational language with an end goal of students completing tours of West Pennard entirely in French.

PE/Enrichment

PE will be on Thursday and will have the opportunity to be involved in a PE session and a dance session. However, the children should have their PE kit in every day as sometimes timetables do change. Please can all children have suitable outdoor trainers – they will get muddy!



The class will also take part in cookery, sewing and gardening sessions as part of Enrichment. I will remind children as the weather deteriorates that appropriate outdoor clothing such as wellies might be needed on Thursdays.

Literacy



In Literacy, the whole school is now using a 'topic based' approach. This means that all of our writing this term will be linked to our 'Make Do and Mend' unit. During the term, we will study stories with historical settings, diary writing, persuasive writing and poetry.

The children will also have 3 guided reading sessions a week which will have a strong focus on reading comprehension. They will continue to have focused spelling sessions differentiated according to their ability and there will be a strong emphasis on grammar and punctuation.

How you can help your child:

- *Please try to read regularly with your child. Reading aloud helps them to decompose new words and understand their meaning. Therefore developing your child's vocabulary. It is also important for your child to hear you read to them as you model good reading habits.*
- *Talk about the books they are reading: What was their favourite bit? Did they have a favourite character? What do they think will happen next? Lots of discussion helps develop children's language and understanding of the text.*

Maths



All teaching and learning in maths will be planned according to your child's current ability and target. Part of each lesson is devoted to mental maths and all the children are working towards increasing and improving their mental and written calculation strategies. The mathematical topics of place value, addition and subtraction, classifying numbers, 3D shape, fraction and coordinates will be covered during the term following the revised National Curriculum. The children will develop their understanding of times tables up to 12 x 12 and will be given weekly tests. They will also have weekly arithmetic tests.

How you can help your child:

- *Encourage mental maths skills such as adding and subtracting differing amounts.*
- *Rehearse times table facts and related division facts.*
- *Provide opportunities for practical measuring in metres, cm, and mm.*
- *Give them experience of handling and identifying money, working out costs of items and change. When shopping work out which offers are cheaper and by how much.*
- *Support your child in telling the time on analogue and digital clocks.*

Homework

Homework will be set weekly and children should spend short periods throughout the week on it.

1 x Spelling and Reading Homework (intervals throughout the week)

1 x Maths Homework (20 minute activity)

1 x Literacy Homework (20 minute activity)

The work will generally be set on a **Wednesday (commencing on the 19th September so I can go through each activity type in detail)** and should be handed in for marking the following **Monday**.

This year the children will have a planner which they will need in school every day. The children will fill in any homework or reminders that they have in here. They will then take this home to share with parents. We ask that as parents you sign the planner at the end of each week and write any relevant comments in the box. We will sign it on Monday.

Children should be reading at least 4 x per week for a sustained period of about 25 minutes each time. They should mark the days that they read at home in their planner on the side which is labelled 'completed at home' and hand their planner in on a Monday at the same time as their homework.

We celebrate and foster a love of reading in Year 6 and children can gain rewards linked to the Accelerated Reader system. They will also be given regular spellings to learn at home and these will be tested in their spelling groups. Please support your child in learning their spellings – perhaps by giving them a mini-test to check their progress. Spellings will always be linked to patterns and strategies that they are learning in school. Sometimes, there will be 'extra' tasks set which may have different deadlines.

I look forward to a successful year working alongside your child.

Mrs A Pinsent
Year 6 Teacher and English Lead