

West Pennard Church of England Primary School

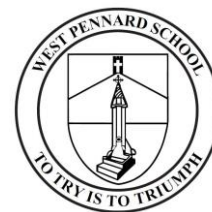


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Headteacher Miss J. Hale



23rd April 2019,

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed your Easter breaks and are ready for a very busy term ahead. I would like to take the opportunity, as last term, to thank you for the super support you provided with your child's reading. We have seen some really take off as a result. Regular reading with an adult really pays dividends. The more they read, the better they get. I would also like to thank you all for the excellent support you gave for our biscuit sale. We raised an impressive £93, which, when put in the context of it equating to almost 4 months of education for Ashlyn in the Philippines, makes it even more respectable. Thank you so much on her and Compassion UK's behalf. Anyway, back to the informative bit. Below are a few notes that may help with the smooth running of school life. I hope you find them informative and of interest.

There's a Hole in My Bucket...

We are using our class book – 'Billy's Bucket' in to some really exciting areas of the curriculum this term. In History we will be learning about seaside holidays in the past. We will explore how the Georgians and Victorians spent their leisure time and will be comparing this to seaside holidays that we enjoy today. In Science we are going to continue to learn about the classification of different animals – but with a sea creature focus. We will also explore how we can look after such creatures and our oceans by learning how we can reduce, reuse or recycle items that may otherwise have ended up in their habitats. In Art and Design we will be designing our own buckets for use at the seaside and linking this to our previous work on materials in Science.

Homework

Homework will continue to be given to the children in person every Friday during term time and will often consist of a game or activity as well as optional links to online activities to support the learning in Maths that week. In addition to this there will be games and activities to support the learning of phonics and spelling, punctuation and grammar.

The children should, in the main, be able to do much of the work on their own and extend themselves with the online activities and Times Table Rockstars practise. Spare copies of homework can be requested through Class Dojo. I will endeavour to check the inbox regularly through the week; however, a question earlier in the week is preferable, as it will ensure a prompt enough explanation prior to the hand-in date. No last minute Thursday night panics please.

Reading

In addition to the homework, it is expected that the children read four times a week, and, where possible, to one of you. I realise that people lead busy lives, as a parent of three young children myself, but it is imperative that they are heard as much as possible, in school and at home, to improve the fluency in which they read but also to ensure that they understand what they have read. We the benefit of hearing all the children read, over the year, and to be able to see what can be achieved when supported well to do so. Miss Harding and I will hear your child read as often as we can and will sign their planner when we do so. It is certainly equally valuable for you to read to them as well, as it will improve their knowledge of stories and help instil a love of reading.



French

This term Year 2 will be having weekly French lessons on a Friday morning with Madame Taylor. This is in preparation for Key Stage 2 where the learning of a foreign language is part of the curriculum. I'm sure it will give them a good start and something that they can build upon next year and in the coming years.

Heads Up

We have our Squash and Biscuits afternoon coming up this term. It is currently planned for Friday 5th July, although, sometimes things do change, so please don't make arrangements for time off work etc to help this far in advance. I will let you know nearer the time that it is confirmed for that day. Anyway, I did want to give you as much advanced warning as possible, having recently seen the Peppa Pig episode where Madame Gazelle gives a day's notice to make a castle and the understandable parental gasps that accompany the request. Our theme will be 'Seaside Holidays'. I will send a page of ideas just after half term. In the meantime, I will ask the children to pair up in the next few weeks, so that you have chance to get things organised, especially if you are planning to go away at Half Term or attend the festival – it may feel a long way off, but actually there aren't that many weekends if you take those two things into account.

Also, as part of our project on Billy's Bucket I will be setting a homework project and thought I would give you advanced warning. In Billy's Bucket he sees (through his imagination) a vast world of sea creatures, submarines and whales etc when he looks into his bucket. I am going to challenge the children to create their own world inside a bucket. It can be an actual bucket if you wish, or something similar, such as a flower pot or large yogurt pot / container. They could create worlds out of Lego / plasticine / junk materials etc etc. It doesn't need to be a sea themed world – it is any world they want. The purpose of which is so that they will be able to describe the world inside their bucket, once created, and having brought it into school.

Keeping in Touch

I hope that everyone found Class Dojo a useful tool for keeping in touch and asking questions / clarifications. I will continue to use it this term and hope to be able to post more pictures of your child's successes / academic achievements. If you have lost your log in details or have a new phone / device, please contact me and I will re-issue log-ins. I can do this also for TT Rockstars. Please encourage the use of this. It is a paid-for site provided by us to help the children know their tables, which are imperative for many areas of Maths as they go through school, and life. The children will now be tested on their tables knowledge nationally in Year 4 from next year.

Finally, some key days to remember –

Mondays – PE Kit required

Thursdays – PE Kit required

I hope this has given you some useful information. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or put a note in your child's learning journal or through dojo.

Thank you for your support,

Mr Tony Wheat