

West Pennard Church of England Primary School

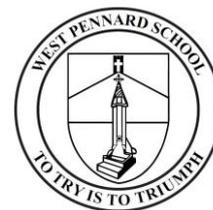


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Headteacher Miss J. Hale



8th January 2018,

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and are feeling suitably refreshed and ready for a busy term in Class 4. Enclosed with this letter is an overview of the curriculum that your child will be following this term, and below are a few notes that may help with the smooth running of school life. I hope you find it informative and of interest.

Homework

Homework will continue to be given out every Friday during term time and is expected in by the following Friday each week. The homework will be largely the same format as last term, with an activity to consolidate the previous week's work in Maths, a number of links to useful websites and the weekly spellings. The purpose of the homework, as last term, is not to introduce something new or unfamiliar to the children, but to consolidate what they have learned during the previous week and allow you to keep abreast of what they are doing in school.

As last term, there are three different versions of the homework, an optional 'challenge' homework sheet and three different spelling lists, as well as an optional challenge spelling list. A 'support' list is also provided for children that are in receipt of support outside of the classroom setting or for whom we deem List 1 to be too much of a challenge. Your child will be given the correct homework sheet and will know the list of spellings that they are to learn. However, should you wish your child to change spelling groups or to receive a different homework sheet, please let us know by way of a note or through Class Dojo. The children are now expected to be getting at least half of their spellings correct in the weekly tests. Children that do not achieve 5/10 are retested on a Monday playtime (this does not apply to children that have specific learning needs). Please help your child re-learn their spellings over the weekend, should they be required to.

If any clarification is needed as to what to do, homework wise, please contact me through Class Dojo *see 'Keeping in Touch' later in this letter. 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 every night, and, where possible, to one of you, or even a sibling. I realise that people lead busy lives, but many children can 'drop off' with their reading in Year 4 as it is sometimes assumed that as they can read books on their own, they are understanding what they have read. Mrs Buckley and I will endeavour to hear your child read as often as we can and will sign reading diaries when we do so. The children that have put in the time at home with their reading will continue to be rewarded with extra golden time on a Friday.



Specialist Teaching

As part of our music provision, your child will be taught to play the ukulele for an hour per week by a peripatetic music teacher.

We will also be making better use of our particular skills / interests in school this year with a 'class swap' once a week between Mrs Bridson and myself. For an hour session every Tuesday I will be teaching Computing to Year 5 and Mrs Bridson will teach Year 4 elements of spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as reading comprehension.

Keeping in Touch

Please feel free to contact me with any queries or concerns through Class Dojo or through a note in your child's reading diary - please tell them to show me, though, as I read with one guided reading group through the week and if your child is in another I may not 'pick it up' straight away. Although I am available to see you face to face in school, I'm sure you will understand that the mornings are a very busy time. I am in school from 7:15, so if you do need to see me, any time after that until 8:25 is preferred.

Trips / appeals

We are exploring some interesting areas of the curriculum this term, as outlined on the attached sheet. In Science we will be exploring solids, liquids and gases. As well as habitats. We intend to visit 'The Wild Place' near Cribbs Causeway to learn about animals in their natural environment and adaptation. Offers of help from those with DBS Clearance will be gratefully received.

Squash and Biscuits

Your child will be partnered up later this week so that they can produce their Squash and Biscuits game at home for the end of this half term.

Finally, some key days to remember -

Tuesdays - PE Kit required (Pro-Coaching)

Thursdays - PE Kit required (Pro-Coaching)

Fridays - homework is given out (and handed in).

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 reading diary.

Thank you for your support,

Mr Tony Wheat