

West Pennard Church of England Primary School

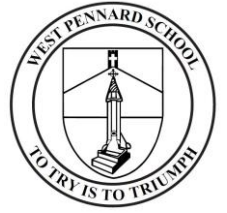


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Headteacher Miss J. Hale



Welcome to Year 3 and the Juniors!

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable summer holiday and that your child is ready for the challenges of a new school year. I would like to wish you a warm welcome to Year 3 - I am looking forward to getting to know both you and your child this half term.

You will probably hear your child coming home talking about a 'Growth Mindset' over the next couple of weeks - this is something I am very passionate about. It is truly amazing what children can achieve through dedication and hard work. Some of my favourite phrases in my classroom include: "Practise makes progress!", "Have you made a wonderful, glorious mistake today?" and "Remember the power of yet! I can't do it yet, but with hard work and effort, I will be able to." Please ask your child to share their knowledge of Growth Mindset with you over the next couple of weeks.

Mrs Richenda Crossman is Year 3's teaching assistant and a true asset to our class. She is highly skilled and will be working with various children across the curriculum.

Fortnightly Enrichment Thursdays will continue this year starting on the 14th September. Mrs Wade, who taught the class on Wednesday afternoons in Year 2, will be teaching the class on Non-Enrichment Thursdays.

Enclosed with this letter is an overview of the curriculum that your child will be following this term, and below are some points that will help with the smooth running of school life in Year 3.

Progression into Key Stage 2 ~

Mornings:

Key Stage 2 children are expected to remain in the playground until the whistle is blown at 8:50am. We know they have been used to going into their classroom before this time, and we would greatly appreciate your help in reminding them not to do so.

Lunchtime:

Key Stage 2 children have a longer working morning, with lunchtime starting at 12:20pm.

Newsletters/Homework:

In Key Stage 1, newsletters and homework are put into the children's bags for them. As part of their growing independence, we expect the children to take responsibility for putting these into their own bags. If you feel you have missed a newsletter, these can be found on the school's website.

Topic ~

Our History topic this term is 'World War Two' with a particular focus on what it was like to be a child during this time. We will be visiting the Fleet Air Arm Museum on Tuesday 3rd October to further our learning through some 'hands on' workshops. I will send out more information soon, but to give you plenty of notice, the children will be required to dress up as 'evacuees'!

Home Learning ~

Reading:

I am a huge fan of reading, and one of my main priorities in Year 3 is to promote a love of reading in all children. Reading can take children to places they've never been before and enhance their imagination. It helps to expand children's vocabulary, it increases their knowledge and can help to improve writing skills. Year 3 marks the exciting transition for many children from the reading scheme to becoming a 'free reader', which means they will have a choice from the school and library service books. Your child will bring home a reading book and reading diary each day in a plastic, zipped wallet. Each morning, they will be responsible for placing it in the reading book tubs so that we can check if their book needs changing. It is important that your child has the opportunity to read and discuss their book with you at home, so please write in the reading diary each time you hear him/her read, and also clearly indicate if your child needs a new book. We can change books daily if need be! As part of our English work this term we will be studying books and verse by Roald Dahl. If you have any of his books at home, you may wish to let your child bring one into school to share with the class. Please name any books that do come in, as we often end up with a collection of the same ones!

Spelling:

We will investigate spelling rules and patterns in class and your child will bring home a list of spelling words on a **Wednesday** to learn for a test on the following **Monday**. Some children will also work in a small group with Mrs Crossman revisiting phonics, spelling patterns and high frequency words.

More information about spelling in Year 3 will be sent home soon. This will include a list of Year 3's No No words and a copy of the New Curriculum Spelling List that your child should know by the end of Year 4.

Maths:

Maths activities which help to consolidate the week's learning objectives will be sent home on a **Wednesday** to be returned by the following **Monday**. If you would like your child to carry out any additional home learning on the given objective, then please feel free to do so. It can be put in the homework folder along with the set homework.

I would also ask you to help your child in the learning of times tables. By the end of Year 3 your child is expected to know their $\times 2$, $\times 3$, $\times 4$, $\times 5$, $\times 8$ and $\times 10$ tables, plus the corresponding division facts i.e. $2 \times 10 = 20 / 20 \div 10 = 2$. Times tables are very much a part of our daily maths work and essential to number work in future years.

Homework is designed to reinforce skills learned and practised in school. Please let me know if your child is having difficulty with homework or if it is causing anxiety for any reason. As a rough guide we suggest that your child spends approximately 10 minutes reading with an adult every night or as often as is possible; and up to 30 minutes on the spelling activity and the same on the maths activity.

And finally, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me if you have any questions or concerns. After school in the playground is always a good time to catch me for a chat. With best wishes,

Emma King