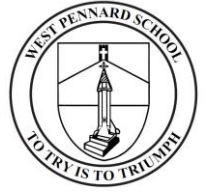




Weekly Newsletter

Written for the Week Beginning 22nd July 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of this academic year, I want to reflect on what a positive year it has been. We have a really strong team at West Pennard and working together with the whole school community has enabled great things to happen. The cherry on the cake came in June when we were recognised as being an 'excellent' church school through our SIAMS inspection. Although this grading is important and is reflective of what we've achieved, the deeper sense of pride for me came on the day of inspection during the learning walk with the inspector. In every single classroom there was a real sense of purposeful learning with children keen to explain what they were doing. The inspector said, 'you have a great team here ... I can feel it'. To me that means everything.

In addition to this we improved our academic outcomes for children with the percentage of children reaching expected levels above national and well above national in many areas. Our biggest achievements were in reading. I believe that reading is the key to learning. When children can read well and with deeper understanding then they can unlock doors to their learning and can become independent learners. Our drive to improve reading over the past two years through the way early reading is taught and by purchasing Accelerated Reader and high quality resources can be evidenced in our results. In Year One 90% (82% National) of children passed the phonics screening check. In Year Two 81% (75% National) of children reached the expected standard in reading, but what was really impressive was that 45% of these children reached the higher standard compared to 26% nationally. In Year 6 we had equally impressive results in reading: 88% of children reached the expected standard with 38% reaching the higher standard, both of which were well above national averages.

Next academic year, one of our development points is to look at the way we teach writing and develop a really consistent approach throughout the school. Standards in writing at West Pennard are good and have improved considerably over the past two years but next year we will be looking to improve standards even further so that they are as impressive as our standards in reading. We are also excited to be accessing expert training in maths through the Bolean Maths Hub based in Bristol. Mr Wheat will lead the school on this journey and Miss Morris will also access training to disseminate down to colleagues.

It is also time to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children. We really do wish them all the best in their respective futures and hope that a little bit of 'West Pennard' goes with them on their way. On Wednesday we had our Leavers Service in which the children from Year 6 all took a stone from the koinonia bowl to signify their moving on. During the service Rev Chris gave them a book 'Moving On', a bookmark and also a cross, made from yew, originating in the Holy Land. Mrs Robinson presented all the children in the school with an elephant button to symbolise that the Year 6s will forever be in our memories. At this time of looking back as well as forward, we can easily reflect on the many rich opportunities that the children have had during their time with us; the visitors and visits, the enrichment activities, the musical and dramatic opportunities, and of course the lessons. They really are a special group of children. We hope that they continue to soar and pursue their goals and their interests as they move on to Secondary School.

Finally it leaves me to wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer holiday. For those of you that are leaving us this year, we pass on our thanks for being part of our school community and our fond farewells. We look forward to seeing everyone else back in school on Wednesday 4th September (please note INSET days on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September).

With very best wishes

Jo Hale

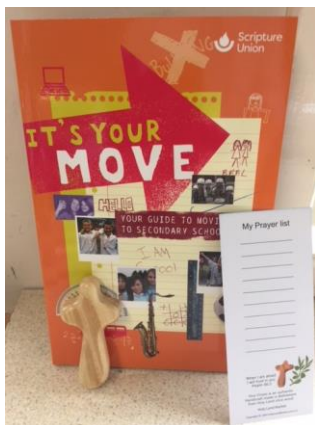
Tel: 01458 832866

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Headteacher Miss J. Hale

Kind donation

Kindly presented to the children by Revd. Chris on behalf of the Benefice of Bruton.



Year 6 Fun Day!

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their treat afternoon. It included a picnic, a number of turns on a bouncy inflatable and an ice-cream. Fun was had by all!



Music Tuition for 2019/2020

We have peripatetic tutors coming into school every week to teach Yrs 3-6 various musical instruments: At present we have keyboard, guitar, drums, flute, and violin. If your child is interested please email the school office who can forward your contact details onto tutors so they can liaise directly with you.

Gentle Reminder

Please can all Year 6 parents make sure they log into School Money and clear any monies owed by the end of term. Thank you.

Reminders for First Week of Autumn Term

- Children return to school on **Wednesday 4th September**.
- No extra- curricular clubs the first week. Clubs will start week commencing 9th September.
- Lunch menu will be **Week 1**.

Important Dates for the start of the autumn term

Monday 2 nd September	INSET Day – School Closed
Tuesday 3 rd September	INSET Day – School Closed
Wednesday 4 th September	Children return to school
Thursday 5 th September	Osmington Residential Meeting for Year 6 parents 5.30pm
Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th September	Year 6 Residential to Osmington Bay
Tuesday 8 th October	Individual school photos Cross Country – Millfield Prep
Wednesday 9 th October	Year 6 to Bristol Hippodrome for The Lion King
Wednesday –Friday 16 th -18 th October	Year 5 Residential to Kilve Court
Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November	HALF TERM
Tuesday 5 th November	Cross Country - TBC
Thursday 7 th November	Year 2 Author Visit – St John's Infant School
Tuesday 26 th November	Bag2School Collection
Friday 13 th December	Flu vaccines for whole school Image Musical Theatre – Robin Hood
Friday 20 th December	Break up for Christmas

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