

West Pennard Church of England Primary School

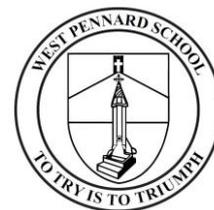


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Headteacher: Miss J. Hale



8th January 2020,

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had an enjoyable festive period, spent with family and friends and are now ready for the exciting term ahead. Having spent time with Year 6 before the winter break, I was able to take time in getting to know the whole class and am excited to start the New Year where we left off. 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.

Warm Times Ahead

Our class book – 'Holes' sets the scene this term in Year 6, as this will be our focus point in English, where we write our own flashback stories. Holes will also allow us to explore further ideas across the curriculum in Science and Topic. Year 6 will look closely at the warmer climate of Australia and discuss the current issues faced there, with clear thoughts on the impact this has had on our climate to date. Children will also investigate the classification of different animals in Science, such as: mammals, birds, amphibians, fish and reptiles. This will then permit us to find out more about the certain species and their habitats in Australia. A point of interest throughout the topic would be the work of Captain James Cook. Through class study, children will learn how his discovery allowed Britain to expand their territory and form the country it is today: Australia.

Homework

As before, homework will not have changed. Children can expect: Spellings, Grammar Activities, Maths and Reading, to be completed at home. Homework is set on a Wednesday and should be completed by the following Monday. As young model students, it is expected that they take responsibility for their homework and complete it on time. Should there be an issue with this, then I encourage Parents and Carers to discuss issues with me. Again, it is important to note that homework is put in place to consolidate the learning that has taken place during the week, as a way of summarising the weeks teaching. Planners are additionally a great way of keeping in touch with us teaching staff, so I welcome any messages for me to discuss if necessary - providing, they are bringing this item into school every day.

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, but it is imperative that they are heard as much as possible, in school and at home, to improve the fluency with which they read but also to ensure that they understand what they have read – as this will improve their quizzing through AR. We have 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. The teaching staff in Year 6 will hear your child read as often as we can and will sign the 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.

Keeping in Touch



I would like to thank all of those parents who are currently using Class Dojo and encourage those who are not to come onboard - Class Dojo is a great way of communicating between home and school. If you have lost your log in details or have a new phone / device following Christmas, 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 SATS this summer term.

SATS

As you will have already been aware of, Year 6 SATS (SPaG, Reading & Maths) tests will be taking place in May. As their teacher, I feel it is important that we maintain a calm approach to this period, yet make it clear, that a positive attitude is needed to achieve the best we can this year. I would advise any Parents or Carers to speak with me individually, if they are concerned about the upcoming statutory tests. During this term there will be an informative SATS meeting for you to attend, so that you are able to have a clear picture of the content of the statutory tests and to ask any questions that you may have. More details to follow ...

Finally, some key days to remember:

Thursdays – PE Kit required – although it is important to have a PE kit in every day.

There is no swimming this term for us, so no 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 Class Dojo.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to an enjoyable year.

Mr Andrew Venning