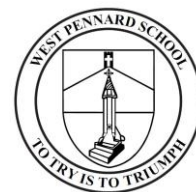




Weekly Newsletter

Written for the Week Beginning 22nd June 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

As I continue to work virtually from home again this week, it has been really great to hear just how well our children (who have returned) are settling in. This week, we welcomed back some of our Fox Class children in Year R and some additional children to our Year 1 and Year 6 bubbles. We have also seen an increase in children accessing our Key Worker bubble as more and more key worker parents go back to work. I think it is important to make clear that as a school, unless government guidelines change, we only have capacity for a certain number of children and that priority will always be given to key worker and vulnerable children. Our capacity is constantly assessed as part of the ongoing risk assessment process. Having had communication this week with other headteachers in the Street and Glastonbury area, this is a situation that is shared among all schools. Of course, we would love nothing more than to have our whole school back before the summer holidays, but unless there is a change to the guidelines this will not be possible.

We have noticed that because our children have been out of the routines of school and learning as part of a class, they are showing signs of tiredness. This is most likely due to a reduction in learning stamina and we have noticed that this is particularly the case for some of our younger children. The teachers are adapting their planning to support the children. Please can you ensure that your children have a good bedtime routine and get plenty of sleep. We understand that getting back into a routine will always be difficult after such a long time out of it. Eliminating screen time for 2 hours before bed can help with this, as can a warm bath and a bedtime story. We really appreciate your support with this.

This week I was so pleased to hear about Marcus Rashford's free school meals victory. Using his footballer status, his own personal experience and his compassionate nature to press the government to do more was nothing short of a 'game changer'. It just goes to show how influential young people can be. At age 22, Marcus Rashford has had a positive impact on approximately 1.3 million children in the UK whose families claim free school meals. What a fantastic role model for children to look up to!

Thinking ahead to next year, the senior leadership team and governors have been very busy during the last couple of months ensuring that staffing is in place and set for September 2020. As you know, I will be moving on from West Pennard to take on a new role in a school closer to my home, however, I leave the school in the very capable hands of Mr Wheat who will be taking up the acting headteacher role in September. I am sure that Mr Wheat will continue to build upon the developments that we have achieved as a whole school team over the course of the last 3 years. Mrs Pinsent and Mrs Clarke will remain part of the leadership team and are both excellent practitioners who have proven track records for school development and have both been an integral part of school development under my leadership. To enable Mr Wheat to fully concentrate on the leadership of the school, we have appointed a teacher for our Year 2 class. We welcome Mrs Jessica Rew who is an experienced teacher – having taught in both London and overseas. Her love of working in education and enthusiasm really shone through during the interview and she is delighted to be joining the West Pennard team in September.

Another staffing change is that, following the birth of her daughter, Mrs Pinsent will be working in a part time capacity from September. She will be working 3 days a week (Mon – Wed) and we have therefore appointed a job share for her. We are absolutely delighted to welcome Mrs Alison Major who is also an experienced teacher and comes to us from a school in Yeovil. Alison brings a wealth of interests with her including a passion for science. Mrs Pinsent and Mrs Major will therefore share the Year 5 class from September. Mrs Major will work (Wed – Fri) to allow for a cross over period between the two teachers. The two teachers are already working together on planning for their class next year. The only other change is that Miss Morris will be teaching Year 6 from September. Meaning that she will be 'moving up' with her class. She is really pleased to be able to support the children she knows so well as they start their final year with us next year. There are no other anticipated changes to the structure of the teaching staff or classes.

With my very best wishes

Jo Hale

Tel: 01458 832866

Email: westpennardprimary@gmail.com

Headteacher Miss J. Hale

Quote of the week

Your ordinary acts
of love and hope
point to the
extraordinary
promise that every
human life is of
inestimable worth.

Desmond Tutu

School Structure from September 2020

Acting Headteacher: Mr Wheat

SENCO and part of the Senior Leadership Team: Mrs Clarke

English Lead and part of the Senior Leadership Team: Mrs Pinsent

Fox Class teachers: Mrs Free and Mrs Fowler

Dormouse Class teacher: Mrs Robinson

Mole Class teacher: Mrs Rew

Hare Class teacher: Miss Holmes

Squirrel Class teacher: Mr Bisgrove

Otter Class teachers: Mrs Pinsent and Mrs Major

Hedgehog Class teacher: Miss Morris

Black Lives Matter

There is a lot in the news at the moment about 'Black Lives Matter'; something which our school ethos supports wholeheartedly. We live our lives by considering that 'since God so loved us, so we must love one another'. As a church school we chose this statement as it can be found in the bible (1 John 4 v11) but also, the message can be found in all holy books and, even if you do not follow a faith, is a code by which many choose to live their lives by. Every person deserves to be treated with respect and to be given the same opportunities, education and aspirations in life. The news shows people protesting on the streets, but here are people protesting through the power of music; these are really powerful songs. Listen to them, and learn from the messages which the singers are sharing with you.

Something inside so strong - Labi Siffre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otuwNwsqHmQ>

Young, gifted and black - Nina Simone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTGiKYqk0gY>

A change is gonna come - Sam Cooke

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPr3yvkhYsE>

Mr Wheat

Home Learning

As we continue to welcome children back in the year groups stipulated by Government we would like to thank those of you that have not been able to return yet for your continued support. We appreciate it has been very difficult for many during this time, juggling home schooling, work commitments and also ensuring the wellbeing of your immediate and wider family. Many members of staff have had, and continue to have, similar plate spinning to undertake. We all look forward to being able to fully return to normal and be together as a whole school community once more.

To further support home learning we have put together a collection of educational APPs, some of which you may well already be aware of (see attachment).

Mr Wheat

Free Websites and Apps to support with... **Maths and Science**



TopMarks

www.topmarks.co.uk/

< - A great host of interactive games!



Dragon Box (Paid App)

www.dragonbox.com



Bee Bot App for Computing (Free App)

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/bee-bot/id500131639>



Times Table Rockstars (Paid App or Free with School Subscription)

<https://ttrockstars.com/>



Cheebies - Numberblocks

www.bbc.co.uk/cheebies/shows/numberblocks



Explify for Science

www.explify.welcome.ac.uk/



ICT Games - For Literacy and Maths

www.ictgames.co.uk/



Pratiggy Maths (Free App)

www.pratiggygame.com/

↖ We love!

Tel: 01458 832866

Email: westpennardprimary@gmail.com

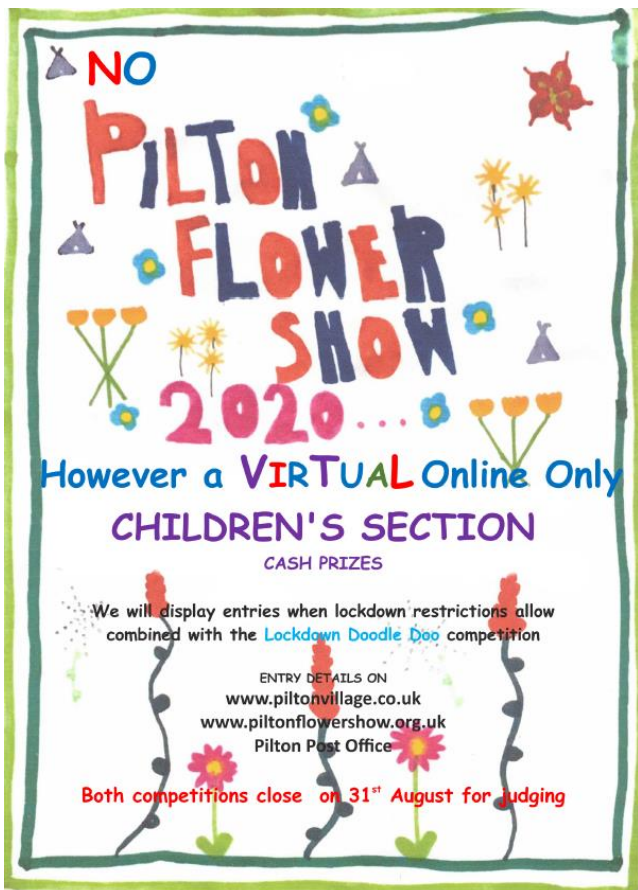
Headteacher Miss J. Hale

Absence Reminder

If your child is expected to be in school (returning Year R, Year 1 and Year 6) but they are unwell, please contact the office to report their absence before 9.30am. Thank you.

Pilton Show

Time to get creative, green fingered or even to become a culinary genius by entering the Virtual section of the Pilton Show this year, especially if you are in a year group that we haven't been able to welcome back yet. To enter, follow the details below and submit by 31st August.



PILTON SHOW CHILDREN'S CLASSES

TO ENTER: Please send DIGITAL PHOTOS or SCANS by email before 31st August, giving your name, contact details, category and class (e.g. J2) to gail.milne@btconnect.com putting 'Children's Classes' in the subject line

Section G: Under Five

1. A hand-coloured rainbow
2. A handmade decorated mask
3. A leaf rubbing or composite rubbings (A4 max)
4. A drawing of a house
5. A painting of a creature, real or imaginary

Section H: Five - Seven

1. A painted rainbow
2. A handmade decorated mask
3. A photo of the entrant's face painting on a family member's face
4. A photo of the entrant wearing a self-made flower crown
5. A monster made of vegetables

Section I: Eight - Eleven

1. A rainbow made from nature, leaves, flowers or feathers
2. A handmade decorated mask
3. A poem or prose (A4 max) describing your experience of lockdown
4. A decorated cake or biscuit
5. A photo of a flower

Section J: Twelve - Sixteen

1. A rainbow made from nature, leaves, flowers or feathers
2. A handmade decorated mask
3. A poem or prose (A4 max) on what you missed during lockdown
4. A decorated pizza

- Mask can mean fantasy, as first intended, as well as face covering
- Closing date 31st August.
- One entry per child per class.

Key Worker Provision

The children were kept busy this week making robots – looks like they had lots of fun!



Tel: 01458 832866

Email: westpennardprimary@gmail.com

Headteacher Miss J. Hale

Where did you get that hat?
This week Dormouse Class (at home and in school) made new hats for Harbet, inspired by Emily Gravett's book, 'Old Hat.'



A Virtual Afternoon with Henry VIII

On Thursday Hedgehog Class had a virtual talk and a questions and answers session with Henry VIII. They were told about his chopping and changing and some of the reasons for, and results of, his many marriages. A great many thanks to Mike Farley for helping bring history to life!

Mr Wheat

INSET days for the rest of this academic year

Friday 26th June is no longer an INSET day - this was changed to Monday 1st June. Therefore, there will be key worker childcare provision on this date.

Monday 29th June - this remains an INSET day and school is closed to ALL children
There will be NO keyworker provision on this date

Monday 20th July - this remains an INSET day and school is closed to ALL children

Tel: 01458 832866

Email: westpennardprimary@gmail.com

Headteacher Miss J. Hale