

West Pennard C of E VC Primary School



The Christmas tree arrived in school over the weekend and was adorned with decorations brought in by the children. We have created a fixing for a tree to be sited here to make this a firm tradition for years to come.



'Since God so loved us, so we must love one another' (1 John 4 v11)

Heads Up

Over the coming months we will be working on our curriculum, tailoring learning opportunities and curriculum drivers in order that what we teach is of greater relevance to our children, our setting and circumstance - creating a distinctively West Pennard Curriculum.

Our curriculum will still be based on the teaching of skills, but will have at its heart a greater context for learning, facilitated by global links. We are seeking to create sustainable and equitable links with other schools in different parts of the world through the Connected Classrooms Programme, facilitated by the British Council. A link with a school in India, for example, will be the perfect opportunity to learn about rivers, mountains, animals, the environment, Hinduism and rangoli patterns. We will be able to work together on collaborative projects and compare and contrast aspects of living in our respective localities and countries. Never before has there been such a need to learn from and understand others, but, equally, never before has it been easier to communicate with the world, with the dawn of Zoom, Teams and Skype.

On Tuesday we had a twilight with Lynn Cutler, Schools Advisor with Connecting Classrooms, who will work on our behalf to find the first of our international link schools, with the intention of finding a

school that will be the best match for us. We will then work together as a staff to develop the curriculum to make best use of the learning opportunities that will come from it for particular year groups across the school. We will then develop subsequent links with schools in other parts of the globe. We will keep you up to speed with these exciting developments as they happen.

Have a restful and festive weekend!

Mr Wheat



Stars in Our Eyes

Well done to the following children, who were chosen as the class 'Stars of the Week' this week;

- Year R - Connie & Talia
- Year 1 - Max & Rupert
- Year 2 - Digby & Sienna-Marie
- Year 3 - Lacey & Freddie
- Year 4 - Sofia & Matthew
- Year 5 - Kai & Aldo
- Year 6 - Conor & Harry



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WoW Wednesdays

This week Y6 spent time thinking about what makes them special and unique. We discussed how although snowflakes all tend to look similar, they are actually all completely individual and unique, just like us. We then filled in a snowflake with all of the things that make us or our friend special.



Phonics

Please take time to watch the video link below which shows the correct way to phonetically pronounce sounds that your children are taught in order to read and write. Correct pronunciation is vital in order to ensure your children are segmenting and blending accurately. This will then help with spellings, reading and writing all the way through their time at school.

Mrs Fowler

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE&feature=youtu.be>

Here and There

Priddy Village on The Mendip Hills



The small village of Priddy, high on the Mendip Hills, is criss-crossed with numerous, well-signed, easy to follow public footpaths making it an ideal destination for an enjoyable afternoon family activity. Park adjacent to Priddy Green (BA5 3BB) and head toward the thatched sheep-hurdle stack and on to the village church and school.

From here follow the public footpath finger-posts along ancient greenways to explore the landscape - learn about the impressive cave systems around and under the village; the ancient burial mounds; the Priddy Pools, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); and Priddy Green itself, home to the annual Priddy Folk Festival. Due to its location in the landscape Priddy can be cold, wet and windy so rain-wear and wellies are recommended, even when the weather forecast looks fair. More details, with mapping, can be found here:

<https://getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/local/priddy-green-mendip>

Thank you again Mr Foley for your suggestion

Cranmore Tower to East Somerset Railway



The walk starts from the car park at Cranmore Tower, a tall Victorian folly from the 19th century. The tower, built for John Moore Paget of Cranmore Hall has a viewing area around the top and is designated as a Grade II listed building by English Heritage. The tower served the Home Guard and the Royal Corps of Signals as a lookout tower during World War II. An interesting note is that during some repairs in the 1980's, a Roman fort with a hoard of coins was discovered next to the tower.

Click [here](#) for more details.

APPs of the Week



Word finding games seem to stand the test of time and PopWords! is one of the most popular free word search apps available



DragonBox Algebra 5+ is perfect for giving young children a head start in mathematics and algebra. Children as young as five can easily begin to grasp the basic processes involved in solving linear equations without even realising that they are learning.



With iMovie for iOS and Mac OS, you can enjoy your videos like never before. It's easy to browse your clips and create Hollywood-style trailers and stunning 4K-resolution movies. You can even start editing on iPhone or iPad, then finish on your Mac.



Dexteria turns your iOS device into a therapeutic tool that improves fine motor skills and handwriting readiness in children and adults.

Dexteria's unique hand and finger activities take full advantage of the iOS multi-touch screen to help build strength, control, and dexterity.

Celebrating Successes

George made this wonderfully inventive Minecraft outfit during lockdown, for which he earned a Blue Peter Badge. Well done George!



Wellbeing Research

We have been asked to participate in a Psychology research project that aims to assess the effects of exercise on well-being and self-esteem in primary age pupils during the pandemic. The project only requires pupils in KS2 and their parents to complete an online survey on the Qualtrics platform. All the guidance, rationale, consent forms, data protection and ethical information is provided on this platform for all to see before deciding to participate. I have also attached a letter explaining the project and how to participate if you wish to support this work.

You may access the supporting documentation and the survey using the link below (also in the letter):

https://winchesterpsychology.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d5z7h44i0rb5E0J

RSE Consultation

In light of upcoming changes to requirements for relationships and sex education (RSE), we've been consulting with parents, pupils and staff on how we can make sure that our updated RSE curriculum meets the new requirements as well as the needs of our pupils.

You'll find a copy of our new draft policy on our website by clicking [here](#)

We'd like your feedback on the proposed curriculum, and the wider policy. I have created a google form for any feedback or comments that you wish to make. Click [here](#) for the form.

Writers and Mathematicians of the Week

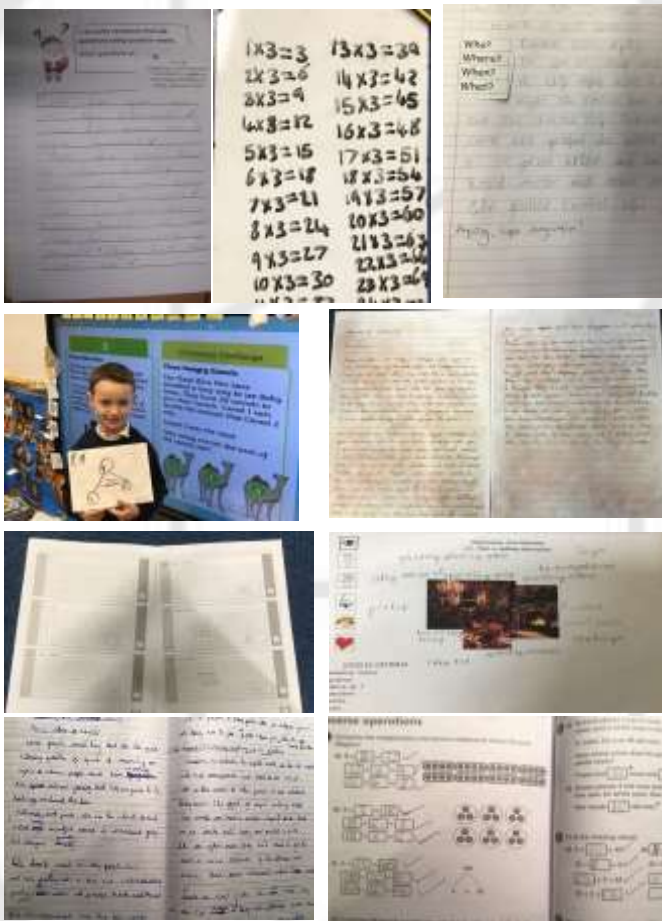
Well done to the following children, who were chosen as the class Writer or the Mathematician of the Week this week:

- Year 1 - Maya & Wilbur
- Year 2 - Tabitha & Henry
- Year 3 - Dolly & Joshua
- Year 4 - Olivia & Zachariah
- Year 5 - Alfie & Rudy
- Year 6 - Ethan & Carmen



Well done to all these hard working children!

See a selection of their impressive work below



BBC Radio Somerset

On Monday selected Year 5 children took part in a Zoom 'Playground Politics' radio recording for BBC Somerset. The recording will be aired on Wednesday 9th December with timings planned as below:

- 0650
- 0725
- 0750
- 0825

Well done Ava, Bethany, Rudy and Benjamin for taking part!

West Pennard PE

In Fox Class we have been using ribbons and scarves in our PE lessons. The scarves were a great way to practice hand eye co-ordination as they are a lot slower to catch than a ball! We scrunched them up in our hands until they were hidden and then threw them up in the air. They looked like fireworks in the sky. We also moved in time to music with them. We then used the ribbons and learnt different ways to move them to make different shapes. One even looked like a snake slithering on the floor. Well done Fox Class - looks like great fun!

Mr Bisgrove



Our Top Doodlers



A big well done to Otter Class! Based on the last seven days, they are West Pennard CE Primary School's top Doodling class, with 87% of students on target in the green zone!

Quote of the Week

'Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.' Pope Francis

Ordering School Meals for Spring Term



Please order your School Meals for next term by logging on to School Money. We need two weeks notice to order so options will be taken off School Money two weeks before. Therefore the deadline for booking the first two weeks of January is Friday 11th December. If your child receives a Universal Infant Free School Meal or Free School Meal you still need to book the meals online but there will be no charge. Please contact the office if you have any queries.

Poetry Competition



Hedgehog class had an exciting delivery this week, when a selection of poetry books arrived from the Premier League, as a congratulations for entering the Premier League Primary Stars poetry competition last year.

Even more exciting was the chance to see Tigris' highly commended poem published in a real poetry book!

Congratulations to Tigris and all of Hedgehog class for producing such brilliant poetry!

Miss Morris

SEND Updates

SEND News Update:

<https://choices.somerset.gov.uk/025/send-news/>

The following link will take you to the SEND News page within Somerset Choices. They produce a weekly update, which any useful highlights are shared within our school parent newsletter. This week has information on the following topics.

Latest news...

- Somerset SEND services set out blueprint for improvement
Services for children and young people with SEND and their families reached an important milestone, with the publication of a plan for rapid improvement.
- Ideas for Christmas holiday activities

Find out what free and affordable activities are on offer from the Community Inclusion and Activity Team over the upcoming school holiday.

- Free online event offering insight from young people from diverse communities

Bridgwater Together is inviting people to attend their free online event taking place this Saturday, 5 December.

- The Somerset Big Tent website is now live!

A new website, which launched on 30 November, provides information about wellbeing support to families in Somerset.

- Emotion Coaching and Mental Health First Aid courses

Find out more and register your interest in courses taking place in 2021.



English Update this week

We have just purchased more stickers for the children to collect in their planners as part of Accelerated Reader. Children can check their own progress towards their goals.

Winter Reading Challenge

Children will be having a printed reading challenge come home with them next week. This is to encourage reading over the Christmas period. All children will have a reading book over the holidays. Please see poster attached to this newsletter.

Key Dates: Autumn Term 2020

*subject to alteration due to Covid-19 measures / procedures

Friday 11th December	Christmas Sock Day Year 3 Victorian Christmas Workshop Final Day for Posting Christmas Cards
Monday 14th December	Christmas Cards Delivered Following Quarantine
Tuesday 15 th December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 16 th December	Class Christmas Parties* Class Collective Worship Year 5 – Thankfulness*
Thursday 17 th December	Aladdin—Virtual Pantomime—The MacMillan Theatre
Friday 18th December	Christmas Mufti - no donation required
Friday 18th December	Carol Service @ 2pm (Year 4 to lead)* Break up for Christmas Holidays

