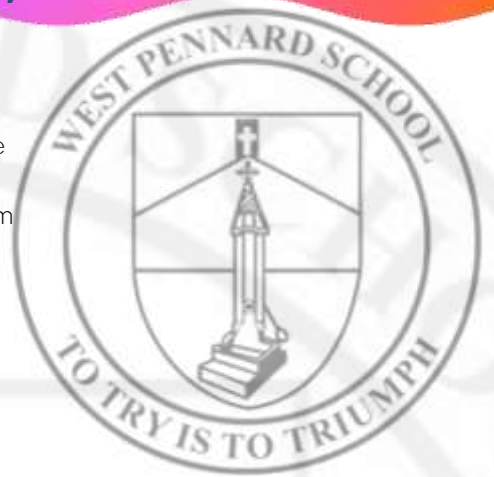


**West Pennard C of E VC Primary**



Over the Christmas break we cleared the area between Year 5 and the cookery room in readiness for our new sensory garden. Mrs Pinsent and the children are busily planning how it will look.

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

**Heads Up**

We started the week with our INSET on First Aid, looking forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday, having had a largely uninterrupted Autumn Term full of individual successes, great progress and a sense of unity once more. It is with great sadness that we again find ourselves apart from our friends, colleagues and the 'oneness' that is West Pennard School. It would be easy in this situation to feel overtly down about the situation, but this time will pass, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

I would like to thank you all for the understanding that you have shown in us having to respond so quickly to the announcement made on Monday night. We needed to bring forward an INSET day to the Tuesday in order to plan the structure of the provision, write risk assessments and handbooks, create a rota as well as assess the eligibility for access to the provision. It also gave teachers time to start to switch to online learning, to which you will now have access. The teachers took the opportunity to get resources and books ready to go home to aid you with work at home.

The staff have been amazing, showing great professionalism, flexibility and dedication in order to get things ready. Thank you so very much!

Thank you to you too. None of us a year ago would have imagined a scenario such as this. I absolutely know that the announcement on Monday night will have been the cause of great anxiety to many of you, for a number of reasons, not least home learning.

We have a number of online subscriptions that we have set up to assist you with this, as well as Google Classroom. Please do be patient with us though...the technology is new to us too, and replicating how you teach face to face with that necessary by digital means is not easy.

You may well hear of schools doing things differently and wish for regular live online lessons. However, please consider that teachers' workload and responsibilities, personally and professionally, increases in these situations - having to look after key worker and vulnerable children in school by day, direct home learning for their own classes as well as, in most cases, looking after their own children and supervising their home learning as well. Also, having things live doesn't always meet the needs of all, especially those of you that have a number of children to cater for at one time or that only have certain times in the day that you can devote to home learning. There will be recordings and narrated activities to lead you through the learning. No one method will suit everyone, but we will endeavour to continue our learning journey as best we can.

Please know that we are here to help. Please contact us through the usual channels of communication if you need help or are struggling in any way. We are only a phone call or an email away and will endeavour to help you where we can or point you in the right direction.

Stay safe and hang on in there!

Mr Wheat



**Tel: 01458 832866**

**Email: westpennardprimary@gmail.com**

**Headteacher Mr T. Wheat**

### Critical Worker and Vulnerable Children Provision

Thank you to those of you that have filled out forms for the key worker provision. The eligibility criteria is much looser than last time and we are very much nearing capacity. I have already had to put another team on the rota to supervise the number of children. The principle of school closure was to minimise contact and protect children and staff working in schools. Therefore can I ask that you only apply and attend firstly if you are eligible and secondly only for days for which you are scheduled to work. We already have approaching a quarter of our normal school population in the provision. Our experience is shared by many schools across the country and it is rumoured that the DfEE is currently looking at narrowing the eligibility as a direct result or urging schools to ask for proof of eligibility and working hours from employers. We do not want to go down that line, but do want to keep the provision going for those most in need.

### Helping Hands

For some of you this new lockdown will be a renewed or new cause of strain - financially, mentally, socially or physically. I would like to refer you to previous newsletters that can be found on the school website and that give details of support you can seek for issues cited above. If you find that your income has dropped, you may be entitled to Free School meals. Please ring us if for a confidential chat if you feel that you may be eligible. Criteria can be found on previous newsletters also.

In addition to this, if you are struggling financially, we have been given a discretionary fund by Somerset County Council equating to 15% on top of our Free School Meals allocation, which is intended for families in need. The funding will be issued in the form of vouchers that can be spent at a supermarket of your choice. If you would like to be considered for access to this fund please ring Mr Wheat for a confidential chat.

### Google Classroom Video Help / Tutorial

Each week, or in response to queries, I will record a tutorial on an aspect of home learning. This week I will show you how to make a worksheet or such like 'editable' so you can do it all on screen and hand it in without the need to print. Click on the image below to access the video.



### Amazing Feat (or Feet?)

Noah in Y4 completed his 2020 Everesting Challenge the weekend before Christmas.

The challenge, which he created himself, was to climb Glastonbury Tor 56 times during 2020, giving a total ascent of 8848 metres - the height of Mount Everest, hence the term 'Everesting'.

Noah used the challenge as an opportunity to explore the many public footpaths, hollow-ways and ancient greenways around Glastonbury as he only lives a mile from the top of the Tor. Noah actually walked a total of 362km (225 miles) in completing the challenge.

Some of the walks were early morning meaning he saw the sunrise; others took place in the evening when he enjoyed watching the sunset.

Despite some awful weather at times, particularly at the start and end of the challenge, Noah completed each of the ascents with enthusiasm, positivity and a determined mindset.

His mum and dad, and us at school, are very proud of Noah for choosing, undertaking and completing his challenge.



### Quote of the Week

*Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, but learning to dance in the rain.* Anon



Home Learning Help

We have a number of paid for subscriptions that you can therefore access for free.

Bug Club Phonics (Year R, 1 and 2)



Teach Your Monster to Read (Year R)



Accelerated Reader (Year 2 - Year 6)



Doodle Maths (Year 1 - Year 6)



White Rose Maths Video Lessons (Year R - Year 6)



Google Classroom (Year R - Year 6)



We are working on a few others including MyOn, which is tied in with AR and gives access to over 7000 online books. Watch this space!

If you have any access issues with any of the above please message the teachers.

Handy Hints / Technology Corner



Google Classroom Access on a Playstation

To access Google Classroom on a PlayStation console, navigate to the browser. On the PS4, this is done by accessing the www icon, or failing that, in your Library, under Apps. Type Google Classroom into the browser and follow the log in as usual. Once you're in, you can access a suite of programs to get learning! The USB port on a PS4 can be used to plug in a keyboard. Typing with a controller takes a long time!



Google Classroom Access on an Xbox

Google Classroom on Xbox. The Xbox's web browser can be found by navigating to the Microsoft Edge app, which should be in 'my games and apps'. It should have one of these icons. Open up the app and type Google Classroom into the browser to be directed to the log in page. Sign in as you would on a PC to access the Google Classroom suite of tools. Again, you can plug in a keyboard or mouse to the USB ports

BBC Bitesize Daily

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p089nk5f>

BBC Lessons

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/this-terms-topics>

Oak Academy

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

Oxford Owl - free e books

[Oxford Owl for School and Home](#)

Free Police Online Safety Webinar For Parents

<https://choices.somerset.gov.uk/025/send-news/coronavirus-free-police-online-safety-webinar-for-parents-and-carers-2/send-news/>

The events will look at the following themes:

- Overview of online risks.
- Exploitation of children online.
- Technical protective and safety measures available.
- Top tips on starting a conversation with your child about the internet and how to work together to use the internet safely.

To book a place, click on the following links to be re-directed to Eventbrite, the event booking website:

[Session 1](#) – Thursday 14 January, 7-8.30pm.

[Session 2](#) – Monday 8 February, 7-8.30pm.

For further information or any queries, please email: [CyberProtect@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:CyberProtect@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

Utter Kindness



This week the school has been contacted by two different benefactors that had heard appeals for laptops for children due to the difficulties some families are facing delivering home learning but unfortunately did not have one to donate. Instead they wanted to fund laptops for the school to give out. One such lady, who lives near Southampton, had considered us as members of her family lived in the area decades ago and still remembers the school! Thank you so much! We would like to also pass on our great thanks to Finger on the Pulse Research of Wells who also wish to fund laptops for the school to provide. We will be in contact with families to distribute these when they arrive. Huge thanks for such amazing kindness and thoughtfulness.

Poem by Hazel Britton and Shared by the Diocese Team

**Not everything is cancelled...**

Sunshine is not cancelled  
 Love is not cancelled  
 Relationships are not cancelled  
 Reading is not cancelled  
 Naps are not cancelled  
 Going for a walk is not cancelled  
 Kindness is not cancelled  
 Imagination is not cancelled  
 Conversation is not cancelled  
 HOPE is not cancelled

Poem Inspired by Hazel Britton...by the KS1 Keyworker Bubble

Not everything is cancelled...

Tesco is not cancelled  
 Happiness is not cancelled  
 Helping is not cancelled  
 Sleep is not cancelled  
 Thankfulness is not cancelled  
 Trying is not cancelled  
 Friendship is not cancelled  
 Fun is not cancelled  
 Elephants are not cancelled  
 Family is not cancelled

Key Worker Creations

Ned, Harry and Jake worked together on these creations using Kapla this afternoon. Quite an extension to Stonehenge on the right!

