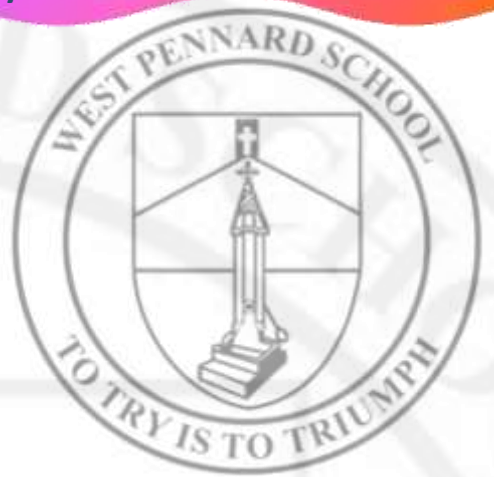


West Pennard C of E VC Primary



The KS1 bubble enjoying their PE session with Mr Cave!

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

Heads Up

On Monday some of the Critical Worker children were interviewed over Zoom by Claire Carter from BBC Somerset Sound as part of their Playground Politics series. They were asked a number of very current questions about school life during lockdown and also about being a child during these unusual times. A big well done to Fred M, Macey and Kailyn for such confident responses.

As half term approaches on the horizon I would like to reflect on what a sterling job you have all done over the last 4 weeks, adapting so quickly to remote learning whilst juggling many other aspects of normal and now not so normal life. Please assure yourselves that you are doing your best and **please do not over worry about your child 'falling behind'**. All children are in the same boat at the moment. We have put in place measures to catch up lost learning once we can all return to school.

In the meantime, if some days do prove somewhat of an uphill battle with regard to home learning - we all have them (I do with my eldest daughter), aim to at least read with them and question them about what they have read. Reading really is the key to learning and it will stand them in good stead on full school opening if their reading ability is maintained or even improved.

If you would like to hear stories read to you I have read and added some new titles this week. To view all the videos and watch at your leisure click [here](#).

Mr Wheat

Stars in Our Eyes (Certificates and stickers will be posted)

Home Learning Stars of the Week

Year R Maya - For great dedication to her home learning and for having the most delicious looking tea party after listening to 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'

Year 1 Frankie - for his amazing poster. Where he has taken his time with his handwriting and phonics.

Year 2 Reuben - for teaching the whole class such fun facts about an Amazon animal. Thank you Reuben, Mole Class all loved listening to you in the Google Meet.

Year 3 George D - for his effort and enthusiasm towards his home learning and always taking great pride with all the tasks.

Year 4 Isla - for her excellent questions to the Tikal villager.

Year 5 Lily G - For being the Queen of play dough Pictionary on Y5's Google Meet and for her hard-work with her home learning.

Year 6 Tigris - For her brilliant English work.

Critical Worker Provision Stars of the Week

Amelie M, Jacob D, Otilie D, Hugo



Tel: 01458 832866

Email: westpennardprimary@gmail.com

Headteacher Mr T. Wheat

[Somerset Cricket Challenge](#)

The 'Pro Challenge' this week is with Somerset CCC captain Tom Abell and Western Storm captain Sophie Luff and involves them answering questions that were sent in as well as setting two challenges (bat taps and writing a cricket themed poem). Please send any videos of practising the challenge or finished poems into Scott Chappell (see last week's newsletter) and they will share as many as they can. You can also tweet these if easier (@somersercb using #scbprochallenge).

[SCB 'Pro Challenge' Week 1](#)

[Devices](#)

We are working hard to ensure that all have as good access as possible to devices for home learning purposes. We recognise and totally understand the time, technological and technical pressures of delivering remote learning. We have created a follow up device questionnaire to assess needs. Please fill in the google form below...

<https://forms.gle/NWWYK6Qs8EuMgPhS8>

[Settled Status](#)

Now that we have left the EU, most EU citizens living in the UK (as well as those from the EEA and Switzerland) need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to gain Settled Status so they can continue to live and work in the UK after 30 June 2021. The pandemic is having an impact on application times to the EU Settlement Scheme, so it's vital that people apply as soon as possible. If this applies to you or anyone you know please share the link below...

You can apply for settled status at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

[Code at Home](#)



Why not have a go at improving your coding skills with [Hour of Code](#). You can design and make retro computer games. Get your creative juices flowing.

[Out and About \(Well, In and Innovative!\)](#)

As our daily exercise can be no more than 5 miles from home we thought we would point you in the direction of activities that can be done at home.



[Picasso Art](#)

Magazine cut-outs, old newspapers, stickers and other paper scraps can be put to excellent use with a Picasso inspired collage.



[Lava Lamps](#)

Make [a lava lamp](#) with a few household items



[Too Bored for Board Games?](#)

Get out the old-school board games like Mouse Trap and Battleships. If you don't have any old games, let them play solo or against friends and family online on [Board Game Arena](#) or [tabletopia](#).



[Get Arty](#)

Head to the [Artful Parent](#) for over 500 creative and crafty ideas to keep your kids entertained for hours.

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 so watch this space

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

See, Hear, Respond



The See, Hear, Respond Partnership has been created specifically to help children and young people in England who are experiencing harm and increased adversity during coronavirus. You can call Barnardo's for free on 0800 157 7015 or [click here](#) for further information.

Every Mind Matters



Having good mental health helps us relax more, achieve more and enjoy our lives more. The Every Mind Matters website has been set up to provide expert advice and practical tips to help you look after your mental health and wellbeing. Visit...

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters>



Useful Links

Please see below some useful links for support with finances during these challenging times.

[Advice and support with debt](#)

[Debt and Coronavirus](#)

[Coronavirus Universal Credit and Benefits](#)

Mental Health and Debt



Download a useful guide from Martin Lewis for helping with mental health issues and debt. [Click here](#)

Home Learning Help

This weeks Forest school: Wild Art

This week we are looking at large scale wild art. Whether you're out in your garden or on your walks what can you find to create a picture or a sculpture? Let your imagination run wild and create some art large or small! Here are some examples to get you started.

Mrs Frost



Doodle English (Key Stage 2 children)

In order to support you further with home learning, we have purchased Doodle English. We hope you will enjoy using it. Our intention is not to overwhelm you with the various log-ins and subscriptions... rather to support you with go to apps that can provide regular practise of key skills and for some children that can be accessed with a fair degree of independence. Many of the apps we have subscribed to will be used to support learning when normality resumes.

It is very quick and easy to get started – The Doodle Team have cloned our KS2 maths classes to English so all you will need to do is download the DoodleEnglish and DoodleSpell apps, or on a laptop/pc open Chrome and go to students.doodleenglish.com or students.doodleenglish.com/spell, and log in with the details you already use for maths - you could start Doodling tomorrow if you like!

Birdsong



As mentioned on BBC Winter Watch why not get out and about for a bit of bird spotting. You can download the BirdNET free app which recognises bird song. Otter class watched the Big Schools Winter Watch Live lesson on Thursday and they are contributing to the RSPB's bird spotting project with the birds that they spot in their respective areas.

Safeguarding



Mr T Wheat
Designated
Safeguarding Lead
DSL



Mrs Lorraine Clarke
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
DDSL

The safety and welfare of all children is everybody's responsibility.

Our School's Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Tony Wheat. The Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Lorraine Clarke. If you have any concerns regarding a child's welfare or safety please speak to them immediately.

Alternatively if you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger out of school please contact Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224, by email at childrens@somerset.gov.uk or the police.

Thank You

A big thank you for the donations we have received so far for our Sensory Garden. The list is attached to this newsletter of the items we require.

Mrs Pinsent

Training video for parents on 'Managing Big Emotions: Promoting Mental Health'.

The training has been put together by our local Educational Psychologist, Finola Holyoak, to support parents. The video is half an hour long and covers:

- What is behaviour and what does it mean?
- What is anxiety?
- Emotion coaching: how to respond helpfully to your child's big emotions.

How to help your child break the "avoidance cycle".

Here is the link to the video: <https://youtu.be/G4qiEhUKLko>

Free and Virtual Emotional Coaching Training

Mindful Emotion Coaching



Mindful Emotion Coaching is about building emotional intelligence and wellness by enabling conversations about emotions behind behaviours and building understanding of the science of brain development, human interactions and mindful awareness. The course is for all of us in caring roles whether this is as a parent, guardian, carer, son, daughter or professional. The course will help you manage your own emotions in moments of stress in everyday life and it will enable you to manage and maintain compassion in your caring roles.

<https://www.openlearning.com/courses/mindful-emotion-coaching/?cl=1&redirectTo=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.openlearning.com%2Fcourses%2Fmindful-emotion-coaching%2FHomePage%2F>

Quote of the Week

'The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.' Helen Keller

Educational Psychology Parent Helpline

(for mental health)

Somerset's Educational Psychology Service has a support service for parents who wish to talk through their concerns about their child. The service offers a 30 minute consultation and a review where needed. Parents can contact EPShelp-line@somerset.gov.uk with a brief outline of concerns and an Educational Psychologist will respond to arrange a consultation.

Please also see our wellbeing page on the school website or feel free to discuss your concerns further and will can help you get the right support.

Lockdown Litter Leader



Well done to Percy!!! He read the book "Somebody Swallowed Stanley" by Sarah Roberts a while ago about a plastic bag lost in the sea. His mum explained to him about how plastic gets into the seas and rivers; how a lot of it is just people being careless and that litter gets into the environment in all sorts of ways.

Completely on his own he decided they needed to go on a litter pick. He wanted to get the plastic before it could get into the rivers and seas. All his idea and he pestered his mum until he had got a litter picker and some black bin bags.

They were stunned by the amount of litter they collected in a really short space of time. Nearly a full bin bag between Church Lane and the cottages on Hillside, a little way up Southtown lane.

A big well done Percy for keeping the village tidy!