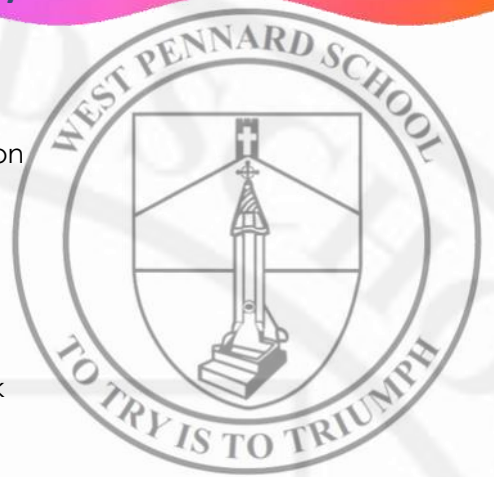


West Pennard C of E VC Primary



The KS1 bubble enjoying their PE session with Mr Cave using the new 75" hall screen we installed on Wednesday in readiness for when we can all be back in school together.

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

Heads Up

Last week some of the Critical Worker children were interviewed over Zoom by Claire Carter from BBC Somerset Sound. To listen to a recording of their interviews please click [here](#) and skip to 50 mins, 1hr 28 mins and 1 hr 58 mins. Well done to all the children that took part.

Well done too to those of you at home this week for keeping going with the remote learning. Many children have shown to be very tired this week, so if you are finding motivation to learn is waning, it is shared by many at the moment. Do be assured that you can but do your best, as I mentioned in my letter earlier in the week. We all have different pressures and time constraints at the moment, as well as work pressures.

Please do make sure that you engage with school at least three times in the week. Just to clarify, what I mean by this is that we need to see that you are around. In normal school situations if a child is not in school we ring by 9:30 to check the reasons for the absence. During lockdown we just need to see contact made, so this could be in the form of a piece of work turned in or a comment made on an activity etc. You could even message us to update as to the reading done, as you would normally in planners. The intention here is not to be big brother-ish - it is born out of standard safeguarding practice that all schools are having to

follow at the moment. 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 Amelia - for all her hard work at home and for making her own Zen garden... A great wellness idea!!

Year 1 Rowan - for some amazing work this week, and finding time to tick off tasks on the CW@Home Daily Kind Acts sheet. He is a star!

Year 2 Faelen - for his consistently massive home learning efforts with such great gusto!

Year 3 Noah H - for always expressing his enthusiasm and ideas so creatively.

Year 4 Olivia - for her amazing research project on Colombia (see later in newsletter).

Year 5 Loralie - for super home learning.

Year 6 Jacob - for his effort with his English.

Critical Worker Provision Stars of the Week

Lois (YR), Paige (Y2), Kailyn (Y4)



Tel: 01458 832866

Email: westpennardprimary@gmail.com

Headteacher Mr T. Wheat

Somerset Cricket Challenge



The 'Pro Challenge' this week is with Somerset CCC's Max Waller and Ben Green and involves them answering questions that were sent in as well as setting two challenges (throwing and drawing/painting).

The creative drawing/painting challenge this week is in partnership with Somerset CCC who would like pupils to send in pictures of Jack Leach (they can be drawn, painted etc, be as creative as you like). During England's Test Matches against India over the next month or so, every time Jack takes a wicket the club will use one of the pictures on their social media channels which is viewed by 10s of thousands of followers! Please email these directly to Scott Chappell (ideally with the pupils name, age and school written on it) but feel free to send any videos of pupils practising the challenge into him or tweet these if easier (@somersercb using #scbprochallenge).

[SCB 'Pro Challenge' Week 2](#)

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>

Wellbeing Week

Mrs Robertson has 2 videos this week to support Children's Mental Health Week and Inside Out Day which was on Wednesday

KS1: https://youtu.be/-pCmvkui8_8

KS2: <https://youtu.be/VFabo8PKG2k>

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.



Stop Frame Animation

There are several free apps to try, such as 'Stop Motion Studio'. It's easy to use and you can make some great little stop motion animated movies without having to invest in any of the in-app added extras. You basically photograph the steps of a small animation sequence using for example Lego, teddy bears, toys or cars. And then the app brings it all to life for you. Its good fun!



3D Structures, if You 'Peas'

Have a go at making 3D structures using peas and cocktail sticks.



Budding Artists

If you like drawing there's lots of inspiration around at the moment, with illustrators offering free online tutorials to help them improve.

A popular one is #DrawWithRob, a website from author and illustrator Rob Biddulph, who's written books including Grrrrr! about a bear called Fred who loses his growl.

His videos, showing children how to create everything from a sausage dog to their very own Fred Bear, are easily accessible on his website [here](#). Children have been sharing their finished drawings with him online using the hashtag #DrawWithRob.

'Risen' to the Lava Lamp Challenge



Willow had a go at making her lava lamp, following the instructions on the newsletter last week. Well done Willow - great choice of colours.

Count Von Count



Surprisingly, it is almost time again for the National Census, which happens every 10 years, the last being 2011.

The next census is taking place on Sunday 21st March 2021. It gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. This helps to plan and fund public services in our area.

There's no other survey that gives as much detail about us and the society we live in.

The ONS are running activities and a competition to help children learn about the census and we have decided to take part. We need to collect data as part of a 'count' of something that matters to us. As we approach Lent and, of course, pancake day, I thought we could have an element of fun also. So...if you are planning to make pancakes this year (16th February) could you count how many pancake tosses you can do in one minute. You could send in action photos also as we will be displaying the data in school.

Please send us the number you have achieved by filling out the form below and emailing pictures to the school email address in addition.

<https://forms.gle/D2JeRWqr2iz4bzbp9>

Thank you

Mr Wheat

Playground Politics



Listen to children from the critical worker provision on BBC Somerset Sound last week.

The first installment is about 50 mins in. The second is 1hr 28mins and then 1hr 58mins

[Breakfast on BBC Radio Somerset - 27/01/2021 - BBC Sounds](#)

Young Persons Mental Health Helpline

Young Persons Mental Health Helpline: Somerset Health and Well-being have set up a new Mental Health helpline to support our Children and Young People in these uncertain times. Call 01823 276892 to access help.

Virtual Library

We are excited to share this website with you <https://library.thenationalacademy/> where every week a popular children's author or illustrator will provide you with free books, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads.

Having access to a school library is really important for children. School libraries nurture a love of reading that can enrich children's literacy skills, academic achievements and mental wellbeing. The Virtual School Library will complement existing school libraries and will ensure that children have access to the magical world of stories all year round, whether they are learning at school or at home.

[Top tips to support reading at home](#)

[Top tips to support KS2 children reading at home](#)

Wellbeing

Free Wellbeing resources to complete at home. Click [here](#)

Quote of the Week

'Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.' | Peter 5 v7

Prayers for Schools

As a school we are grateful to have received from the Diocese a book of prayers, 'Prayers for Schools' by Jamie Prouse. This prayer is entitled 'Hope' and seems very apt at the moment.

Mrs Robinson

Dear God

Help us to rely on you today and put our trust in Jesus.

Help us to have faith in your promises to us.

Teach us to hold on to hope and believe in a better tomorrow.

Help us to dream of a brighter future, for everyone.

Help us to live our lives for you and spread hope in this world, wherever we go.

Thank you for the hope we have in you, Lord.

Amen

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 2](#) – Monday 8 February, 7-8.30pm.

For further information or any queries, please email: CyberProtect@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Olivia's Asombroso Remote Learning (Yr 4)

Colombia



Fun Facts!

- ◆ The Republic of Colombia gets its name from the explorer Christopher Columbus. It's pronounced Col-o-mbia not Cal-u-mbia which many non-Spanish speakers get wrong.
- ◆ Colombia is the only country in south america with coastlines on both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.
- ◆ Their traditional national sport is called Tejo, but their most popular sport is football.
- ◆ From the end of July to November there is a river called Cano Cristales (sometimes called the River of Five Colours or the Liquid Rainbow) in Meta which changes colour between black, blue, green, yellow and red.
- ◆ Colombia has the world's highest coastal mountain range called Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. It is 13,000m tall.
- ◆ It is the third largest country in the world to sell coffee and is the world's biggest seller of emeralds.
- ◆ Colombia has the world's largest protected tropical rainforest: Serrania del Chiribiquete.



◆ Cano Cristales



◆ Tejo - a game of throwing a metal disk (tejo) onto small exploding targets (mechas) that contain gunpowder.



◆ Serrania del Chiribiquete



◆ Emeralds

Colombia gained independence from Spain on 20th July 1810.

In the capital city of Bogota there is a beautiful old centre called La Candelaria with 300 year old Spanish colonial buildings.



There is graffiti and street art to see all over the city. The artists are actually sponsored by the Colombian government!

Did you know?
There are more than 30 volcanoes in Colombia!

Name: Republic of Colombia
Capital: Bogota
Population: 50 million
Language: Spanish
Money: Colombian Peso
Area: 440,000 square miles

Did you know?
The UK can fit in Colombia nearly 5 times!

Animals

Colombia is the second most biodiverse (has a variety of animals and plants) country in the world. It has largest amount of animals that you can only find in this country and nowhere else.



Colombia is also the country with the world's largest number of bird species.

Forest School: Get outside!

This week there has been a big focus on children's mental health and one of the best activities is to get outside, away from screens and away from home schooling! Being outside doesn't have to be a big walk or a trip to the woods. There is so much to do in your own back garden. Below is a short list of simple activities that can be done in your own garden but this is no way all you can do.

- Stop and Listen. Really listen, what can you hear? When you hear something can you find it?
- Take your drawing outside. Use chalk to draw pictures on the patio or even coloured water and paint brushes to create big art.
- Play torch tag in the dark.
- Spot for moths: In the evening set up a white sheet on a fence or washing line and shine a torch on it. (You might want to set the torch up so you don't have to hold it for the whole time!) and wait. The moths will soon be attracted to the sheet by the light and you can use a field guide to try and name them. Or just enjoy watching them.
- Tree rubbing. Wax crayons and paper to make bark rubbings, you will be amazed at the different textures different trees have. If you don't have any trees in your garden you can try different shaped leaves. Try making some bunting out of your rubbings.
- Look for signs of Spring. Hunt round the garden, can you see any bulbs beginning to grow or trees coming into bud? Signs of Spring always lifts the mood!

Mrs Frost

Avon and Somerset Police Child Exploitation and Online Grooming Parent Workshop

Following work that Avon and Somerset wish to conduct in the Mendip area and surrounding villages the constabulary wish to offer an online parents session on how to keep children safe during these changing times. The parents workshop will take place on Tuesday 9th February from 18:00—19:00 with Androulla (Andri) Nicolaou (Prevention Officer and Coordinator Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation). To join the meeting using Microsoft Teams follow [this link](#).

National Storytelling Week

This week, Hare Class have been celebrating National Storytelling Week and have enjoyed listening to many unusual, age old spoken tales, told by talented storytellers, through the Oxford Owl platform. However, on Thursday, we had a very special, surprise visitor come and join us during our live Google meet session...



Janina Vigurs, a professional storyteller, popped in to share with us a very unusual and silly tale about a Woodcutter and Three Wishes. The children thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the story, providing sound effects and actions; they even tried their very best to help the poor man pull the sausages from his nose! All in all, Hare Class had lots of fun, enjoyed lots of giggles and pulled lots of unusual faces!



If you would like to enjoy a unique and creative spoken tale, that grabs the attention of both young and old, please follow the link below. Here, you will find a variety of stories and storytellers for you to explore. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/storyteller-videos/storyteller-videos-traditional-tales/>, and if you would like more stories please go to <https://youtu.be/HNSmUiBPFCU> for The Blue Coat and The Enormous Turnip, and <https://youtu.be/Fd-PJ-h5cq4> for Monkey See, Monkey Do.

Miss Holmes

Online safety

Most people, including children, have been spending more time online, whether that is in the classroom or at home. This will be the case more than ever during the national lockdown.

It is important to have regular conversations about staying safe online and to encourage children to speak to you if they come across something worrying online.

See the [support for parents and carers to keep children and young people safe from online harm and the Support to stay safe online](#). These resources provide guidance to help parents and carers to keep children safe online. They will, amongst other things, support you to talk to your child about a range of online safety issues, set up home filtering in a child-friendly way and set up age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-staying-safe-online>

Bird Watching

Fox class have been learning about birds, bird watching and making bird feeders ready to count how many of each bird we see. RSPB live bird cam is brilliant.



'Tsunami' by Harvey (Yr 4)



I have decided to research Tsunami because I have been to humid Thailand a few times where a Tsunami happened.

What are Tsunamiis?

Tsunami is Japanese for Harbour wave

A Tsunami is a horrific natural disaster. They can go as fast as a jet and crush not only houses but villages and anything that gets in the way like people.

Most tsunamis are caused by terrible earthquakes under the deep blue sea by tectonic plates rubbing together causing dangerous friction. Also muddy Landslides and hot bubbling volcanoes cause them.

The magnificent waves can be taller than my sturdy house. They are very unpredictable but clever scientists are extremely working hard on better equipment so they can give more warning to people.

Normal waves are created by wind.

The reason tsunamis are so bad is because they are more noticeable when they are in shallow sea water which is closer to the calm land, this does not give people a lot of notice to evacuate.

When I go to hot Thailand there are lots of brightly coloured warning signs telling people to go up high in the enormous dusty hills if there is a tsunami there are also large white speakers on the sandy beach with green palm trees to try and warn people.

