

West Pennard C of E VC Primary



Ashlyn, who we support through Compassion UK, had her birthday this week. We all wore red, white, blue or gold on Friday in unity with the colours of the flag of the Philippines.



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

Heads Up

There was much excitement as the snow fell on Tuesday morning. Hopeful eyes watched each flake in the key worker provision in anticipation of potential snowball fights or sledging once home. I do hope that the half term brings a sprinkling enough to facilitate this and give the children (and adults) the chance to experience something different.

As we start the February half term, I encourage you all to have a well-earned rest. There will be no remote learning during the half term. Many of you have been juggling so much this term, with the pressures of home schooling, work commitments and other burdens common to many at this time. From us all at West Pennard I would like to express our sincerest thanks for all that you have done this half term. You are amazing! We are hopeful that we will be able to fully open and welcome everyone back once again on the 8th March. We have missed you all. The Autumn term feels a long time ago! As it stands, it has been indicated that there will be an initial announcement on Monday, followed by a more detailed announcement regarding schools on 22nd February. Watch this space.

With no remote learning over half term, why not take the opportunity to get reading instead. On the final page of the newsletter is the first 10 of a list of 100 books that children should read by the time they leave Primary School. These are more

geared towards KS2. Here also is a list of 100 books for [KS1](#), [Year 3 and 4](#), and [Year 5 and 6](#). If you would like to hear stories read to you, we have 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 Ivy - for fantastic effort in all her home learning and super engagement on our Google Meet!

Year 1 Freddie and George - for their Plastic Fantastic inventions!

Year 2 Harry - for creating a fantastic new species with perfect handwriting. What a great imagination!

Year 3 Oliver - for working so hard and going that extra mile with his learning!

Year 4 Joshua - for his fascinating research project on Peru.

Year 5 Bethany - for amazing effort and knowledge with our Google Meet baking session.

Year 6 Izzy - for her wonderful independent home learning.

Critical Worker Provision Stars of the Week

Connie (Yr R), Oattie S. (Yr 2), Zara (Yr 6)



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Headteacher Mr T. Wheat

Somerset Cricket Challenge



Please find the link below to Somerset CCC's third 'Pro Challenge'. This can also be found on their [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) pages. The 'Pro Challenge' this week is with Somerset CCC's Assistant Coach Paul Tweddle and fast bowler Jack Brooks and involves them answering questions that were sent in as well as setting two challenges (catching and creating a poster).

The poster challenge this week is to advertise for a new team mate for Somerset or the your school/club team. Within it you need to think about the skills and attributes you are looking for in a new team mate both on the field and off it. Please feel free to send any videos of pupils practising the catching challenge or posters that they have designed into Scott Chappell or tweet these if easier (@somersercb using #scbprochallenge).

[SCB 'Pro Challenge' Week 3](#)

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/NWWYK6Os8EuMgPhS8>

Handy Hint

If you are working on a phone or tablet and open a PDF document to work on, you don't need to print, you can click on the pencil and scribe with your finger or change this to type over the document and then turn in the original edited document.

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.

**February half term
for all the family**



This February half term, you could find a new hobby, be inspired by '50 things to do before you're 11¾' or discover your next favourite book to get stuck into. The National Trust has got plenty of ideas for things to do outdoors and indoors if the weather turns.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/february-half-term-for-all-the-family>

**The
Guardian**

10 fun ways to entertain kids over half term.

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2021/feb/06/10-fun-ways-to-entertain-kids-half-term-cooking-crafting>



Treasure Trails
The fun way to explore

Treasure Trails is a great way to fill a day and explore the local area. You can purchase and download a 'treasure trail' for places all over the country for under £10 and spend the day as a family solving clues and completing the trail. There are 25 trails alone in Somerset to choose from!

Forest School: Tiny treasure hunt

This week's activity is to look for the small. Can you hunt for objects that will fit inside a small box (like a matchbox)? Small blades of grass, tiny snail shells, twigs or tiny pebbles would work. You may need a magnifying glass to help you and it's amazing what detail and patterns magnifying glasses can show on different objects.

Who can get the most items? Who can get the most interesting? Have some fun exploring the tiny.

Hope you are well.
Enjoy half term
Mrs Frost

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

Fire Fire

Your Fire Service needs YOU!

As we are still unable to visit our schools for the annual fire safety talks, we still want households with children to be aware of the importance of having working smoke alarms.

If you don't have working smoke alarms then you can call **0800 05 02 999** to request a **free HOME SAFETY CHECK** (quote code : 294)

And if you or someone you know answers "yes" to at least one of these questions:

- is over 65 years old?
- finds it difficult to move around?
- can't hear things very well?
- smokes?
- doesn't have one smoke alarm for each level of their home?
- has NO smoke alarms?

They can also request a free **HOME SAFETY CHECK** by calling **0800 05 02 999**

Look After Your Family's Wellbeing During Lockdown Free Online Workshops

Are you finding it challenging to look after your family's wellbeing during lockdown? In partnership with Somerset Skills & Learning, Young Somerset are hosting a series of free online workshops to give families the right tools and advice to be able to support their wellbeing during lockdown. The course includes four consecutive, 2 hour sessions and will take place weekly on Monday evenings 18:00-20:00. This is a rolling course; the first course took place on Monday 1st February, but will be repeated monthly until July. If you are unable to attend all four sessions, you can still enrol on the course. Please contact ruthgavenlock@youngsomerset.org.uk if you have any questions. To enrol on the course and for more information about each session please visit: www.sslcourses.co.uk/courses/course/looking-after-yourfamilies-during-lockdown-young-somerset/

Literally Zooming!



Leyton in Year 6 had an exciting Zoom meeting this week with long distance running legend and twice Olympic gold medal winner Haile Gebrselassie, which was arranged by Leyton's running coach. What a great and inspiring experience.

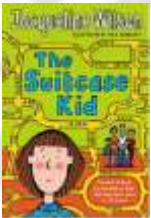
On that note, you may already be aware, but you can get live zoom meetings or recorded messages from celebrities of stage and screen through apps such as Cameo. There are a number of actors on there and it can make a great birthday gift for all ages or a source of inspiration for your child, such as that above.

Covid Notification

We have to continue contact tracing during Half Term. Could you let the school know if your receive a positive test by filling in [this form](#) even if home schooling.

100 Books to Read Before the End of Primary

A recent survey came up with a list of the top 100 books to read before you leave primary school. This list includes books for children of all ages, old and new titles, classics and recently published and are sure to inspire more reading and a love of books for years to come. How many of these books have you read? Can you think of any books that you have enjoyed that should be on the list? Every week, we will list 10 books starting from 100. Will your favourite make the list?



100. The Suitcase Kid by Jacqueline Wilson My family always lived at Mulberry Cottage - Mum, Dad and Me - and Radish, my Sylvanian rabbit. But now Mum lives with Bill the Baboon and his three kids. Dad lives with Carrie and her twins. And where do I live? I live out of a suitcase. One week with Mum's new family, one week with Dad's. It's as easy as ABC. That's what everyone says. But all I want is to go home—back to Mulberry Cottage.



99. The Milly - Molly - Mandy Series by Joyce Kilmer Milly-Molly-Mandy lives in a tiny village in the heart of the countryside. She is always busy doing things and whether she is earning money to give to a party, minding the village shop, having a picnic or going sledging, you're sure to have fun when Milly-Molly-Mandy is around!



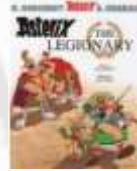
98. The Kipper Series by Mick Inkpen Charming books about friendship and all set around a great dog called Kipper.



97. From Hereabout Hill by Michael Morpurgo A tense and thrilling ghost story. It all began with a necklace, made of glistening pink cowrie shells. A long necklace that had taken Cherry weeks of careful, painstaking work. But the end of the holidays had arrived, men disappeared and their eagle standard was lost. It's a mystery that's never been solved, until now. Marcus has to find out what happened to his father, who led the legion. So he sets out into the unknown, on a quest so dangerous that nobody expects him to return.



96. The Fib and Other Stories by George Layton In The Fib, The Swap and The Trick, George Layton's collections of short stories evoke a nostalgic, atmospheric view of growing up in the 1950s.



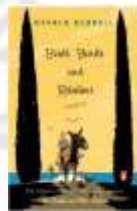
95. The Asterix Series by Rene Goscinny and Albert Uderzo In Asterix one finds all of human life. The fact that the books were written originally in French, these are a must read and great, great fun!



94. Mrs Pepperpot by Alf Prøysen Mrs Pepperpot can't choose when she will shrink to the size of a pepperpot - it just happens! But whatever she encounters, whether it be a monstrous mousetrap, a crafty fox or a gigantic mountain of ice cream, little Mrs Pepperpot will always come out on top



93. The Weirdstone of Brisingamen by Alan Garner The Weirdstone of Brisingamen is one of the greatest fantasy novels of all time. When Colin and Susan are pursued by eerie creatures across Alderley Edge, they are saved by the Wizard. He takes them into the caves of Fundindelve, where he watches over the enchanted sleep of one hundred and forty knights



92. Birds, Beasts and Relatives by Gerald Durrell The Durrell family returns to live on the island of Corfu, and they continue the story begun in My Family and Other Animals. Already an ardent naturalist at the age of ten, the young Gerald lives in an unconventional and disordered household with his mother, sister and two brothers. Convivial and open, the family plays host to a constant stream of quirky guests. But for Gerald, the main attraction is the wildlife of Corfu.



91. Wolf Brothers by Michelle Paver Thousands of years ago the land is one dark forest. Its people are hunter gatherers. They know every tree and herb and they know how to survive in a time of enchantment and powerful magic. Until an ambitious and malevolent force conjures a demon; a demon so evil that it can be contained only in the body of a ferocious bear that will slay everything it sees, a demon determined to destroy the world.

Quote of the Week

'Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns' Philippians 4 v6

Video from Generation Be

Please see the video below from Min Robertson

<https://youtu.be/XiyApsmgzm4>

Ideas for Half Term activities

A range of FREE and affordable activities for the February half term are on offer for children and young people with SEND and their families.

In it you'll find a calendar bursting with ideas of things to do including a range of free postal activity packs and online 'virtual' activities to do during the current national 'lockdown', such as:

[Purple Elephant Productions](#) has free craft activity packs which can be posted to any family in Somerset who have children with additional needs.

[Step4ward-in-2growth](#) activity packs – a perfect mix of arts and crafts, toys, games, stickers, mazes, colouring pages and word searches tailored to each child's needs. Just £2 per pack.

Somerset social enterprise [Neroche Woodlanders](#) is offering a choice of two free packs aimed at Reception/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Please note: in a change to the leaflet, spare packs are now with the Community Inclusion and Activity Team. To request a pack, please email CIATeam@somerset.gov.uk

[Strawberry Jam Entertainments](#) is running a Science Show on Tuesday 16 February and a Magic Show on Thursday 18 February. The videos will be posted at 10am on the [Strawberry Jam Facebook page](#) on the day and will be pinned to the top of the page.

For full details on these, and many other activities, visit: www.somerset.gov.uk/cwd

We also recommend that you visit the [Local Offer website for further activity information and ideas](#).

Information above from: https://choices.somerset.gov.uk/025/send-news/ideas-for-half-term-activities-2/send-news/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=send-news-110221