

# West Pennard Church of England Primary School

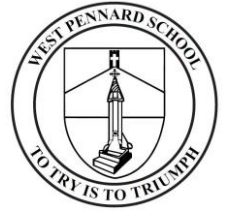


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Headteacher Miss J. Hale



12<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

*It is lovely to see all the children back in school and a Happy New Year to everyone! We are very pleased to welcome you back to a busy spring term ahead at West Pennard.*

*During this term our theme is 'Homes'. Throughout this term the children will be learning about homes around the world and exploring different materials during our science investigations. We will be making 3D models and talking about similarities and differences in houses and buildings in our local environment.*

*Our weekly routine will stay the same. Welly Walks will continue on a Wednesday, so please ensure that your child has a clearly named pair of wellington boots in school on that day.*

*We will be focussing on gym and dance during our P.E sessions, children will need P.E kits in school every day.*

*We were delighted with the children's enthusiasm and progress in phonics last term. During the coming term we will be focussing on blending and segmenting Phase 2 sounds and introducing some new Phase 3 sounds and tricky words. This will help to support your child's progression and confidence in reading and writing.*

*To help inspire children to write, we will be introducing a Magic Writing Bag. The Magic Writing Bag contains Fred the Ted, and a variety of writing materials. Fred the Ted will spend a weekend with a different child each week. Children will be encouraged to write about Fred the Ted's weekend in his diary. His adventures will be shared with the rest of the class on a Monday morning. More details to follow.*

*We will be changing the way children are given new reading books in Reception. We would like the children to be part of the process as it is important that children feel excited about the books they read. The children (and parents) will choose their own reading book from a basket of books suitable for their reading ability. The perfect opportunity for them to do this is first thing in the morning. If you are able to stay at drop off to choose a book with your child and record it in their reading diaries then that would be great. For children that attend breakfast club or come to school on the bus, a member of staff will help them to choose a new reading book. This way, children can read books that inspire them, catch their imagination and ultimately help them to make excellent progress in reading. Your child may change their book as many times as needed throughout the week. Please continue to record any reading you do with your child at home, as will we at school.*

If your child has a guided reading stamp in their reading diary, it means they have read in a small group with a teacher. Guided reading usually uses other books than those in the basket. We will let you know by the end of the first week which basket your child needs to change their book from.

Please let us know if you would like to spend some time in the classroom, as a parent volunteer. We would love parents to come in and hear children read.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your Christmas gifts, cards and wishes, we were quite overwhelmed. We are all looking forward to the coming term, and as always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any worries or concerns.

Many Thanks,

Mrs Amy Fowler and Mrs Caroline Free