

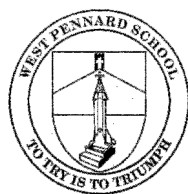
WEST PENNARD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friends of West Pennard School

Registered Charity No: 1108142

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AUTUMN NEWSLETTER.

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff.

We are now well into the Autumn term and the FWPS are working hard to ensure we continue to raise funds to enhance our children's school lives.

On Friday 14th October we held our 2nd Pamper Evening at the school. I can't tell you how magical it is, seeing the school hall transformed into a comfy, twinkly room of opulence. Quite unbelievable really! I think I can speak on behalf of those who attended – it was a super treat. Plenty of pamper treatments and stalls of wonderful goods to buy in addition to sitting with friends chatting and enjoying the array of cheeses, chutneys, wines and sparkling juices generously donated by local companies. A special thank you goes to Caroline Bowes, whose brainwave has come to fruition and for her energy and enthusiasm in bringing it all together. In addition, many thanks to Hannah Seymour for those fabulous invitations, which were a treat in themselves.

Congratulations to Rosalind Ives who won the first prize of a spa day for two at Aqua Sana, Centre Parcs, Longleat.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the evening a success from helping to set up, attending on the night and for the many kind donations.

Our **Annual General Meeting** takes place on **7th November 2011** at **7.30pm** in the school staff room. You will have already received information regarding nominations of officers and committee members. If you haven't been tempted to come forward yet - please do. We really need your support to enable us to continue to be such an integral part of West Pennard School and raising money to provide those fantastic extras not covered by the school's budget. It's part of what makes our school so special. As well as the diverse opportunities and resources that our children can enjoy throughout their time here, we also leave legacies for the future such as the £50,000 the FWPS contributed towards the cost of the new music/library building. Without our hard earned cash this project would not have been possible. For those of you who haven't had the chance to take a peek at it yet, it truly is an exceptional resource and well worth the money spent. Please keep an eye open for news of the official opening sometime after the half term holiday. Please return your nomination forms to the school office by **Monday 7th November** if you wish to become more involved.

Parent power is so important in making positive changes and the FWPS is vital to the growth and expansion of our children's education. Our get up and go attitude raises valuable money for our school. The link between home and school is absolutely invaluable. It is a great way to take a pro-active role in your child's education, school life and a precious resource. So please, take the plunge, whatever time, no matter how small, you can give will benefit the FWPS and the rewards far outweigh the work and it is extremely good fun too!!





CHRISTMAS FAIR 2011.

Here it comes!! Less than 7 weeks away on **Friday 2nd December, 6pm – 8pm**. A small team has got together to plan another fantastic festive Christmas Fair. I will be sending out a separate letter detailing how you could help after the holiday. In the meantime, if you have any unwanted gifts or good quality second hand items that could be used for our childrens present room (ladies, mens and childrens items are all needed) please put to one side in readiness for my plea! In addition, we will be asking for tombola donations of unwanted cuddly toys, confectionary, bottles of wine, spirits, perfumes, non-alcoholic drinks, bath products, etc, as long as it is within date and unused. I have already had offers of help for which I'm very grateful. If you think you are able to help in any way, please do. I think it is our most enjoyable and fun event for children and adults alike and what a great way to start December and the lead up to Christmas.

In the New Year we will be holding a **Family Music Quiz** on **Friday 20th January 2012** from **6pm – 8pm**. Details will follow nearer the time.

Bag2School continues to be a regular fundraiser for our school making money from unwanted clothes we can recycle. Our next collection is due on **November 11th**. If you are sorting out your wardrobes in the holidays, please put any items to one side ready for the letter from Issa Bonnar detailing the collection and providing the bag to fill.

On a slightly more serious note, due to the massive investment we made to the new building, it has highlighted how much we spend regularly supporting activities and resources in the school. We help fund the schools enrichment days, weeks and special study visitors in excess of £3000 annually. This is something that we consider to be a resource that we don't want to lose.

We have, in recent years, been giving £3000 a year towards the costs of coach travel for trips. At present, parents have only been asked to contribute £1 to the cost of any trip. This has been reviewed. We agree with the school and are now asking that parents contribute a little more, £2, to the cost of trips with the FWPS funding the rest. Mrs Burchell will provide details on school trip forms of how much extra the FWPS will be funding the transport cost of each individual trip. This will free up money to be used to fund other areas of need. We have been in an unenviable position from other schools where parents are asked to contribute the whole cost of transport. We don't want that to happen here and we want the trip costs to be achievable, so asking parents to contribute a little more enables us to still fund coach costs without impacting on our ability to fund other wonderful extras for our children. Equally parents are getting a fabulous deal in the reduction of school trip costs.

Final Note:

The help of parents complements the expertise of the teachers and staff to create a great environment for our children to learn.

The imagination, enthusiasm and commitment by all those involved in the FWPS is tremendous. I wholeheartedly encourage parental involvement and celebrate our successes and achievements. On a personal note, this is my final year at West Pennard School and I have happily been involved in the FWPS throughout my daughter's time here. I am testament to the fact it is possible to help do your bit, as I work as well as being actively involved in the FWPS. If you can, do offer to help the FWPS in whatever way you can. It really is truly rewarding.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mel Warburton (Cerys Y6)
Chair of the FWPS.

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