

Menu for  
the week...



Growth mindset  
thought for the week



There is a difference between not knowing and not knowing yet

Week 1

6<sup>th</sup> January 2017

We would like to wish all our children and parents a Happy New Year. We hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break.

## Dates for your diary

12<sup>th</sup> January – Y6 SATs information evening

## Exciting News!

Mrs Bennett has had a beautiful baby girl. Eleanor Rose was born on 21<sup>st</sup> December, weighing 7lbs 2 ounces. We hope that Mr and Mrs Bennett enjoy their very special time with their new daughter.

This week we have welcomed English Specialist Teacher Mrs Evans to our PMS team. She is busy taking over Mrs Bennetts groups. Mrs Kemble is now responsible for KS2 English and Mrs Powers for KS3 English.

Congratulations also go to Miss Northwood who has become a STEM Teacher Consultant in addition to being one of our Specialist Science Teachers. This is a super achievement for her and it will benefit our children through additional STEM training and resources.

## KS2 SATS information evening – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Y6 Parents should have received a letter inviting you to our SATs information evening. We sent this out prior to Christmas and again this week. This week's letter is a re-run letter so if you have already replied no further action is required. This is a really informative evening and no parents will be put on the spot by being asked a Grammar or Maths question! We hope that as many of our Y6 parents can attend as possible.

## Our Visible Learning Journey

On January 11<sup>th</sup> Craig Parkinson from Osiris will be returning to school to deliver Visible Learning training to our Subject Leaders. This is our third and final day of external training as we continue our exciting journey to become a Visible Learning School. This is the same day as our Y6 Pobble day so there may be some changes to teachers and groups on this day.

Please see also our first addition of 'Subject Focus Fortnight' in which Mr Cole celebrates what is going on in Humanities.

For all pupils

### Pobble Day – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January

Another fantastic Pobble writing workshop has been arranged for Year 6 pupils on this day. The aim for the session is for students to draft a lively and engaging piece of writing which will then be celebrated and published on the Pobble website and be available to view later in the day. Children who have previously had their work published are deservedly proud of their achievements and families likewise have delighted in sharing in the success of their offspring. It has proved a real motivator for writing as our children are aware there is a real purpose and audience for their writing. It is our intention to celebrate and publish every child's piece of work, unless we have already heard to the contrary from you.

There is also a Pobble workshop for staff at the end of the day and they have been invited to take along a piece of KS2 work to publish. This is great news for Year 5 as it means they too will have the opportunity to become a Pobble-published author. However, once again, if you would prefer your child's work not to be considered and haven't already communicated this with the school, then please get in touch before Wednesday.

Mrs Ashelford

### Visible Learning in Humanities at PMS

As 2017 begins, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the world of Visible Learning. Since September all staff at PMS have been working collaboratively to escape the learning pit by embracing the practice of Visible Learning in their teaching. Mrs Frost set us the challenge at the start of the year to become a Visible Learning school.

Developing a common language for learning has been key to successfully achieving this challenge. Phrases such as 'you're in the learning pit' have become common place around school. Students understand that the pit is a metaphorical place where learning takes place. The pit encourages children to seek challenges and discover new information with their peers.

In humanities we have embraced the Visible Learning initiative with great enthusiasm. Hot and cold tests have been developed and taken by key Stage 3 and will be used with key Stage 2 in 2017. The purpose of a cold test is to assess what students might already know about the topic; a low score on this test is okay! Crucially students take the test again at the end of the unit of work and from this teachers are able to assess the impact of their teaching on each learning; this will allow them to see how much progress a child, groups of children or a class have made since the start.

Lessons have changed as well for 2016-17, out go learning objectives and in come learning intentions. The purpose of a learning intention is to clearly state to students what we intend to learn during a lesson or series of lessons.

COLD TEST			
Topic: _____			
Q	Select one option for each question.		
1	A	B	C
2	A	B	C
3	A	B	C
4	A	B	C
5	A	B	C
6	A	B	C
7	A	B	C
8	A	B	C
9	A	B	C
10	A	B	C
Score: /10			

HOT TEST			
Topic: _____			
Q	Select one option for each question.		
1	A	B	C
2	A	B	C
3	A	B	C
4	A	B	C
5	A	B	C
6	A	B	C
7	A	B	C
8	A	B	C
9	A	B	C
10	A	B	C
Score: /10			



**For all pupils**

### **Whole School Assembly**

In today's assembly, Mr West outlined the **British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**. These British Values underpin our culture and the ethos of Penkrige Middle School and are incorporated into our school aims. We work hard to foster in our young people a strong awareness of British Values, including the positive values of tolerance and respect for people of all faiths, races and cultures.

In addition, these British values permeate throughout our everyday experiences in school, and influence how we deal with matters, as we strive to create a positive culture and a successful, supportive community.

Mr West also reminded the students about **staying safe online** and highlighted several areas of good practice. We take online safety very seriously and encourage families to be vigilant in ensuring that they oversee the use of any online facility and ensure that privacy settings are set at a safe level. Social media sites such as Facebook have a minimum age limit of 13 years old.

Should any student come across any inappropriate material online, or encounter any cyber-bullying or anything that makes them feel uncomfortable, they need to report the matter to an adult they can trust. In school, the Designated Safeguarding Teacher is Mr West and our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Staff are Mrs Frost and Mrs Hodson.

Families are reminded that there is a section under the 'Parents' tab of the school website with further information about e-safety.