

Name..... Class.....

L'hebdo

30th September 2016

Menu for week commencing 3rd October 2016 **Week 2**

*Growth mindset thought for the week.
If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you.*

Dates for your diary

October 12th - Year 5 Parents' Evening.

October 14th - Harvest Festival.

October 21st - Finish for Half Term.



Star Pupil of the Week

Week Beginning 19th September 2016

Year 5

Grace Capewell 5JB
George Dyke 5LM
Ruby Milner 5CWK
Riley Murray 5SC

Year 7

Lottie Foreman 7LW
Luke Grice 7EN
Callum Millard 7JW
Freddie Plant 7KM

Year 6

Dan Hughes 6SB
Heather Richardson 6AP
Archie Russell 6LK
Matthew Wenlock-Evans 6CA

Year 8

Chloe Monteiro 8SH
Josh Punton 8SS
Sami Smith 8RC
Tiffany Rylance 8CWT

Visible Learning Update

As mentioned in an earlier L'hebdo teachers have received training in Visible Learning. One of the key aspects of this approach to learning, is teachers knowing the **impact** of their teaching. In some subjects, teachers are introducing a quick quiz/ set of questions at the start of a topic. This is to inform them of what the children already know about the topic so that they can pitch the lesson to the right level. The teacher will then address any misconceptions throughout the topic and focus on the weaker areas of knowledge or skills.

Open Evenings for Prospective Parents

We will be holding our Open Evening for pupils currently in Year 4 who wish to start the school in September 2017, **on Thursday 6th October at 7pm**. This will also be open to families who have children that wish to join the school in other years.

Wolgarston will be holding their Open Evening for our current Y8 on Thursday 20th October at 6pm.

More details about these and Open Mornings can be found on our school website.

Science homework

In Science, homework is set once a week from the pupils' homework books. They have a week to complete the work. At the end of each unit of work revision will be set. Occasionally pupils will be asked to finish work off from the lesson or catch up on any work they have missed.

Maths Homework

We have decided to have a more consistent approach to our homework this year to ensure that both parents/ carers and children know what to expect on a weekly basis.

KS2: Weekly

- To practise times tables for 30 minutes (minimum) every week. Children have logins for MyMaths and Number Gym where they can find games and worksheets on different times tables.
- Work set on MyMaths related to the topic they are covering in lessons.
- Page to complete in CGP books to consolidate work covered.

KS3: Weekly

- To practise times tables for 20 minutes (minimum) every week. Children have logins for MyMaths and Number Gym where they can find games and worksheets on different times tables.
- Two pieces of work set on MyMaths related to the topic they are covering in lessons.
- Pages to complete in CGP books to consolidate work covered.

The amount of Work set on MyMaths and the number of pages in the CGP Books will depend on the child's ability.

We are aware that many parents are extremely busy and evenings and weekends can fly by very quickly with family activities. However, please can you discuss with your child when would be the best time to complete their homework so you can support them. As a school, we run a supervised lunch time homework club every weekday and offer a supervised homework club before school on a Tuesday and Thursday 8-8:30am. We hope you will continue to support us in ensuring your child achieves their full potential.

Thank you in advance.

Maths Department.

English Homework

We have decided to have a more consistent approach to our homework this year to ensure that both parents/ carers and children know what to expect on a weekly basis.

KS2:

- 1) 60 minutes (minimum) reading every week with approximately 30 minutes of this reading out aloud to an adult, and discussing what is going on in the text. Parents are asked to sign & comment weekly on the discussions had etc., in the child's organiser.
- 2) Weekly spellings- no. of spellings dependent on the child's ability.
- 3) www.spag.com - a short grammar test completed online- all children have been given login details and passwords for the year 2016-2017.

KS3:

- 1) 60 minutes (minimum) reading every week with approximately 15 minutes of this reading out aloud to an adult, and discussing what is going on in the text. Parents are asked to sign & comment weekly on the discussions had and the frequency of reading, in the child's organiser.
- 2) Weekly spellings- no. of spellings dependent on the child's ability.
- 3) www.spag.com - a short grammar test completed online- all children have been given logins and passwords for the year 2016-2017.

On occasion, there may be some additional homework set, for example, finishing off class work or researching for their topic.

Thank you in advance.

English Department.

Pokemon cards

It is coming to our attention that a number of pupils are bringing in and exchanging Pokemon cards during break-times. We have no objection to this whilst it is being carried out sensibly and during appropriate times. However, during the past couple of weeks, an increasing amount of valuable staff time is being spent dealing with the inappropriate use and handling of these cards. If this continues we will, unfortunately, have to stop them being brought into school. Please can you support staff by speaking to your children about this, so they can continue to enjoy the game, in the manner in which it was intended to be played.

Lost PE kits

Please could you check all your child's PE kit as a few named items have gone astray. If you find any kit that does not belong to your child please send it back to the school office. Thank you.

Year 5 Parents' Evening 2016

On Wednesday October 12th from 4pm to 7pm, Year 5 class teachers (not subject teachers) will be available to speak to parents about how their son/daughter has settled into Penkridge Middle School. It is also an opportunity to ask any questions you may have or to raise any concerns. Please be aware that appointments are limited to 5 minutes, and if you wish to discuss any matter for longer a separate appointment will need to be made.

Please fill in the slip below to indicate your preferred time for appointment. We will do our very best to accommodate your request.

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Year 5 Parents' Evening Wednesday October 12th 2016

Name of Pupil..... Class.....

Preferred Time Slot (please tick):

4pm - 4.30pm 4.30 - 5pm

5 - 5.30pm 5.30pm - 6pm

6pm - 6.30pm 6.30 - 7pm

Teacher's Use Only: Your Appointment Time is
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Year 5 only

Professor McGinty Visit 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

The humanities department have arranged a visit from **Professor McGinty** which will run on **Wednesday 23rd November 2016**.

Professor McGinty - 'The Time Travelling Detective' will visit our school to present an interactive workshop on the theme of Ancient Egypt to Year 5 pupils.

Each class will have an hour's workshop with the professor with exciting artefacts, special effects, sounds, vision and music.

The visit is to complement your child's learning about Ancient Egypt in their Humanities lessons this year. The Professor has been visiting the school for the many years and he is a very popular, knowledgeable and entertaining performer.

As this visit takes place in school time it is necessary to ask for a voluntary **contribution of £5 per student**. There is no obligation to contribute and no student will be omitted from the visit because they do not pay or do not pay in full. However the visit cannot go ahead if the school does not receive sufficient parental contributions. We would be grateful if you donate using **Parent Pay by Friday 21st October**.

If there are any questions you would like to ask about the presentation, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Cole (Head of Humanities & RE) or your child's class teacher.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Cole

Head of Humanities & RE

Please only return if you're NOT paying by Parent Pay

Presentation by Professor McGinty on Wednesday 23rd November 2016

PARENTAL CONSENT

I agree that my son/daughter/dependent can take part in this activity

I enclose the **£5** to cover the costs of this presentation.

Name of son/daughter Class

Signed..... Date..... Person with Parental Responsibility

Year 8 only

Visit to Coventry Cathedral 2016 – Monday 28th November 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

We have arranged for the children in Year 8 to visit Coventry Cathedral as part of their studies in RE. The team at the cathedral offer our students a wide range of experiences within and around the building to explore and understand issues around conflict, peace and reconciliation.

The students will leave for Coventry at 9.00am prompt and we hope to be back in time for the end of the school day at 3.30pm, but this does depend on traffic. The students will need to bring a packed lunch for the day (which should not include glass bottles). All students will be expected to wear their school uniform. Students will also need to bring a coat.

Can I remind students that we are visiting a place of worship and they will need to be attentive, sometimes silent and at all times respectful. Cooperation and good behaviour is paramount, not only for the reputation of the school, but also for the health and safety of the students.

We are requesting a donation of **£17 for each child** which includes all transport costs and the costs of the tour. Can parents please pay by **Parent Pay by the 21st October** or as soon as possible. Please also note that if we do not have enough donations to cover the cost of the trip, the visit will not be able to go ahead and we will incur charges from the bus company for cancellation.

Advance warning is needed of any participants with special medical or other needs to ensure all health and safety considerations have been made. Parents must inform the school of any relevant medical or other needs on the visit consent form.

Failure to complete this form will result in your child being unable to attend the trip.

All bona fide educational visits undertaken by Penkridge Middle School are covered by ACE Insurance provided through our Stafford County Council. This visit is considered to have only normal everyday risks and no further insurance has been provided.

If you have any questions about this visit please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Cole
Head of Humanities and RE

Failure to complete this form will result in your child being unable to attend the trip.

PARENTAL CONSENT FOR A SCHOOL VISIT

Please complete this form and return it to the school reception by **Thursday 21st October 2016**.

EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO: Coventry Cathedral

On **Monday 28th November 2016** leaving school at 09:00 AM. The predicted time of return is 03:30 - 03:45 PM.

Medical Details: My son/daughter has the following medical/special needs.

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Students will be travelling by coach and your child will be expected to be responsible enough to wear any seatbelt provided until informed it may be released.

Return to Home: I understand the predicted time of return and as this is outside the normal school hours. I will attend to collect my son/daughter or my son/daughter will be returning home by.....

I understand this visit includes:

- Walking, therefore appropriate footwear, outdoor wear and school uniform must be worn.

I agree to my son/daughter attending the visit detailed above and I acknowledge that to be included he/she will need to maintain responsible behaviour.

Name of son/daughter..... Class.....

Signed..... Date..... Parent with Parental Responsibility