



## NEWSLETTER 31

01404 812599 Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Website [www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk)

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Dear Parents,



Last week the whole school's attendance was 99.4%. This is above our attendance target of 97.5% so well done everyone.

### **NEW CAR PARKING SIGNS**

With the increasing number of vehicles entering the turning area for dropping off and picking up children from West Hill Primary School/Pre-School and also those using the Village Hall car park, we have been working with the Village Hall to consider ways to improve safety and minimise risk, particularly to children attending both Primary school and Pre -School. For example, a variety of routes are often taken by drivers exiting the car park, but after careful consideration, we decided to trial a one way system which obliged drivers to operate one way around the roundabouts. This has improved the traffic flow and we informed parents that we were now looking at erecting additional signs to make the new system clearer to everyone using the car park.

'No Entry' signs will be erected to the immediate right of the Village Hall car park exit point, to avoid drivers from taking a right turn from the car park into oncoming traffic. This is of particular concern at busy periods.

'Keep Left' arrows will be erected on the small circle and on the main roundabout to direct all outgoing vehicles round the roundabout, thus avoiding oncoming traffic.

Drivers are also requested not to park on Beech Park at school time as it causes congestion by restricting the road to single car only and reduces visibility for pedestrians trying to cross the road. The installation date of these signs will be Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May and we ask for the co-operation of drivers and pedestrians who enter the area in ensuring that the new system operates for everyone's benefit and safety. Thank you.

### **SUMMER FETE KS2 STALLS**

This year the Key Stage 2 classes (Classes 3,4,5 and 6) are organising their own class stall at the summer fete and need your support to help 'man' the stall (in half hourly slots). If you and your child are able to help out for half an hour, please sign your name on the sheets which will be available under the canopy in the small playground from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The PTFA have decided that there will be a prize for the class which raises the largest amount of money. Thank you for your support for our fantastic PTFA.

## WHY BE A PARENT GOVERNOR?

If you already have your hands full juggling work, home, and family; becoming a school governor may seem like too great a time commitment. However, by becoming a governor you can influence the direction the school is taking and influence your child's learning.

Parents are vital to the governing board because, alongside the staff, no one is more invested in the quality of teaching and learning that the pupils receive. Being a parent makes you especially committed to the school's continuous improvement.

Becoming a governor gives you a chance to influence areas that matter to you and your child. Part of the role of a governor is to be a 'critical friend,' supporting the school but also challenging it and holding it accountable. Your prior knowledge of the school from a parent's perspective means you'll be in a good position to challenge decisions and offer your own viewpoint.

Being a governor also allows you to gain a variety of new skills, and develop the ones you already have. Governors are provided with plenty of training. It doesn't matter if you don't think your experience is particularly relevant to education, governing bodies need people from all backgrounds who can bring their skills and knowledge to the school.

Becoming a governor can bring great personal and professional benefits, especially if you have taken a career break to focus on your family. Being a parent governor can be a great addition to a C.V. as it shows that you have remained committed to your own development. As a parent governor you will bring benefit not just to the school but also to yourself and your child. It's a great opportunity to make a difference.

We still urgently need to fill the vacancy for a parent governor on the governing board. Please consider putting yourself forward. If you would like to find out more please do not hesitate to get in touch with either myself, the Headteacher or the Clerk to the Governors via the school.

In anticipation,

Rowan Ross

Chair of Governors.

## ART COMPETITION

You may have seen notices about a village 'Art and Craft' festival that is being held at Michael's Church between 21st and 23rd June.

**EXCITING NEWS!!!** West Hill pupils have been asked to take part in a competition that they will be running. The competition is to create a picture, in any media or material, on the subject of 'creation' - a very broad title! All entries must be A4 sized and capable of being hung on a display board.

Teachers will be sending your child home with a sheet of A4 paper - we would ask you to ensure your child's name and class are clearly displayed on the back. Then get creating!!!

Please return your finished works of art back to your class teacher by Wednesday 5th June. The teachers will then have the difficult decision of selecting the top 3 from each class! These will then be displayed in the church for everyone to see.

Voting - Every visitor to the festival over the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June will be invited to vote for their favourite pictures and the results will be announced and prizes awarded at 11.30am on Sunday morning in the Narthex at the back of the church.

Good luck to everyone and enjoy creating some fabulous art!

Mrs Bedford and Mrs Powley

## COMPUTER GAMES

We are aware that some pupils at our school are playing computer games at home with a 12, 15 or 18 rating which contain inappropriate violent content and language e.g. Fortnite (rated 12) which has frequent scenes of mild violence and Grand Theft Auto (rated 18) with sequences of strong violence throughout, persuasive, non-stop strong language, strong sexual content, graphic nudity and drug use. These games are then being replicated in children's play and pupils are getting hurt as a result. Please can you ensure the content and age rating of your child's games are appropriate in order to keep your children safe online. Many thanks.

## SPORTS DAY

Sports Day will be on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** this year starting at **1.15pm**. If there are any parents who are free at 9am that day then Mrs Bennett would appreciate half an hour of your time to help with erecting 8 gazebos.

Mrs Bennett is also looking for 3 adult volunteers to help out during Sports Day to give out placement cards. If you are able to help please let the school office know.

In the unlikely event of bad weather we will make a decision by 9am on the day to confirm if Sports Day will go ahead.

## WASPS/SCHOOL FIELD

There appears to be some rumours around the village that West Hill Wasps are no longer allowed to use the school field. We are unsure who started this rumour but would like to confirm that this is not the case. West Hill Primary School have always had a very good relationship with West Hill Wasps for many years and allowed them to play on the school field. This relationship has not changed and they continue to use the school field on approval by the SMILE Learning Trust and Governing Board.

## TROPHIES

Please can we ask that all trophies are returned to school by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May** in preparation for trophies assembly on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**. Thank you.



## GUITAR LESSONS

Due to unforeseen circumstances there were no guitar lessons on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Mr Wall will hold lessons on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June in lieu of the missed lessons. Please can you ensure that your child brings their guitar and music to school with them that day. This will be in addition to the regular lessons on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

## CLASS 4 SHARING ASSEMBLY

We would like to inform parents that Class 4 will be having their sharing assembly on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 10.10am. All parents and family of Class 4 are most welcome to come and watch in the Village Hall.

## Y1 & Y2 DANCE PERFORMANCE



We would like to invite the parents of children in Y1 and Y2 to watch their end of half term dance performance in the village hall at 3pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May. This is a unit of dance that the children have been working on with Katie Murray throughout this half term and I know they would love to show their hard work to you.

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Hosted by the mental health foundation, [Mental Health Awareness Week](#) takes place this week (13-19 May). Please see the attached document for more information.

## PTFA UPDATE

### WINTER BALL, SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2019 - SAVE THE DATE!

Plans are once again underway for our annual fundraising ball. It promises to be a beautiful evening in our magically transformed village hall with top notch caterers The Pickle Shack providing three delicious courses. We'd love to see as many parents there as possible so please save the date and book your baby sitters.

As always we are looking for some interesting auction prizes for the evening. If you have any ideas, contacts or time to spare helping us with this, the ball committee would love to hear from you - [westhillball@gmail.com](mailto:westhillball@gmail.com)

### CAKE SALE

Here is a huge thank you to all involved in the last cake sale. We made a fantastic, unbelievable £227!!! The bar has truly been set. Thank you cake makers, buyers, everyone who bought and especially those behind the table selling. Thank you!!

### FAMILY CAMPING ON SCHOOL FIELD

Camp on the school field to raise money for the PTFA/school. Saturday 15th June until Sunday 16th. Games and activities for the kids. Bring your own food and drink. Tents or campers. School families only! Toilets available. Subject to weather/field conditions. £25 a pitch. See the attached flyer.

### THE FETE

The small band of merry volunteers are starting more regular meetings to ensure that we have everything sorted out for our Fete. Volunteers are still needed for a variety of small tasks on the day - please shout, if you can help? The more helpers, the less everyone has to do and the more fun it will be for everyone. To quote Donny Osmond "Help us, help us, please..."!!!

Remember the Facebook page where details of everything going on will be posted.

### ARTSMARK OPEN AFTERNOON

As you may have seen, the school is having an Artsmark Open afternoon, on Wednesday 5 June, between 2.00pm and 3.15pm. All are invited into school with children displaying and presenting a wide range of art activities. Without wishing to miss an opportunity, Mrs Bedford has kindly agreed that the PTFA could sell refreshments. Any volunteers to help sell some coffee, tea and juice (and cake)?

### ANY OTHER IDEAS?

What else can we do? - please shout!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### MESSY CHURCH - THIS FRIDAY

Fun activities, informal worship and share food.

May 17<sup>th</sup> - At the seaside

June 28<sup>th</sup> - Summer BBQ and party

St Michael's Church, West Hill. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



Have a lovely weekend.

With my best wishes

*Cheryl Boulton*

Mrs. Cheryl Boulton  
Headteacher