



NEWSLETTER 1

01404 812599 Thursday 6th September 2018. Website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

I should like to extend a very warm welcome back to you all, and a special welcome to all our new families. I hope that you had a lovely summer break and I wish both yourselves and the children a very happy and successful Academic Year 2018-2019. A big welcome also to Mr Pantling (our new Deputy Head) and Mrs Townsend (our Teaching Assistant in Class 2).

Apologies for the length of this newsletter, it has turned into a mini novel this week with lots of important information we feel you need to know!

Term Date: 2018-19 Academic Year

	Sep-2018					Oct-2018					Nov-2018				
Monday		3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26
Tuesday		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Wednesday		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Thursday		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
Friday		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
	Dec-2018					Jan-2019					Feb-2019				
Monday	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25
Tuesday	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26
Wednesday	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Thursday	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Friday	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	
Saturday	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	
Sunday	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	
	Mar-2019					Apr-2019					May-2019				
Monday		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27
Tuesday		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
Wednesday		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
Thursday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	19	25	
Sunday	3	10	17	24		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	
	Jun-2019					Jul-2019					Non-Pupil Days (Training)				
Monday		3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29					
Tuesday		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30					
Wednesday		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31					
Thursday		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25						
Friday		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26						
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27						
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28						
											Occasional Holidays				
											School Holiday				
											Bank Holiday				

MESSAGE FROM DORN CHARLES

I would like to say how much I appreciated the many messages, cards and gifts on my retirement in July. It has been a real pleasure watching so many children progress through the school and getting to know their families over the years. I always felt so lucky to do a job I loved and have lots of happy memories as I move on to the next chapter of my life. Thank you - Dorn Charles.

SAFEGUARDING NSPCC DOCUMENT

As part of my termly safeguarding briefings, a document from the NSPCC was shared with me at the end of the summer term and recommended as good practice to cascade to parents. The document from the NSPCC is called '*How safe are our children 2018*'. Although it is 88 pages long, it is a very comprehensive overview of child protection in the UK. If you are interested in looking at it please go to:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/how-safe-children-2018-report.pdf>

DAMAGE TO THE SCHOOL FIELD

We were very sad to hear from our caretaker during the second week of the school holidays that we had vandals on our school field. Unfortunately a goal post and one of the picnic benches were both broken. This is obviously time and money for us to repair/replace these items so we ask you all to keep your eyes and ears open to find out who is responsible for this. Many thanks.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME/PENALTY NOTICE

As of September 2013, an amendment to the Education (Pupil Registration, England) Regulations 2006 came in to force and greater clarity was introduced to the issue of schools authorising absence requests. These changes reinforced the Government's view that every minute of every school day is vital and that pupils should only be granted authorised absences by the school in 'exceptional circumstances'.

Although attendance is generally good at West Hill Primary School, last academic year had a high proportion of unauthorised absences taken for holidays (242 sessions which equates to **121 days of lost learning**). As a general rule a family holiday is not considered by the Government to be an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore will not be authorised.

As a direct result of this, following advice from the Education Welfare Officer and to align us with other schools in the Local Learning Community, West Hill Primary School will be reporting unauthorised absences for holidays in term time to Devon County Council from **September 2018**. Devon County Council will then decide whether to issue a penalty notice.

- A penalty notice can only be issued to parents of children who are of **compulsory school age**. At present, a child becomes of compulsory school age when they reach the age of 5.
- A penalty notice will only be issued to a parent(s) if their child has **at least ten, half-day unauthorised absences recorded against their name within six months**.
- Penalty Notices will require the parent of a child of compulsory school age, whose attendance has been unsatisfactory, to pay a fine, currently **£60.00 if paid within 21 days** or **£120.00 if paid within 28 days**.
- **Each parent** will receive a separate penalty notice for **each child**.
- If a parent chooses not to pay the Penalty Notice they will be automatically summoned to appear in Court for an offence under Section 444(1) Education Act 1996.
- If a **Penalty Notice has already been issued within the previous 2 years** then the Local Authority will proceed straight to Magistrates Summons.

ASSEMBLY VALUES

Each half term we will be focussing on a half termly value in assemblies on Wednesdays and Fridays. This term's value is Respect.

Week beginning 3rd September - Welcome back/Introduction to the value

Week beginning 10th September - Respect for each other in school/manners

Week beginning 17th September - Respect for our family

Week beginning 25th September - Respect for our pets

Week beginning 1st October - Respect for our world/environment

Week beginning 8th October - Respect for places e.g. churches/libraries

Week beginning 15th October - Evaluation of value

MEET THE TEACHER EVENING - Thursday 20th September - 6-7pm

We are having a 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Thursday 20th September for all parents. If you are unable to attend, please be kind enough to ask another parent to take notes to feed back to you. We look forward to seeing you all there. We appreciate that some of you have children in more than one class. Please give priority to those children whose teachers you haven't met before OR the classes about which you feel you would like more information. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2018

Please find attached 'Dates for your Diaries for the Autumn Term'. Please make a note of all the important dates coming up this term. Unfortunately we do not have the time to e-mail reminders for every event.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES - Friday 28th SEPTEMBER

On Friday 28th September we would like to invite the children to help celebrate European Day of Languages by coming to school dressed in another country's traditional costume. This may be European or non-European. We shall enjoy a French breakfast in the playground and activities throughout the day to raise awareness of our wonderful world's rich and diverse linguistic culture.

PLAYTIME FRUIT SNACK

Please can we remind you that Key Stage 1 are provided with a snack from the government for morning break but unfortunately this is not extended into Key Stage 2 so they may bring their own healthy snack for morning break. Appropriate snacks for morning/afternoons are fresh fruit and vegetables, cheese, plain crackers or plain rice cakes. It would be helpful to label any plastic pots which often get left in the playground each day.

ASTHMA INHALERS

It is the parent's responsibility to supply school with an in-date, named inhaler, and a spacer if necessary. Please sign a new green form that can be obtained from the foyer for your child's new teacher.



DINNER MONEY - BALANCE

Please can we ask that you check your child's dinner balance weekly and make sure they are in credit at ALL times. We already have a number of pupils in debt and will be unable to provide further meals unless this is settled. Thank you.

WEST HILL VILLAGE BREAKFAST CLUB

This is now up and running. Doors open at 7.30am each morning with breakfast served for those there by 8am. There are spaces still available so please contact Mrs Andrea Chipps by email (westhillbreakfast@gmail.com) or phone (07561 188736) and she will answer as quickly as possible.

DAY TO DAY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

ARRIVING FOR SCHOOL IN THE MORNINGS

We would like to remind you that the school whistle is blown at 8.55am. Children in Years 1 to 6 should arrive in the small playground from 8.45am. A teacher will stand at the side gate next to the conservatory at 8.45am and these children will be taken through the school to the big playground where they are supervised by the duty teacher. Reception class need to be in the small playground where Mrs Powley/Mrs Stevens will greet them and take them into class. May I remind you that the main gates will be open but children will not be supervised until 8.45am so please do not leave them un-accompanied. If you arrive after 8.55am you will need to accompany your child to the school office and sign I the late book. Thank you.



RETURNED FORMS

We appreciate that some parents have had to wait a while at the office to drop off forms. To alleviate this, please can you return forms either via book bags, or, in the new box in the main entrance. Any money should still be handed in to the office.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AFTER SCHOOL

We have noticed after school that many children are on the school field, at the play park or still on school premises without adult supervision. Please may we remind you that it is your responsibility to supervise your own child/ren after school and we cannot be held responsible for any accidents or incidents that may occur as a result. Once children have been dismissed from school at 3.30pm they should not be re-entering the school building. We appreciate your co-operation for the safety of your children.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY/SAFEGUARDING

If at all possible, please could parents avoid approaching the school fence by the playground/play park during the school day. Meal Time Assistants will not always recognise parents and carers and this could be flagged up as a safeguarding issue. If you have any concerns please come to the school reception.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION

Good communication is very important to us at West Hill Primary School. As the teachers are very busy preparing for the children's arrival in the mornings, if there is anything urgent you wish to tell them, a message can be left with our excellent administrative team who will pass it on. Teachers are usually in the playground at 3.30pm to say goodbye to the children and you are welcome to speak to them at this time. However, teachers are very busy people so if you wish to discuss a more lengthy matter, please be so good as to make an appointment with the teacher via our administrative staff. Thank you.

HOME AND SCHOOL BOOKS

Every child is given a 'Home and School Book' in which they record their reading, and their homework where applicable. We do expect the children to read each night and we would ask that you initial your child's book every night, stating what has been read. There is also a space for your comments

at the bottom. This can be used to give praise and encouragement to your child, to alert the teacher to any concerns you may have or to arrange an appointment. A full chart showing homework completed in each class is available on the school website, and will be discussed at Meet the Teacher evening.

CLASS CURRICULUM LETTERS

These are written by each class teacher and will be sent out shortly. These letters inform you of the learning that will take place in your child's class this term. This information will help you to talk to your child in the evenings about different topics, and maybe to work together to collect some interesting artefacts, library books or information from the Internet. These letters are also archived on the website.

NEWSLETTER AND SCHOOL WEBSITE

For the benefit of our new parents and children, this newsletter is sent every Thursday and its purpose is to keep you informed about what's going on at school and within the local community. It will be sent by email so please advise us of any changes of address. Newsletters are also archived on the school website at www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk just in case you miss one. The website contains a great deal of information about the school. The calendar for the term will be posted up on the website shortly with key dates.

RAISING CONCERNS

If there is a problem with your child, please see their class teacher in the first instance - he or she is the best person to help. The problem will be referred to me as necessary, but the majority of concerns can be solved successfully through discussion with the class teacher or, if it is an administrative query, through discussion with our administrative team. If you wish to discuss any ideas or concerns you may have, or any of our procedures, or if you have sometimes wondered why we do something in a particular way, then please feel free to arrange an appointment or catch me on an informal basis on the roundabout before or after school. Often a simple chat can solve a potential problem or query before it becomes one, or before playground speculation becomes rife!

PTFA NEWS

The PTFA would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored the children with regards to the Sponsored Bounce before the end of term. It raised an outstanding £840 for our school. Thank you.

3KM TALE TRAIL FUN RUN - CANCELLED

Due to many reasons we are sadly cancelling this fun run for the foreseeable future. A new date will be set and we will announce it in plenty of time.

WAITROSE TOKENS

The PTFA has been selected by Waitrose in Sidmouth, as one of three charitable causes to receive a share of £1,000 in the month of September. The money is distributed according to the number of green tokens collected by each cause in the collecting boxes beside the checkout tills. So, can everyone please visit Waitrose and put as many tokens into the collecting box as they can before the end of the month.



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

FRENCH CLUB

French Club will start again for Years 1 and 2 week beginning 17th September. These sessions will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes from 12.40 to 1.10pm. If you have already filled in a slip for your child, you should receive an email from Madame Shackleton with the day your child will be attending. It is always useful to remind them on this day so they get into a routine. I do require $\frac{1}{2}$ term's notice if your child wishes to discontinue with the club.

LUNCHTIME CHOIR FOR KS2

Choir will begin on Friday 14th September for KS2 children from 12.45pm to 13.15pm in Class 6.

RUN A MILE CLUB FOR KS2

Mrs Bennett will be running her Run a Mile Club for KS2 from Friday 14th September and each week thereafter at 8.30am on the field.

MUSIC LESSONS

Violin lessons will begin on Monday 10th September

Guitar lessons will begin on Tuesday 11th September

Woodwind lessons begin on Wednesday 12th September

Brass lessons will begin on Thursday 13th September

School teachers will have a list of times and notify the children before their lessons begin.

SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

The orchestra will start weekly rehearsals from Tuesday 18th September, usual time of 3.30pm to 4.45pm, in the Village Hall. Please let us know if your child will not be continuing with orchestra this term, so that we can allocate any spare places from the waiting list. Otherwise, we look forward to seeing them in a few weeks and playing Christmas tunes before long! If your child would like to join the orchestra, please pass their name, class, the instrument they play and to what level, to the school office. Seeking advice from their music teacher as to when to start is a good idea as they will need to be able to play and recognise at least 4 or 5 notes.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MESSY CHURCH

Fun activities, informal worship and share food. Friday - 3.45pm-6.00pm.

September 21st - The Sower

October 19th - Courage

November 16th - Friendship

December 14th - Christmas Story

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



Have a lovely weekend.

With my best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cheryl Boulton'.

Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher