



NEWSLETTER

01404 812599 Thursday 11th June 2020. Website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday we welcomed back 19 pupils from Year 6 making a grand total of 50 pupils in school from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 (excluding keyworkers where numbers vary each day). 50 pupils equates to just 23% of our school.

School is very different at the moment with bubbles of between 7 and 10 children, 2 metre social distancing, assemblies held in classes, staggered drop off and pick-ups and lunch eaten in classrooms. We are all adapting to a 'new normal.'

I have provided an update on additional pupils returning to school on page 3 after Tuesday's government announcement. I saw the following poem this week and thought it might make some of you laugh!

Lockdown parents

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I hope you can relate

It's been a long time

Since they shut the school gate

I was going to be the best teacher

I had a schedule on the wall

P.E with Joe wicks

Then maths, English and more

I was going to teach them everything

While juggling the everyday tasks

It would be fun and different

Who was I kidding I now ask?

Nearly three months later

And my house is a state

The schedule was ripped up

By the first lockdown update

Nine o'clock start

You must be kidding

If they are dressed before twelve

I'm totally winning

Three meals a day
Breakfast lunch and tea
That went out the window
Times those meals by twenty three

Then there's the guilt
That they didn't do their spellings
Because they were on the PlayStation
Building new Minecraft villages

You can try to clean up
But as soon as you stop
A hurricane passes through
And ruins the lot

You can try to make projects
Or find fun things to play
But attention span is low
And they just run away

As for exercise forget Joe Wicks
Walking to the shop to get important bits
Lugging back bags filled to the brim
With lots of snacks and bottles of gin

Forget about bedtime
That doesn't exist anymore
Because the kids aren't tired
But they are constantly bored

At least I can say
I made it, kept the kids alive
I did my best with what I had
Even if gin helped me to survive

We are all amazing
You better believe it's true
So be proud of yourselves
Yes be proud of you!!!

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Please remember that we should all be following the government advice on social distancing which states:

'Even when leaving the house for allowed reasons, you should practise social distancing, which means maintaining a distance of at least 2 metres (or 3 steps or 3 big steps for younger children) between yourself and anyone who is not from your household.'

We would appreciate you doing this when you bring your child to school and when you collect him/her. Children should wait with their adult and not be allowed to run around and play with their friends. We

have taped off the sensory garden for this reason. Thank you for your support with this to keep everyone safe.

UPDATE ON PUPILS RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Primary pupils in England in Reception, Year 1 and 6 began to return to school last week - and figures published by the Department for Education have shown how many attended, based on 4th June.

It shows that about three quarters of those who could have returned to school were still at home - reflecting that almost half of schools were not open for extra pupils.

- 52% of primary schools opened for extra pupils
- 11% of primary pupils were in school - about a quarter of those year groups who could have gone back
- 659,000 children were in all schools, including children of key workers, almost 7% who would normally attend, up from 2.6% before half term

On Tuesday 8th June, it was announced that the plan for all primary school years in England to go back to school before the end of term is to be dropped by the government.

There had been an aim for all primary pupils to spend four weeks in school before the summer break. The announcement means that many children in these other year groups will not be back in school until September or even after. This week's announcement made formal what head teachers and governors in England have been saying for some time that it was not a realistic possibility to accommodate all primary year groups at the same time, with social distancing limiting their capacity. Class sizes are now only 15 pupils or less - so if each class occupied two classrooms, school leaders argued that they would have no space for all year groups to return. It's not possible to massively increase the space each class needs to meet social distancing rules, and bring everyone back. There's not enough room.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-52969679>

With great regret we therefore have to confirm that West Hill Primary School will not be able to welcome Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 back to school for the remainder of this summer term, other than children of Key Workers. This is due to a lack of further teachers and lack of further classrooms. We will await further government guidance regarding plans for September.

CONTACTING TEACHERS

If you need to contact a teacher please email the school office on admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk. All messages will be passed to the teacher who will respond as soon as they are able. Please remember that some of our teachers are part time and will only be able to respond to you on their normal working days.

MUSIC LESSONS FOR PUPILS IN KEY STAGE 2 (CLASSES 3-6) IN SEPTEMBER



Peripatetic music teachers come to West Hill Primary School to give instrumental tuition to the children who would like to learn a musical instrument. The teacher is self-employed and will invoice you directly for lessons termly, with a term's notice required if the child wishes to stop. They are able to offer tuition for woodwind (flute, clarinet and saxophone), brass (cornet), violin and guitar. You will need to provide the instruments, but with the exception of guitar, these can be hired through Music Devon at reasonable rates.

For new starters (current Year 2 and upwards), in order to secure a place to start in September, please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter and return to the office by **Monday 29th June 2020**. Paperwork will then be sent home to complete. Once the music teacher has arranged their tuition time for West Hill School, to start in September, it is unlikely they will be able to accommodate any additional requests after July.

CURRENT MUSIC LESSONS

May I remind you to email the music tutors to confirm whether your child wishes to continue their lessons as well as returning your contracts to the office by the 6th July 2020 (these were sent out last week). If you have not received a contract but your child has music lessons, please contact the office who will get one sent out to you.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please see the attached letter and information from Thomas Moore in Exeter regarding the online purchase of school uniform and the re-opening of their shop, with social distancing, from 15 June.

HATS AND SUN CREAM

Please remember to send all children attending school with a named sun hat each day. Water bottles are a must and these can be refilled throughout the day. **With regards to sun cream please make sure your child/ren come to school with this applied, we are unable to allow sun cream to be kept in the children's trays and we are unable to apply it for them.**



NSPCC SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Over the years the NSPCC Speak Out and Stay Safe assemblies have taken place in more than 90% of Primary Schools across the UK, giving children the knowledge that they need to stay safe from harm and to speak out if they're worried. Last week they hosted their first virtual assembly alongside some very special guests: Ant and Dec, David Walliams and Children & Families Minister Vicky Ford MP. To watch the assembly use this link to YouTube

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=qm0kccbZpYY>

MESSAGE FROM KARA GREEN- RAINBOW WARRIERS YOGA & MINDFULNESS

As many of you know I usually teach this in school as a lunch club. Since lockdown began I have run these via Zoom, on a Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime with great success. Numbers are usually limited to 15 in school but, as children can join in at home online, I am now able to offer it to everyone. If you would like your child to join us please email me at karatwinkle@hotmail.com

All age groups are welcome. Investment is £3 per session payable in advance for the next 5 weeks, starting next Tuesday 16th June and Thursday 18th June ending on Tuesday 14th July and Thursday 16th July. Classes run 12.45-1.15 pm.

Any number of children can join in per household and children may join in either lunch club or both for the same price.

Any questions please get in touch.

Many thanks

Kara Green (mum to Loula in Y2 and Darwin in Y6)

Some feedback:

"She is using some of your techniques for anxiety and it is really helping."

"What a lovely connection to his friends!"

"Thank you - it's brilliant!"

"The boys loved it."

"Thank you so much for offering this."

Have a lovely weekend.
With my best wishes

C Boulton

Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher

Please return slip to Wendy or Jo by Monday 29th June 2020

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TUITION

My child _____ Class _____

would like to learn _____ (name of instrument).

Signed: _____ Date _____
Parent/Guardian