



NEWSLETTER 1

01404 812599 Friday 11th September 2020. Website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

I should like to extend a very warm welcome back to you all and hope that you had a lovely summer break. I would particularly like to offer a special welcome to our new Reception children and families as well as nine new children in other year groups across the school.

Over this week we have all been so proud of the way the children have returned to school after such a long break. Some of the current Y1 and Y2 children returned on 1st June but others haven't been in school since 23rd March! I would like to wish both yourselves and the children a very happy and successful academic year 2020-2021.

Thank you all for your patience and co-operation with the staggered starts and finish times and for working with us to make a few tweaks. We are all unsure how long this 'new normal' will last but we will keep you updated with any significant changes.

ILLNESS/COVID

Please be aware of the current guidance if your child is ill.

If anyone in the school (pupil or adult) has any of the 3 symptoms of COVID they must be sent home, self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). The 3 symptoms are:

- **new and persistent cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. If you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual.
- **a high temperature**- this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature.)
- **a loss of or change in their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)** -this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating and can return to school.

THANK YOU FROM MRS ADAMS

A big THANK YOU to the children and parents for all the wonderful cards, pictures and kind messages that I received during my last few days at school. Sending best wishes to everyone for the new school year.

NEWSLETTER AND SCHOOL WEBSITE

The newsletter will now be sent out every **Friday** 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.

ASSEMBLY VALUES

Each half term we will be focussing on one of our 6 school values in assembly: Respect, Friendship, Achievement, Happiness, Co-operation and Responsibility. As we are not allowed to hold assemblies together as a whole school, they are being carried out in classes in our own bubbles to avoid contact with any other bubbles. This term's value is Respect.

LATES

As each class has a 10 minute drop off window, we hope this will help to avoid any children arriving late. If for any reason you know you are going to be late e.g. the car isn't starting, please phone the office to let us know as your child's entry gate into school could be locked when you arrive.

VILLAGE HALL TOILETS

Please note that with current COVID guidelines, there is no access to the Village Hall or their toilets before or after school and you will find the front door is locked.

BIRTHDAY TREATS

We appreciate that some of you like to send in sweets for the class when your child has their birthday. Unfortunately, at the moment our COVID risk assessment states '*Pupils to limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials (the guidance states 'such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books, stationery and mobile phones. Bags are allowed'*' We would therefore politely ask that you do not send sweets, cakes or any other birthday gifts into school until further notice. Thank you.

BIKES

At the moment we are not allowed pupils in one bubble (class) to mix with pupils from other bubbles and therefore it is very difficult for any pupils in Reception/Year 1 to bring bikes to school as they cannot safely access the bike storage (near the Y3/Y4 mobile) without mixing with other pupils. As we do not have any other suitable storage in the EYFS/Y1 playground we would kindly request that any bikes of pupils in Reception/Year 1 are taken home with a parent and brought back at the end of the school day to ride home. Thank you for your support with this.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2020

Due to the current restrictions that we have had to put in place, we are having to double check all of the pre-planned dates. We will let you have these as soon as possible.

VANDALISM OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Unfortunately over the summer holidays we experienced some damage to our school field gates with youths who were seen forcing open the gates with such force that they damaged the lock. We have therefore had to purchase an additional chain and padlock to ensure the site is kept secure. Devon Air Ambulance use our school field as a night landing sight and we have to ensure it is kept free from any debris in order to allow them to land safely.

PLAYTIME SNACK

Please can we remind you that Key Stage 1 are provided with a free piece of fruit/vegetable from the government for their 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, plain rice cakes or plain bread sticks. It would be helpful to label any plastic pots which often get left in the playground each day. **Please remember we are a nut, sesame and kiwi free school.**

ASTHMA INHALERS

It is parent's responsibility to supply school with an in-date, named inhaler, and a spacer if necessary. Please ensure that you complete a new green form which can be obtained by emailing the school office (admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk).



SCOPAY APP NOW AVAILABLE.

For parents not yet using SCOPAY, did you know you can pay for dinner money and trips and events all online. Using SCOPAY allows you to top up your child's account anywhere, anytime using a credit or debit card.

All parents have access to SCOPAY, if you have not yet registered to make online payments, please let the office know and an access code will be issued to you. To find out more, visit www.scopay.com.

MUSIC LESSONS

Music lessons will begin this term as follows:

Violin - Monday 14th September

Keyboard- Monday 14th September

Guitar - Tuesday 15th September

Woodwind - Wednesday 16th September

Recorder - Wednesday 16th September

Brass - Thursday 17th September

Please ensure that your child remembers to bring their instruments on the relevant day. Thank you

FLU IMMUNISATION FOR ALL CLASSES

Your child will be in Reception to Year 6 from September 2020 and they are therefore eligible for a Free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination.

It is anticipated that the vaccinations will be administered on 30th November 2020, adhering to all up to date Infection Control, PPE and social distancing guidance at the time.

Flu vaccination is one of the most effective interventions we have to reduce pressure on the health and social care system which is going to be more important than ever this year. For this reason, it is essential we deliver the vaccine to as many children as possible to prevent the spread of infection to those most at risk in society.

In light of the above we are expecting demand to be high and therefore we urge you to follow the below link to consent to your child's vaccination now. Even if you do not want your child to receive this vaccination, please complete the consent form stating "no" consent. You will also find answers to your FAQ's on this link.

<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/flu/2020/devon>

If you have any difficulties with completing the consent form please contact the Immunisation Team on our Single Point of Access (SPA).

Tel: 0300 247 0082

Email: vcl.immunisations@nhs.net

DAY TO DAY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

COLLECTION AT HOMETIME

As children have moved into new classes, can we please remind you to ensure that your child's teacher is informed of home time arrangements. If anyone other than a parent is collecting your child, you must ensure that your child's teacher or the office have been informed. If we have not been informed, we will have to make a telephone call to ensure that the information we have been given is correct. Please remember that this is for the safeguarding of your children. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Parents of Year 5 and 6 children only if you would like to give permission for your child to walk home alone at the end of the day please email admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

LINES OF COMMUNICATION

Good communication is very important to us at West Hill Primary School. If you do wish to contact your child's class teacher then please send an e-mail to them via the office. 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.

CLASS CURRICULUM LETTERS

These are written by each class teacher and will be sent out on Friday 18th September. 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 school website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

RAISING CONCERNS

If there is a problem with your child, please contact your child's class teacher by e-mailing the school office as he/she is the best person to help. The problem will be referred to me if necessary, but the majority of concerns can be solved successfully through liaison with the class teacher or, if it is an administrative query, through liaison with our administrative team.

COMMUNITY NEWS

WEST HILL WASPS UNDER 7'S FOOTBALL

West Hill Wasps will again be running an under-7s team this season and this is open to all children in Year 1 and 2. There will be weekly training sessions on a Tuesday at 4pm for an hour. There are a handful of 5 a side tournaments across the year, which Year 2 children can play in, however the main focus will be around the weekly training and having fun sessions that will hopefully get them all loving football! For more information please email chris.ambrose84@gmail.com.

Have a lovely weekend.

With my best wishes



Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher