



NEWSLETTER 1

01404 812599 Thursday 12th September 2019. 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 2019-2020.

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!

West-Hill-Primary-School-Term-Dates:-2019-20-Academic-Year

Day	Sep-2019					Oct-2019					Nov-2019				
Monday	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		
Tuesday	3	10	17	24		8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		
Wednesday	4	11	18	25		9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		
Thursday	5	12	19	26	*	10	17	24	*31	7	14	21	28		
Friday	6	13	20	27	*	11	18	25	*	8	15	22	29		
Saturday	7	14	21	28		12	19	26	*	9	16	23	30		
Sunday	8	15	22	29	*	13	20	27	*	10	17	24			
Day	Dec-2019					Jan-2020					Feb-2020				
Monday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		
Tuesday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		
Wednesday	4	11	18	25		8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		
Thursday	5	12	19	26		9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		
Friday	6	13	20	27		10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		
Saturday	7	14	21	28		11	18	25		8	15	22	*29		
Sunday	8	15	22	29		12	19	26		9	16	23	*		
Day	Mar-2020					Apr-2020					May-2020				
Monday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		
Tuesday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		
Wednesday	4	11	18	25		8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27		
Thursday	5	12	19	26		9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28		
Friday	6	13	20	27		10	17	24		8	15	22	29		
Saturday	7	14	21	28		11	18	25		9	16	23	30		
Sunday	8	15	22	29		12	19	26		10	17	24	31		
Day	Jun-2020					Jul-2020					Non-Pupil-Days-(Training)				
Monday	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27						
Tuesday	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28						
Wednesday	3	10	17	24		8	15	22	29	Occasional-Holidays					
Thursday	4	11	18	25		9	16	23	30						
Friday	5	12	19	26		10	17	24	31						
Saturday	6	13	20	27		11	18	25		School-Holidays					
Sunday	7	14	21	28		12	19	26		Bank-Holidays					

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'.

As a general rule a family holiday is not considered by the Government to be an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore will not be authorised. West Hill Primary School report unauthorised absences for holidays in term time to Devon County Council who 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 2nd September - Welcome back/learning behaviours

Week beginning 9th September - Introduction to the value/Respect for each other in school with manners

Week beginning 16th September - Respect for our family

Week beginning 23rd September - Respect for our pets

Week beginning 30th September - Respect for our world/environment

Week beginning 7th October - Respect for places e.g. churches/libraries

Week beginning 14th October - Diwali/Trophies assembly

MEET THE TEACHER EVENING - Tuesday 17th September - 6-7pm

We are having a 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Thursday 17th 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.

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS, CONSENT FORM & HOME-SCHOOL-PUPIL AGREEMENT

These will be handed out to parents at the Meet the Teacher Evening next week. Due to revised Data Protection Regulations we are now unable to send these home through the children's book bags so if you are unable to make the Meet the Teacher Evening please can you please collect these from the office on Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th September. These need to be completed and returned as a matter of urgency, as we need to ensure we have the most up to date contact details if we need

to contact you in an emergency. **All 3 forms need completing on both sides, signing and returning to the office no later than Friday 27th September.** Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2019

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.

FLU IMMUNISATIONS

Flu Immunisations are available to all children from Reception to Year 6 and will be administered on Monday 14th October. A letter with a weblink for Parental Consent and information leaflet was emailed to all parents/carers on Monday this week. If you would like your child to receive the flu immunisation this year online consent for Virgin Care must be completed by 18th September 2019. Please click on this link to access the website for your consent: (<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/flu/2019/devon>)



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES – Friday 27th SEPTEMBER

Each year in September we celebrate European Day of Languages. On **Friday 27th September** we would like to invite the children to join in and help to celebrate by coming to school dressed in another country's traditional costume. This can be either European or non-European as we will also extend our celebration to include the rest of the world. We shall enjoy a French breakfast in the playground and all the children will be able to try croissant or brioche. There will be a PTFA donations box if you would like to contribute. This will be entirely voluntary. We shall have activities throughout the day to raise awareness of our world's rich and diverse linguistic culture.

LAUNCHING 'LEARNING BEHAVIOURS'

The staff at West Hill Primary School are excited to tell you about our new initiative focusing on supporting all our pupils to become effective learners. Please see the attachment with further explanation.

As a school we will be concentrating on the learning behaviours of:

- independence
- problem solving
- resilience
- motivation
- cooperation.

We will be working together to identify the skills needed for each of these 'behaviours' and helping to equip all the children with these lifelong learning skills. There will be new certificates to celebrate and acknowledge when pupils demonstrate these skills and bonus house points at the end of each term! Further information will be available in the foyer at Meet the Teacher evening on Tuesday, 17th September. Do come along to see what we are doing.

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. **Please remember we are a nut and sesame seed free school.**

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.



SCOPAY APP NOW AVAILABLE

If you're already using SCOPAY, we've been asked to tell you that they've rebranded meaning their website is now easier to use, and they have also released a mobile app, which can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

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.

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.

ROUNABOUT REMINDER

Please can we remind parents that we have a one-way system with our roundabout for entering and exiting the Village Hall car park and we ask everyone to follow the signs appropriately.

WEST HILL VILLAGE BREAKFAST CLUB

I am afraid that due to lack of support, I have decided to close the Breakfast Club. When expressions of interest were sent out, I had responses stating that there would be 40-50 children per day, but unfortunately, this did not materialise and the club was not financially viable. I therefore had to make the difficult decision to end the club. I have ensured that all regular users of the Breakfast Club were informed of my decision over the summer holidays.

Andrea Chipps

TRANSFER TO SECONDARY EDUCATION 2020 - ATTENTION YEAR 6 PARENTS

The application system for Secondary places in September 2020 is now open and will close at midnight on 31st October 2019 with the national offer day being 2nd March 2020. Please apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline

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 in the late book. Thank you.



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 complete and return the attached slip for your class teachers via the school office.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AFTER SCHOOL

We have noticed after school that many children are 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. If you do wish to contact your child's class teacher by e-mail then please send this 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. 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 on Friday 20th 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

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.

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 if 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!

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

FRENCH CLUB

French Club will start again for Years 1 and 2 week beginning 16th 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. Madame Shackleton require $\frac{1}{2}$ term's notice if your child wishes to discontinue with the club.

RUN A MILE CLUB FOR KS2

Mrs Bennett will be running her Run a Mile Club for KS2 from Friday 13th September and each week thereafter at 8.30am on the field.

TAG RUGBY CLUB

Alex Clements will be holding a Tag Rugby club on Tuesdays at 3.30pm-4.30pm starting on Tuesday 17th September. There will be 12 sessions this term ending on Tuesday 10th December at a cost of £36.00. Please see the attached document for the sign up slip to be completed and returned to the school office with payment.

MUSIC LESSONS

Violin lessons began on Monday 10th September

Guitar lessons began on Tuesday 11th September

Woodwind lessons began on Wednesday 12th September
Brass lessons will begin today Thursday 13th September
School teachers will have a list of times and notify the children before their lessons begin.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MESSY CHURCH

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

September 20th - Goodness

October 18th - Kindness

November 22nd - Love

December 20th - Joy

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



MUMS NIGHT OUT - LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH - FRIDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

All ladies welcome to join us at the British Legion at 8pm, the more the merrier! We'd love to meet as many of our new Reception class Mums too.

WEST HILL HIDDEN BOOKS

Inspired by the county wide group, our very own West Hill Hidden Books group page has been created to inspire the younger members of our community (age 12 and under) to get out and about and to read.

The idea is simple: read a book, write a note, pop it in a bag, zip/seal it up, then hide it in a public place (somewhere safe for a family to walk) within West Hill, for a fellow villager and their family to find and enjoy... and so it goes on! Clues and tips of "hides" and news of your "finds" are shared via the group page. Happy reading! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2427719547293276/?ref=share>

Have a lovely weekend.

With my best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Boulton".

Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher

If you give permission for your child in Class 5 or 6 to walk home alone then please complete this slip in order for teachers to release them.

West Hill Primary School
Permission to walk home alone (Class 5 and 6 parents only)

I give permission for my child _____ (name) in Class _____
to walk home alone and take full responsibility for their safety once they have left their class teacher.

Signed _____

Date _____