



## NEWSLETTER

01404 812599 Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Website [www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk)

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Dear Parents and Carers,

### **DEVON VIRTUAL GAMES SUCCESS**

Well done to all West Hill pupils who took part in the Devon Virtual Games first Challenge - **The Walk Jog, Run, Challenge**. In particular, congratulations are due to the following children who have all earned themselves a medal:

#### Gold medals

Jacob A  
Sam B  
Freddie C

#### Silver medals

Alice A  
Oliver M  
Ben M

### **STAFFING UPDATE**

We are very sad to announce that Mrs Adams will be leaving West Hill Primary School at the end of the summer term. She has been the Teaching Assistant in our Reception Class for the last 16 years and will leave very big shoes to fill. She is looking forward to some time out of school and pursuing some new adventures. We have advertised the role and will keep you updated after interviews have taken place.

Since returning to school, we have started looking at staffing options for September and will be announcing these in the next few weeks once finalised. Thank you for your patience with this.

### **SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS/PUPIL NUMBERS**

We have been doing our utmost to promote and maintain 2m social distancing and have so far managed this with small groups of between 7-10 pupils per class. We have been told by the government that we can have up to 15 children per bubble, and we are aware that the number of requests received from parents for places is increasing as more parents return to work. As this happens, we must make you aware that we will then struggle to still meet the 2 metre social distancing requirement in classrooms. The guidance from the DfE states:

"We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should, therefore, work

through the hierarchy of controls to reduce the risk of transmission - crucially minimising contact and mixing by keeping children and staff in small consistent groups and keeping groups away from each other."

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

## STATISTICS ON THE RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS IN DEVON

On Monday, I had an online meeting with DAPH (Devon Association of Primary Headteachers) and the following information was shared:

- On 1st June, Devon had a total of 5,766 primary-aged children in school.
- By 9<sup>th</sup> June, that number had grown to 13,375. Of these, 7,767 were in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and 5,608 were key worker and vulnerable children.
- More than twice as many primary children are attending school in Devon as nationally.
- 22.6 % of all primary-aged children are in school in Devon compared to 11 per cent nationally.
- 44 % of those offered a place in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 have taken it up so far, and numbers continue to increase.
- At West Hill Primary School we currently have 55% of our pupils in school from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 in addition to our key workers/vulnerable pupils.
- 98% of Devon mainstream schools have opened.

## LEAVING CHILDREN HOME ALONE

Devon County Council have had a number of concerning reports from the community and housing associations regarding children being left home alone.

There is no law about when you can leave your child on their own, but it is an offence to leave them alone if it places them at risk. As parents, you should use your judgement on how mature your child is before you decide to leave them at home. Read the government advice on the law on leaving children unattended: <https://www.gov.uk/law-on-leaving-your-child-home-alone>

It is important to be aware that you can be prosecuted if you leave a child alone 'in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health'. If you are at all unsure, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) recommends that children under 12 are rarely mature enough to be left alone for a long period of time, children under 16 should not be left alone overnight and babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone.

## LETTER FROM HEAD OF EDUCATION & LEARNING

Please see the attached open letter to parents from Dawn Stabb, Head of Education & Learning for Devon County Council.

## CONTACTING TEACHERS

If you need to contact a teacher please email the school office on [admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto: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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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](mailto: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



Mrs. Cheryl Boulton  
Headteacher

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Please return slip to Wendy or Jo by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TUITION**

My child \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

would like to learn \_\_\_\_\_ ( name of instrument).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian