



## NEWSLETTER 11

01404 812599 Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018. Website [www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Dear Parents,



### ATTENDANCE

Last week the whole school's attendance was 97.1% which is slightly below our target attendance of 97.5%.

### WOW MOMENT

BBC Radio Devon is looking for two primary school choirs to sing at their Christmas Service on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at Exeter Cathedral in 'Star For Christmas'.

Mrs Bennett kindly recorded our school choir singing a Christmas carol and on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November we were contacted to say that we have been shortlisted to the final eight choirs. Radio Devon will be playing the eight carols from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> (one a day) and the public vote opens on 30<sup>th</sup> November until 6<sup>th</sup> December. The 2 winners will be announced on Gordon Spark's breakfast Show on 7<sup>th</sup> December. More details on our date for broadcast and how to vote will follow as soon as we know.

Please listen in and vote for West Hill Primary School - it would be amazing for our children to be part of the Christmas service in Exeter Cathedral.

### TEACHERS ROCK YOUTH CHOIR

Good luck to our 24 Teachers Rock Youth Choir members who will be performing in a concert in Exeter Cathedral on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November with 250 other pupils from across Devon and their teachers. Mrs Boulton and Mr Pantling have both been invited and are looking forward to the event.



## **VISIT FROM DEVON FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

Last Friday Classes 2 and 5 had a visit from the Devon Fire and Rescue Service who talked to them about Home Fire Safety. As part of this initiative, the service is offering free Home Fire Safety Checks to any families that have children under the age of 18 living at home. Whilst at your home, as well as giving a general fire safety talk, they can also check fire alarms and replace them if needed. If this is something that you would be interested in, please call 0800 05 02 999.



## **CLASS 2 AND CLASS 4 SCIENCE WORKSHOPS**

On Tuesday 20th, Class 4 and Class 2 enjoyed a day's visit from Dr Jackson from Seadream education. The visit was linked to their new science topics. In the morning, Year 4 learnt about sound and light, while in the afternoon Class 2 learnt about 'My body and different animals'.

The children enjoyed the different learning resources Dr Jackson shared. Reef in Class 4 said: "I loved the slinky: it showed you sound waves." Rose in Class 4 said: "I found out loads about how sound works and that it is even able to still be heard through water. I really enjoyed it."

Dotti in Class 2 said "I thought it was interesting to see a dolphin's skull and funny when Dr Jackson put a fish in its mouth." Matthew in Class 2 said "I liked it when we got to squish a brain. It felt like a squishy. "

Thank you to the PTFA for funding this event.



## **CHRISTMAS CRAFT CLUB – NOW ALSO OPEN TO KS1 CHILDREN**

Graham Harry (O6 Youth Worker) will be running a Christmas Craft Club for up to 12 pupils. This will be held after school on Wednesdays for 3 weeks (28 Nov, 5 Dec, 12 Dec) at a cost of £1.00 per week. The club will be held in the staffroom so children can be collected from the tennis court canopy at 4.30pm. Places are available on a first come, first served basis. Please see the school office if your child wishes to join.

## **SAFEGUARDING- NEW CHILDLINE WEBSITE FOR UNDER 12s**

Childline has launched a website aimed at children under 12 which provides age appropriate content on topics including bullying, family, friends, feelings, school, abuse and staying safe. It also includes games and therapeutic tools for young visitors to play and express how they are feeling.

It will be promoted through the NSPCC's Speak out Stay safe programme.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/kids>



## **POPPY APPEAL TOTAL**

We have been informed that we managed to raise a fantastic **£403.64** for this year's Poppy Appeal. Thank you to everyone who supported the appeal by purchasing all the wonderful merchandise.

## **COLLECTION OF CHILDREN AT HOMETIME**

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.

## **ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, could we kindly ask that you complete an S2 Absence Request Form in advance. These forms are kept in the office for you to collect, or can be sent home with your child and a copy is attached to this newsletter should you wish to print yourself.

Parents need to know if the absence will be authorised or unauthorised **before** the intended absence occurs. Devon County Council recommends the completed form is submitted to school **three weeks** before the date of the intended absence to allow time for the request to be appropriately considered. We do appreciate, however, that some circumstances will prevent this such as funerals etc. but where possible we do require more notice.

Please can we also request that routine medical appointments with the dentist or GP are made outside of school hours wherever possible.

## **BAD WEATHER**

As the winter weather can be changeable please see attached our bad weather procedures. Please also feel free to sign up to the below alerts from Devon County Council. Once registered you will receive an email if the school has been closed due to winter weather. To sign up click here [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/subscriber/new?qsp=UKDEVONCC\\_4](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/subscriber/new?qsp=UKDEVONCC_4) then enter your preferred email address and then click on the drop down, ticking the schools you want information on, then submit. The service is just one way Devon County Council is keeping the public up to date this winter. To find the latest information and travel advice from Devon County Council click here [www.devon.gov.uk/winter\\_travel](http://www.devon.gov.uk/winter_travel). For updates on Twitter follow @DevonAlert.



## SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AND EDUCATION TRANSPORT POLICY 2020-2021

You are invited to review the proposed admission arrangements for state-funded schools in Devon and the home-to-school transport policy for Devon county Council for the academic year 2020-21. To view the policies please visit <https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/arrangements-and-policies> or call My Devon on 0345 155 1019 for a paper copy.

## PLAYGROUND TOYS

In the last few weeks we have had several incidents of children's toys being damaged, broken or lost at break/lunch times. If your child/ren decides to bring in a small toy (small enough to keep in their trays) can you please make sure it is not their favourite one as we cannot be held responsible for them getting damaged or lost.

## NEW DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December the school Orchestra will be doing a Christmas performance in the Sharing Assembly at 10.10am. Parents of children in the orchestra are invited to join us for this event. The last Orchestra session this year will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December finishing at 4.45pm as usual.

## VIOLIN LESSONS

Please note that next Monday (26<sup>th</sup> November) will be the last Violin lesson of the term in school. Lessons will recommence on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

## PTFA NEWS

### FILM NIGHT FOR CHILDREN IN YEARS 1 TO 6 - SPACES STILL AVAILABLE



The Film night is on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 at 5.00pm in The British Legion and we will be showing The Incredibles 2. A form to complete is at the end of this newsletter. Could you please complete it and return (there is a PTFA mailbox in reception at the school). Parents of Year 1 children are requested to stay with their children for the duration of the film. Tickets will also be on sale in the playground in due course. The price of £3.50 includes sweets and a drink. Could we please have some parent volunteers to make up the children's goody bags and to help set up and tidy up at the end?

## CHOCOLATE DONATION

Please could we ask each child to bring one item of chocolate to school tomorrow, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, for us to use at the tombola at the Pre-school Christmas Fair on Sunday. Thank you.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### MUMS NIGHT OUT - LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH - 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018

All ladies welcome to join us at the British Legion at 8pm, the more the merrier!

### WEST HILL VILLAGE HALL PANTO

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 6.30pm and Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 1.00pm

Wonder Productions join us for their 9<sup>th</sup> year to entertain us with their performance of **JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**, a fun filled pantomime for the whole family!

Bar, tea/coffee and soft drinks, ice creams, sweets and raffle prizes.

Children's area on mats right in front of the stage.

Tickets £10 per adult and £7 per child under 16 available from West Hill Post Office or Sarah Woolfries at Reception. All proceeds will go to Village Hall improvements

## PRE-SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

West Hill Pre-School is hosting the annual Christmas Fair at the village hall between 2 - 4.30pm this Sunday 25th November. Festive fun for all the family (not just the little ones!) with Santa's Grotto, crafts, stalls, bouncy castles, a bucking reindeer, mulled wine and mince pies. It's a great opportunity to kick off the festive season whilst supporting the Pre-School with some all important fundraising. Dust off the Christmas jumpers and please come and join in the fun.

We're also asking for donations of cakes and treats for the cake stall, good quality preloved toys and games, and volunteers on the day to help things run smoothly. We especially need people who can do a bit of face painting!

Please contact Charlotte Ferguson at [whpreschoolchair@gmail.com](mailto:whpreschoolchair@gmail.com) or 07909 531655. Thank you.

## MESSY CHURCH

Fun activities, informal worship and share food. Fun activities, informal worship and share food

December 14<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Story

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



Have a lovely weekend.

With my best wishes

*Cheryl Boulton*

Mrs. Cheryl Boulton

Headteacher

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## PTFA FILM NIGHT TICKET REQUEST

I would like my child/children \_\_\_\_\_ (name/s) in year (s) \_\_\_\_\_ to attend Film night on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 5.00pm.

I enclose payment of \_\_\_\_\_ (£3.50 per child)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Number \_\_\_\_\_