Dear Parents,

ATTENDANCE
Last week the whole school’s attendance was 99%. This is above our target attendance of 97.5%. Well Done!

YEAR 5 SHARING ASSEMBLY
We would like to invite parents of children in Class 5 to their sharing assembly on Friday 24th January at 10.10am in the Village Hall. We hope you will be able to join us.

INTERNET SAFETY SESSIONS FOR CLASS, CLASS 6 AND ALL PARENTS
We are holding Internet Safety sessions for Class 5 on Wednesday 5th February and Class 6 on Thursday 6th February. The children will reinforce their learning about staying safe online - including posting photos and social networking. We will also be holding two sessions on Thursday 6th February for parents in the ICT suite, at 14.30-15.30 and 16.00-17.00. These sessions are run by Gary Gates, who has worked for the police services and has experience in running Internet Safety workshops in primary and secondary schools throughout Devon.

DARTMOOR ZOO RECYCLING PROJECT 2020, FROM GEORGE, CLASS 4
To everyone who took part in collecting the confectionary tubs this Christmas, I would just like to say thank you and well done.
All profits from the recycling, by Devon Contract Waste, will go to Dartmoor Zoo. Furthermore, the profits made will help save endangered species and fund ongoing conservation projects.
The results for number of tubs collected as of Friday 17th are as follows:

Reception: 45
Class 1: 34
Class 2: 32
Class 3: 72
Class 4: 103
Class 5: 38
Class 6: 48
Total: 372

As you can see, our bin is full to bursting!
**FUNDRAISER FOR AUSTRALIA'S BUSHFIRES**

John and Class 4 have created a fundraising event to raise money for the animals and habitats affected by the wildfires that are devastating Australian ecosystems. The prizes include the opportunity to choose an endangered Australian animal to sponsor for your class. For £1 a go, children and staff can select a square on our map of Australia, where you think that the secret feature is located. There are lots of squares to choose from, so have as many tries as you want. From Monday 20\textsuperscript{th} Class 4 pupils will be taking entries during play each morning and afternoon in the playground as follows:

- **Monday 20\textsuperscript{th}** - Class 6 (am) and Class 5 (pm)
- **Tuesday 22\textsuperscript{nd}** - Class 4 (am) and Class 3 (pm)
- **Wednesday 23\textsuperscript{rd}** - Class 2 (am) and Class 1 (pm)
- **Thursday 24\textsuperscript{th}** - Reception (am and pm)
- **Friday 25\textsuperscript{th}** - anyone absent or anyone who has forgotten their money

Please support this event by sending your child to school with £1.00 or multiples of £1.00 if they wish to buy more than one square.

**THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM MISS SPENCE**

To all parents and families at West Hill, this is a rather belated thank you for the incredibly kind and generous presents I received at the end of term. I have been enjoying all the chocolate and fizz and I am off to Woodbury Park soon for a special treat. I was really touched by all the lovely messages in my cards and wish all you the very best. I’m getting on really well at Seaton although unlike West Hill there aren’t many biscuits in the staff room!

Love and best wishes Miss Spence

**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 children will go 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 we remind you that the main gates will be open but children will not be supervised until 8.45am so please do not leave them unaccompanied. **If you arrive after 8.55am and the gate near the steps is closed, then please bring your children into the school office. Thank you.**

**THANK YOU**

Reception took delivery of some new ride on toys this week! There was great excitement when the children discovered they had two new wobble bikes and a new tricycle. Physical Development is a key area of the EYFS curriculum as well as being a lot of fun. Many thanks to Gina Belcher for securing a donation from Knight Frank Estate Agents so we could buy this wonderful equipment for our Reception class. We are all very grateful.

**MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL**

We do not encourage children to bring mobile phones to school. However, if there is a valid reason that your child needs to bring a phone to school, please e-mail the school office to inform us. Please ensure your child is aware that they need to bring their phone to the school office on arrival at school and can then collect it at the end of the school day.
SCHOOL LUNCH CHOICES
We are experiencing some issues at lunchtime where children are ordering a meal at 9am and then changing their mind when they go to collect it at lunchtime. The meals are cooked to order so unfortunately we do not have spares for children to change their mind and swap options. We want to make parents aware of this in order to avoid any confusion or further issues.

LOST PROPERTY
We have another mountain of lost property looking to be reunited with their owners! Please take a look in the cupboard by the school office to see if there is anything belonging to your child. Please can we take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of naming all belongings that come in to school, it is so much easier to return things if it is all clearly named.
Thank you for your co-operation.

SICKNESS & DIARRHOEA
Please remember that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea that they should not return to school for 48hrs after the last episode. This is to avoid spreading germs with other pupils or staff and is in line with NHS guidelines: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

DINNER BALANCES
Please can you make sure your children’s accounts are kept in credit at all times. Thank you for your co-operation.

PLEA FOR SPARE SOCKS!
KS1 classes are running very low on their stock of spare socks! This is a plea for donations of any surplus socks you have for boys or girls to replenish our supply. Also, if your child has any socks they have borrowed from school could these please be returned. Many thanks.

BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN
Now that the clocks have gone back, Devon County Council is reminding all road users to ‘be bright, be seen’ as it gets darker and weather conditions get worse. More vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders, are reminded to be alert and make themselves visible by wearing reflective or fluorescent clothing while out and about on Devon’s roads. Motorists should take extra care to look out for other road users, particularly in poor weather conditions such as fog, mist and rain, which may reduce visibility. They are also urged to give cyclists and horse riders more space when passing them in the road.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
RUN A MILE CLUB – unfortunately the school playing field is still too muddy and slippery for Run a Mile Club to restart this Friday. Hopefully the weather will improve soon and allow the field to dry out sufficiently. We will notify you as soon as we are able to restart the club.

PTFA NEWS
NEW BALL COMMITTEE URGENTLY NEEDED!
The West Hill Ball has been going now for 14 years and is both a valuable fundraiser for the school and a great local evening out. Every two years a new ball committee is formed to keep the event fresh. As last year’s committee steps down we now urgently need a new group of parents to take this forward and plan the 2020 event! It can be as simple or elaborate as you like, its great fun to
be involved in and the old committee are always here for advice. Please send us an email at westhillball@gmail.com ASAP if you are interested.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MUMS NIGHT OUT - LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH - FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY
All ladies welcome to join us at the British Legion at 8pm, the more the merrier!

MESSY CHURCH
Fun activities, informal worship and share food. Fridays - 3.45pm-6.00pm.
February 14th
March 20th
April 17th
May 15th
June 19th

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

With my best wishes for a lovely weekend.

Cheryl Boulton
Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher