



NEWSLETTER

01404 812599 Thursday 25th June 2020. Website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday 22nd June we welcomed back another 9 pupils (3 in Reception, 3 in Year 1 and 3 in Year 6). We now have a total of **59** pupils in school out of a possible 93 pupils which is a total of 63%.

17 in Reception (59%)

20 in Year 1 (63%)

22 in Year 6 (69%)

We ask that anyone else who wishes to send their child to school does this on either Monday 29th June or Monday 6th July. It is too disruptive for children to start in the middle of the week when key learning has been introduced on a Monday.

Please note that the last date for any new pupils to join the school is Monday 6th July (so that they still have 2.5 weeks of term).

After 6th July, we will not be allowing any additional pupils to join before we break up on 22nd July.

Devon LA have shared the following data with us:

- Approximately 92% of settings were open in some capacity on 18 June, the same as on 11 June.
- We estimate that 12.2% of pupils (1,160,000) were in attendance at education settings in England on 18 June, up from 9.1% on 11 June.
- From 1 June, the government asked schools to welcome back children in nursery, reception and years 1 and 6, alongside children of critical workers and vulnerable children. We estimate 78% of settings were open to at least one of these year groups on 18 June, up from 67% on 11 June.
- Attendance was highest in year 6, with approximately 34% of all year 6 children in attendance on 18 June, up from 26% on 11 June. Attendance was around 26% in year 1, up from 20% and 29% in reception, up from 22%.

STAFFING FOR SEPTEMBER

Thank you for your patience while we have been organising staffing for September. We have decided to keep teachers in their current classes for consistency after taking COVID-19 and lockdown into account so that pupils can be supported as best as possible with teachers who are experienced in their year group. We are still in the process of allocating our Teaching Assistants and will announce this very soon.

Class	Teacher
Reception	Mrs Powley (Mon-Wed) Mrs Stevens (Thurs, Fri)
Year 1	Mr Sapwell
Year 2	Mr Joseph
Year 3	Miss Kemp
Year 4	Mr Pantling (Mon-Wed) Mrs Pedley (Thurs, Fri)
Year 5	Mrs Tovey (Mon, Tues) Mrs Bedford (Wed-Fri)
Year 6	Mrs Harris (Mon-Wed) Mrs Bennett (Thurs, Fri)

SOCIAL DISTANCING UPDATE

Another 9 pupils joined us on Monday 22nd which means our bubbles are growing in size with some as large as 11. This is obviously having an impact on our ability to maintain social distancing in our classrooms.

The government guidance acknowledges 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, the government have taken this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out below:

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of settings
- minimising contact and mixing

It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.

Public Health England (PHE) is clear that if early years settings, schools and colleges do this, and crucially if they are also applying regular hand cleaning, hygiene and cleaning measures and handling potential cases of the virus as per the advice, then the risk of transmission will be lowered.

Where settings can keep children and young people in those small groups 2 metres away from each other, they should do so. While in general groups should be kept apart, brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is low risk.

For primary schools, classes should normally be split in half, with no more than 15 pupils per small group and one teacher (and, if needed, a teaching assistant). If there are any shortages of teachers, then teaching assistants can be allocated to lead a group, working under the direction of a teacher. Vulnerable children and children of critical workers in other year groups should also be split into small groups of no more than 15. **Desks should be spaced as far apart as possible.**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

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.

CONTACTING TEACHERS

If you need to contact a teacher please email the school office on 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 29th 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.

SCHOOL NURSING UPDATE

Please see the attached update from the School Nurse Service with information on how they may be able to support you and your family.

Have a lovely weekend.
With my best wishes



Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher

Please return slip to Wendy or Jo by Monday 29th June 2020

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TUITION

My child _____ Class _____

would like to learn _____ (name of instrument).

Signed: _____ Date _____
Parent/Guardian