



NEWSLETTER

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday 29th June we welcomed back another 5 pupils (2 in Reception, 1 in Year 1 and 2 in Year 6.) We now have a total of **64** pupils in school out of a possible 93 pupils which is a total of 63%.

19 in Reception (66%)

21 in Year 1 (66%)

24 in Year 6 (75%)

RETURNING TO SCHOOL BEFORE THE END OF TERM

Please remember that the last date for any new pupils to return to 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.

Please ensure any requests to return to school are emailed to the school office by lunchtime tomorrow (Friday).

CHANGES TO LUNCH MENU FROM NEXT WEEK

Please see the attached revised lunch menu that will apply from next week.

Please note this menu will also apply for the first week back to school after the summer holidays - w/c Monday 7th September.

STAFFING UPDATE

After the announcement in the newsletter dated 18th June that Mrs Adams is leaving the school at the end of the summer term, we have also been informed that we will be losing Mrs Jackson (Y5/Y6 Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Cox in the school office. Mrs Cox has gained a full time position at a secondary school and Mrs Jackson is going to work for her husband. They will both be greatly missed at West Hill.

Interviews for Mrs Adams and Mrs Jackson's Teaching Assistant vacancies will be held on Thursday 9th July and interviews for the office vacancy will be held on Tuesday 21st July. We are hoping to fill all 3 positions ready for September.

SUMMER HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

The Secretary of State for Education has confirmed that they are not asking schools to open over the summer holidays, and there is no expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over this period.

END OF TERM-WEDNESDAY 22nd JULY

On the last day of term we usually invite parents into school for a family picnic on the school field and finish at 1.30pm. Unfortunately with the current situation we will not be able to hold such a mass gathering this year which we are all very sad about. We are also very mindful that children have only been back in school since 2nd June and many parents are still juggling working from home with home schooling.

With this in mind, we plan to work a normal school day on Wednesday 22nd July and finish at the usual time (3pm for Reception, 3.15pm for Year 1 and 3.30pm for Year 6) in order to support you all as much as we can.

END OF YEAR SCHOOL REPORTS

Our end of year reports will be given out at the end of the day on Friday 17th July to pupils currently in school (we will also send home reports for any siblings who may not be in school.)

If your child is not in school, their report will be posted to you.

There will be a covering letter with the reports explaining some differences this year such as no Year 2 or Year 6 SATS and no Year One Phonics Screening. Schools have been asked not to report their end of year data to the local authority in the usual way. Although some children started returning from 2nd June, the information in the reports will be based on observations and assessments held before school closed for lockdown.

Under the circumstances, with the exception of Year 6, I have decided to remove the Head Teacher comments box on reports this year. Although this is a job I usually do, it is very time consuming and at the moment my time will be better spent finishing up the busy school year and preparing for the changes we face in September (following Gavin Williamson's guidance to schools due to be released today).

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. **Please ensure that you have returned your contract to the school by Monday 6th July. If you require a copy of the contract, please contact the office as soon as possible.**



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 at the beginning of June). 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.**

MUSIC LESSONS DURING LOCKDOWN

Despite the Corona Virus lockdown, some children from West Hill Primary have continued to have regular music lessons via Skype or Facetime with Gail, the Brass instrument teacher who says:

"Lessons were restructured to focus on happy music making and provided opportunities to spend enjoyable time with a musical instrument, exploring sounds and discovering new music during this very difficult and uncertain period. I was really impressed with the children's resilience to persevere and adapt to this new way of learning and utilising technology. Children not only learned instrumental &

musical skills but also practiced their reading and counting skills, writing and drawing skills, speaking and communicating skills, plus all the other skills like organisation, time keeping, the list goes on.

Children prepared for a virtual performance, some played outside to nearby neighbours and performed live via video call. Colourful posters were created and a broad variety of pieces were selected to play. Some wrote up a news article reflecting on their experiences.

I appreciate that circumstances remain changeable, but I sincerely do hope that I will be able to re-connect with all the children face to face in September."

TROPHIES

Due to the lockdown, there are still quite a few trophies that weren't returned to school before the Easter break. Please could you keep these in a safe place and return to school when your child returns in September.



THE 2020 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE IS HERE!

The Summer Reading Challenge, presented by The Reading Agency and funded by Arts Council England, encourages children aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading challenge to help prevent the summer reading 'dip'. Each year the Challenge, delivered through public libraries, motivates over 700,000 children to keep reading to build their skills and confidence. Last year more than 14,000 children across Devon and Torbay took part.

With the disruption caused by COVID-19 and the impact of social distancing on schools and public libraries, the 2020 Challenge will launch as a digital activity to keep children reading over the summer and support parents and carers with children already at home. The Challenge will run from June to September.

This year, Silly Squad, the Summer Reading Challenge 2020, celebrates funny books, happiness and laughter and features bespoke artwork from award-winning children's author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson (Amelia Fang; Evil Emperor Penguin; I Don't Want Curly Hair). Children taking part in the Challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck in to all different kinds of funny books!

The digital Challenge is free to access, featuring games, quizzes and digital and downloadable activities to incentivise and encourage children and their families to take part in reading-related activities at home. Although our library buildings are closed we have boosted the number of children's books available to borrow via our e-lending platforms which can be accessed from our Devon Libraries and Torbay Libraries websites. From July we will also be hosting lots of Silly Squad events and activities on our Facebook pages, so look out for those!

With school life disrupted and many children missing the company of their friends, this year's fun-filled Summer Reading Challenge will be all the more vital as a way of helping parents and carers find fun, family-friendly activities, maintain literacy levels and create a safe space for children to connect with their peers.

Ottery St Mary Library and Information Centre

WEST HILL VILLAGE SCARECROW FESTIVAL

The first annual 'West Hill Scarecrow Festival' takes place from Saturday 27th June to Sunday 5th July. There is no theme this year but scarecrows are positioned well within the boundaries of properties, to keep pathways and roads clear and to discourage anyone from touching displays. The event is supported by West Hill Parish Council who have kindly pledged a £50 prize for the winning creation. Impartial members of the Parish Council will be judging the event during the course of the festival week. Entrants are encouraged to leave displays in place beyond festival week, for the community to enjoy. There is a map on the West Hill Scarecrow Festival 2020 Facebook page to help you locate the scarecrows.

SOME DAYS YOU
FEEL GOOD

BECAUSE YOU'VE absolutely SMASHED
EVERYTHING ON YOUR TO DO LIST.

OTHER DAYS YOU
FEEL GOOD

BECAUSE YOU MANAGED
TO HAVE A SHOWER.

WHICHEVER IT IS, I HOPE YOU FIND
SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU
feel good TODAY!

Have a lovely weekend.
With my best wishes

Boulton

Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher