Dear Parents,

ATTENDANCE
Last week the whole school’s attendance was 97.4%. This is slightly below our target attendance of 97.5%.

WOW MOMENT!
We are pleased to announce that in recognition of the quality and variety of our music provision, the school has been awarded a Music Mark Award by the Devon Music Education Hub for the third consecutive year. A big thank you to Mrs Bedford (The Arts Subject Leader) who has coordinated this and enabled us to achieve this award.

PARENTS’ EVENING APPOINTMENTS
Just a reminder that the parent appointment lists will be in the small playground in the fenced area from 8.40am and thereafter before and after school from Monday 3rd February. If you are unable to attend school to make the appointment please can you arrange for a friend to do so on your behalf. Many thanks.

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.

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 and 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 and sign them in the ‘late book’. If your child arrives before registers close at 9.15am, they are marked as a L code. If they arrive after 9.15am they are marked as a U code (unauthorised).

Thank you for your support with this.
SCIENCE WORKSHOPS ON 'MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION' AND 'SOUND'
On Tuesday 21st January, Class 4 enjoyed a visit from Dr Juliette Jackson of SeaDream Education, who came to teach us interesting facts and share exciting objects we could explore. This learning linked to both our Plastic-Free School project and our learning in Science.

"I enjoyed the fact that there is a shrimp that can use its vomit to scare away predators!" - May
"I had never seen a dolphin’s skull before." - Otto
"I liked the tech!" - Harry
"I liked listening to the music boxes - me, Immy and Beth tried putting our ears to the chair and it made it so, so, so much louder." - Sasha
"I liked what Dr Jackson did with the slinky (to show soundwaves)." - Darcy
"I also liked seeing the nurdles because I had never seen them before." - Bella.

Examining plastic nurdles washed up on Bigbury beach

Some pieces of plastic pollution on Bigbury beach had travelled from all around the world and had writing in different languages printed on

Learning how soundwaves travel was really fun

Experimenting with the Boomwhackers and seeing how their different length created a different pitch was very exciting.

KATIE MURRAY DANCE PERFORMANCE BY YEAR 5 AND YEAR 1
We would like to invite parents of children in Year 5 and Year 1 to watch the dance they have been practicing with Katie Murray on Friday 14th February at 3pm in the Village Hall. We hope you will be able to join us.
TROPHIES
If your child was presented with a trophy at the end of last half term please can we ask that they return them to Wendy or Jo in the office by Friday 7th February at the latest. Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY
We have another mountain of lost property looking to be reunited with their owners! Please 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.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH TEACHERS
If you need to communicate with teachers, they are generally available to speak to before school or after school. If easier, you can write a message in their reading diary or contact them via the office either by e-mail or with a written note.

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.

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
PTFA Cake Sale - After school on Thursday 13th February
Please can we ask parents of Year 4 children to bake for the sale - these can be Valentine themed if you wish. Please bring your cakes to the school at drop off or pick up time for sale at the end of the day.

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
Year 4, 5 & 6 Girls - This Girl Can Sports Club
Please see the attached information regarding the This Girl Can after school sports club being run for girls in Years 4, 5 and 6 at The Kings School in Ottery St Mary on Tuesdays from 25th
February. Please contact Tracy Moran at The Kings School directly if you wish to book a place for your daughter.

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.

Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher