



NEWSLETTER

01404 812599 Thursday 4th June 2020. Website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

As you know, school re-opened on Monday 1st June and we were delighted to see 14 of our Reception pupils return on Tuesday 2nd June and 17 of our Year 1 pupils on Thursday 4th June. We also continue to welcome pupils of keyworkers on a daily basis. All children have settled back remarkably well considering they have all had 10 weeks at home and we are all very proud of them. They have seen a very different school and have adapted so well to the changes that we have implemented. A huge thank you also to the parents of pupils in Reception and Year 1 pupils who have followed the new procedures and times for drop off and pick up and also maintained social distancing around the school site.

The Lost Learning

It's all about perspective.

You speak of the 'lost' learning.

But how can we lose what we didn't possess?

The things that didn't happen?

You did learn, but differently.

About different things... in difficult times.

You learnt to bake a cake when you might've practised algebra.

You learnt to enjoy the quiet of your own mind when you could've conquered adverbial phrases.

The subtle modal verb... the infinite possibilities!

You WERE learning... just differently.

When we wake up, we do not say we 'lost' the chance to brush our teeth because we ate breakfast first.

We just brush them next.

Because that's the logical thing to do.

It builds on what came before...

As educators, we will do the same.

Entrusted with the precious minds of our children, how could we do anything but?

We will assess the facts, gauge requirement and move learning forward.

Delicately... like fine brushstrokes.

Until a masterpiece emerges...

You can't stop learning from happening.

It is older than schools, more primitive than education.

It is organic and goes on without us...

Please don't dwell on what didn't happen... nothing was lost.

What did you gain?

GOOGLE CLASSROOM/TAPESTRY

As mentioned in my 6 page mammoth letter dated 26th May there is no obligation or statutory duty on schools to continue to provide home learning in any specific way when pupils start to return to school. The government guidance refers to schools using their 'best endeavours' to provide home learning from 1st June knowing that there could be a significant number of pupils remaining at home for the foreseeable future.

Obviously bringing back pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 (as well as keyworkers) has a huge impact on the school's ability to support home learning as there are very clear and obvious challenges for teachers in providing both school provision and home learning opportunities. I also have some teachers teaching different classes e.g. Mr Joseph is teaching Reception whilst providing home learning to Class 2, Miss Kemp is teaching Class 1 whilst providing home learning to Class 3, Mrs Tovey and Mrs Bedford are teaching Class 6 whilst providing home learning to Class 5, Mr Pantling and Mrs Pedley are teaching keyworkers whilst providing home learning to Class 4. In addition, teachers are writing end of year reports this half term.

With all of this in mind, we have agreed as a school to continue to provide the same amount of work for pupils working at home on Google Classroom/Tapestry. We have agreed that teachers will look at Google Classroom/Tapestry twice a week but in doing this reduced provision, it will be difficult for them to maintain the same level of interaction with pupils about their work.

HOMEWORK

No homework will be set for the remainder of this term.

HATS AND SUN CREAM

Please remember to send all children attending school with a named sun hat each day. Water bottles are a must and these can be refilled throughout the day. **With regards to sun cream please make sure your child/ren come to school with this applied, we are unable to allow sun cream to be kept in the children's trays and we are unable to apply it for them.**

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We are currently unable to allow any visitors in to school and so regretfully there will be no after school clubs running for the remainder of the summer term.

MESSAGE FROM RNLI

This summer, our Lifeguards can't be on every beach, meaning a heightened water safety risk to beach goers.

It is anticipated that once restrictions further ease and the summer weather is here, people will head to the beaches and coastline to enjoy the sun, sea and time with friends and family. In a normal year, the RNLI helps thousands of people who end up getting into difficulty in or close to the water when doing these types of activities.

Throughout the summer term, our local team of trained volunteers and Lifeguards do their best to visit as many of the schools, colleges and youth groups in our region as possible. However, due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak we have not been able to engage with school communities as we normally would.

Below, you will find out ways in which you can help at this time.

- Download and use our [education resource pack](#). Educating young people about how to keep safe, in on and around water is fundamental to saving lives at sea and a core part of the RNLI's water safety activity. This term we have put together two downloadable packs of resources focusing on keeping safe this Summer. This will help your teams engage young people with essential - and lifesaving - water safety lessons in schools and as part of home school packs.

- Share a link to our [Water Safety from Home resources](#) - If you're a parent or teacher looking for ways to engage, educate and entertain your children at home, play our Water Safety Wednesday series - perfect for primary school-aged children.
- Please help by sharing the RNLI & MCA's [Beach Safety Campaign](#) with parents, guardians and your wider network. Beach lifeguards cannot be everywhere this summer - although we are hoping to patrol around 70 beaches later this year - it is vital every one of us takes responsibility for our own, and our families', safety.

Together, we really can make a lifesaving difference.

DEVON FAMILY ADVICE LINE FROM CHARITY EXETER COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

ECI launched a new phone advice line for parents and carers across Devon on Monday 1 June. The number for the new service is 01392 949059 and it will be manned from 10am - 2pm Monday to Friday. People will be able to leave a message outside of these hours, or when the operators are all busy.

It will offer advice on a specific issue around their children and their family relationships, including any communication issues or conflict they are having with their partners or co-parents of their children. It is not meant to be a replacement for more targeted work, but just a way to offer people a place to be heard and a few tips on how to deal with a particular situation or to signpost them to an organisation which may be able to help them. For more information about ECI visit their website:

www.eci.org.uk

OTTERY ST MARY SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Please see the attached with the Devon School Games details for the first 3 challenges (including next week's Dance launch.) There is also some details of the Big Colour Challenge from British Triathlon.

Have a lovely weekend.

With my best wishes



Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher

