Dear Parents,

**ATTENDANCE**
Last week the whole school's attendance was 97.3%. This almost in line with our attendance target of 97.5%.

**PARENTS’ EVENING APPOINTMENTS**
Parent appointment lists have been available for you to sign up all week; these will now be kept in the office so please speak to Wendy or Jo if you still need to book a slot.

**LETTER FROM MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCHOOL STANDARDS**
We were delighted to receive a letter from Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP (Minister of State for School Standards) congratulating us on 100% achieving the expected standard in writing at the end of Key Stage 2 (July 2019). The letter states that we are in the top 1% of primary schools for achievement in writing. Congratulations to everyone who helped to achieve this result.

**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 service and has experience in running Internet Safety workshops in primary and secondary schools throughout Devon.

**CLASS 2 SHARING ASSEMBLY – FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY**
We would like to invite parents of children in Class 2 to their sharing assembly on Friday 7th February at 10.10am in the Village Hall. We hope you will be able to join us.

**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 practising with Katie Murray on Friday 14th February at 3pm in the Village Hall. We hope you will be able to join us.

**FUNDRAISER FOR AUSTRALIA'S BUSHFIRES**
John and Class 4 created an Australian treasure map to fundraise for the animals affected by the wildfires devastating Australia. We raised a grand total of £291. The winning square was picked by Millie in Class 5 and her class will now sponsor a koala.
Prizes were awarded to the top 10 nearest guesses, which went to: Millie Y5, Holly Y4, Tallulah Y4, Emilia Y3, Shay Y2, Sam Y6, William Y4, Eloise Y2, Sam Y4 and Carter Y4.

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 absence).
Thank you for your support with this.

WORLD BOOK DAY – THURSDAY 5th MARCH
We would like to invite the children to come dressed as their favourite book character (be prepared to tell your class a little about who you are and why). We will spend the day off timetable celebrating books with some exciting events and activities planned for the children to enjoy.

WE ARE A NUT AND SESAME SEED FREE SCHOOL
Please can we remind you that we have students in school with an allergy to peanuts and sesame seeds. These foods, even in trace amounts, may cause a severe reaction (anaphylaxis).

Please can we ask for your co-operation with this:
1. If your child has eaten peanuts/sesame seeds before coming to school, please be sure your child’s hands and face have been thoroughly washed before entering the school.
2. Please do not allow your child to bring any food items containing peanuts/sesame seeds into the school.
3. When planning your child’s lunch and snacks, we ask that no foods containing peanuts/sesame seeds be brought into the school under any circumstances.

For example:
Peanut butter sandwiches
Chocolate spreads
Cereal bars
Some granola bars
Cakes that contain nuts
Biscuits/Cookies that contain nuts
Peanut butter cakes
Some Asian food, including satay sauces that contain nuts
Houmous

This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging of products closely. We appreciate that this is an additional thing to check and we know that you recognise the importance of it. I know if this was your child you would expect that we all help, especially as it is a life-threatening condition.
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 – We are pleased to inform you that Run a Mile Club will be restarting tomorrow (7th February). We look forward to seeing you at 8.30am.

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.
CALLING ALL DADS!
Come and join other like-minded individuals for some fun and a curry at the British Legion West Hill on the second Friday of each month. Always good fun and we want as many new dads to come and meet the regulars and get to know each other. Events through the year include card night, the Great British Legion Curry Off, Darts tournament and Rolling of the Barrel. Come and join us this time, you will for sure enjoy yourself.

DETENTION!
7 children from Years 4, 5 and 6 are taking part in a TIPPS (Tipton Players & Panto Society) musical performance of 'Detention'. A story about a school class where History comes to life. The story is told through script and song with music from Matilda, Mary Poppins and many more. Please come and enjoy a performance during half term at Tipton Community Hall. Tickets are selling fast and available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/TIPPS. Please see the attached poster.

EXETER CITY COMMUNITY TRUST
If you need any additional child care over the Half Term holiday or are looking for something for your children to do, please see the attached flyer from the Exeter City Community Trust.

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