



NEWSLETTER 8

01404 812599 [Friday 6th November 2020](mailto:01404812599@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk). Website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents,



ATTENDANCE

Last week (week 6) the whole school's attendance was 98.9% which is above our target of 97.5%. Well done everyone.

CHILDREN IN NEED

All children are invited to attend school wearing spots [on Friday 13th November](#) for a minimum donation of £1, with all proceeds going to Children In Need. Please send this money in an envelope named 'Children In Need' for pupils to give to their class teacher.

SCHOOL DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

In order to reduce the risk of transmission to/from each other, we politely request (as per the letter on 3rd November) that from Thursday 5th November and until further notice:

- Only one adult per household should undertake each drop off or collection.
- All adults dropping off and collecting children wear a face covering
- In order to reduce queues, adults arriving to drop off should not arrive at school before the start of their first child's entry time.
- Adults must continue to maintain social distancing and remain 2 metres apart at all times.
- Adults must leave the school area immediately after drop off or collection.
- Communication with school is via email, including messages for class teachers.
- Please keep your children with you at drop off and collection times, particularly if you are collecting siblings (as we cannot have children mixing with other bubbles).

Thank you for your support in keeping staff, parents and pupils as safe as possible in this difficult time.

STAFFING NEWS

We are very sorry to inform you that Mrs Jeffery (Reception Class Teaching Assistant) is leaving West Hill Primary School in the next 4 - 6 weeks (date to be confirmed) for family reasons. We will be very sad to see her go and thank her for helping to settle in our new Reception class. We have already advertised the position and will be interviewing before Christmas for her replacement. We will keep you updated with further developments.

READER HELPERS NEEDED

Would you like to be a Reader Helper at West Hill? The following classes need help:

Reception - Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (preferably morning)

Class 1 - Monday, Wednesday and Fridays (preferably morning)

Class 3 - Tuesday to Friday mornings

Class 5 - Wednesday afternoons



With current Safeguarding regulations, a Volunteer Application Form will need to be completed, references taken and a DBS check undertaken before you are able to start. We also ask you to undertake some basic safeguarding training and read 4 safeguarding policies. It is vital that children read in school every day and we really value the volunteers that generously give up their time. All that we ask is that you give a half-termly commitment.

REMINDER: FOOD ALLERGIES IN SCHOOL

We currently have children who are severely allergic to the following ingredients:

Sesame: this includes sesame seeds (in or on bread, crackers or breadsticks and in cereal bars for example), sesame oil, tahini, most types of hummus.

Nuts: this includes all types of nut including for example nut butters, nut oil, nuts in cereal bars, cookies, cakes and so on. Nut oils are also often found in cosmetic products such as lip balms and moisturisers.

Kiwi: this includes kiwi fruit as well as hidden sources of the fruit such as in smoothies or kiwi as an ingredient in unexpected places — for instance some manufacturers use kiwi to glaze paté or tenderize meat.

Why is this important?

Severe allergies can very quickly result in anaphylaxis and death. All affected children have got adrenaline auto-injectors (e.g. Epi-Pens) at school but these are not always effective at countering the effects of anaphylaxis and so it is vitally important that we do not allow the allergens in question into the school setting.

What do I need to do?

Please read the ingredients labels of your child's food! Allergens should be highlighted in bold/capital letters for example but it can be easy to miss so please do read them carefully. Please DO NOT send your child to school with any items containing sesame, nuts of any type or kiwi.

What about items that say "may contain traces" or similar cross contamination warnings?

This is a risky and 'grey' area since manufacturing methods mean that cross contamination is possible. We know that it is extremely hard to avoid products labelled as "may contain" or similar. Therefore, we are able to allow items listed as "may contain" or "made in a factory that also handles..." and we will rely on the vigilance of staff to make sure that the allergic children do not actually come into contact with any other child's food with "may contain" warnings.

What should I tell my child?

If you are comfortable doing so, please do talk to your child about allergies! Allergy-related bullying is a serious problem and has resulted in the death of numerous school children around the world. As such, awareness raising is critical and so in age-appropriate terms, please do engage with your child

about the fact that there are some foods that are not safe for everyone to eat and that allergies can make children very unwell.

This is from a parent whose child has a food allergy in our school:

"We appreciate there's already a lot to think about when preparing snacks and lunches, and so we are extremely grateful for fellow parents' support in keeping our child safer at school.

We know our child's life and surroundings will never be risk free and we work really hard to achieve a balance between constant vigilance and the need to live a normal life. For anyone who might think that excluding foods from school creates a 'false sense of security', please know that there is no sense of security at all, not anywhere and not ever! We also hope that you'll understand and support the school's decision to exclude these foods on the basis of balancing risk to a child's life against inconvenience to parents and other children. Thank you again for your support, we really are truly grateful."

CAN YOU HELP?



We are looking to improve the area outside our school by the big wall that is currently a bit dull. If anyone could donate any spare bulbs, small plants and shrubs we would be very grateful.

REMOTE LEARNING

Any children who are self-isolating due to COVID related issues will be able to continue their education at home via Google Classroom (for Classes 1-6) and Tapestry (for Reception). A letter will be e-mailed to you from the office.

BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

Now that the clocks have gone back, Devon County Council is reminding all road users to 'be bright, be seen' as it gets darker and weather conditions get worse. More vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders, are reminded to be alert and make themselves visible by wearing reflective or fluorescent clothing while out and about on Devon's roads.

Motorists should take extra care to look out for other road users, particularly in poor weather conditions such as fog, mist and rain, which may reduce visibility. They are also urged to give cyclists and horse riders more space when passing them in the road.

PTFA NEWS

Thank you to everyone who helped brighten up our local area with pumpkins during half term, it definitely made our daily dog walks more fun!
We managed to raise a wonderful £230.82!

We also did a final count of the class coin collection, which ran for the month of October and the winning class was Class 1 - Mr Sapwell's class. The class will receive a £20 Amazon voucher.

The results of the class coin collection are as follows:

Reception £44.00
Class 1. **£44.80**
Class 2. £26.63
Class 3. £23.60
Class 4. £27.30
Class 5. £37.67
Class 6. £3.98
Overall total **£207.98**.

Total fundraising so far this year is **£438.80**, so a big thank you to everyone who was involved.

Up and coming events:

100 CLUB FINAL REMINDER

The PTFA are launching this year's "100 Club" - a great opportunity to both support the school and to win cash prizes. These will be drawn each month with the winners being announced in this newsletter. This year, more than one ticket can be purchased per person and we are really hoping that you can involve family, friends, neighbours and others with a connection to the school to maximise both the benefit to the school and the size of the prize! Please see the attached letter and entry form - if you wish to join, please ensure that your form is returned together with payment to the school office by Friday 13th November.

Please remember the deadline date of the start of December for ordering your child's Christmas art work, the site has many other Christmas present ideas other than cards.

www.mychildsart.co.uk/order

Call out for anyone who is able to help install a path to the outside classroom, please contact your PTFA class rep or a member of the PTFA if you are able to help with supplies or labour.

The next PTFA meeting will be held **on Tuesday 10th November, 7.30pm**, via Zoom.

Please email joannambromley@hotmail.com for log-in details.

COMMUNITY NEWS

HOMELESS SHOEBOX APPEAL FOR THE CLOCKTOWER SURGERY, EXETER

I am collecting shoe boxes for the homeless again this year. All boxes will be going to the Clocktower Surgery in Exeter. I had the privilege of having a tour last year, seeing the invaluable work they do in giving support to our homeless community in Exeter. If you would like to donate a box, please could you drop it to St Michael's Church in West Hill or to my home address, Oakridge House, Brackendown, West Hill. Please label clearly whether it's for a lady or gent (no razors, sharp objects or hand sanitiser please). Unfortunately, I am, not allowed to take blankets and coats as in previous years. The deadline is Friday 11th December, as boxes will be quarantined to keep everyone safe. This could be a good half term project to do with the children and to help them to show care for those less fortunate. Ideas for shoeboxes: hats, gloves, warm socks, wipes, sweets, lip balm, hand cream, toothbrush and paste, shower gel, hair brush, sanitary towels, dog treats, a torch, thermals.

Thank you. Michaela Chown

PLAYPARK NEWS

The Government's latest guidelines for Lockdown allow the Playpark to remain open. The Parish Council asks that you remember the general rules for face masks, social distancing and handwashing. Stay safe"

For reference the Guidelines for 5th November include

- Section 4. Businesses and venues - **Outdoor Playgrounds can remain open**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#staying-safe-outside-the-home-social-distancing>

MESSAGE FROM EXETER SCHOOL

In response to the recent Government decision to enter lockdown this week, we have had to make the decision to cancel this Saturday's Exeter School 11+ Taster Day. I am sure your Year 6 pupils will be disappointed but we will be sending the parents and children a virtual film shortly, which will give the pupils an idea of what to expect during the assessment day and life at Exeter School.

Have a lovely weekend.

With my best wishes



Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher