



### SCHOOL CLOSURE- NEWSLETTER 8

01404 812599 [Friday 15th May 2020](mailto:01404.812599@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk). Website [www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Dear Parents,

Many families will have no doubt heard the Prime Minister's address on Sunday 10th May in which he stated: "At the earliest by June 1st - after half term - we believe we may be in a position to begin the phased reopening of shops and to get primary pupils back into schools, in stages, beginning with reception, Year 1 and Year 6." Currently, schools will continue to offer places for vulnerable children and those of key workers and over the course of the next week or two, we will be reviewing Monday night's detailed guidance from the government (which I shared with parents on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May). Any actions required to open the school to the year groups identified in a safe way are now being considered and discussed. When we are in a position to do so we will provide further information to parents. In the meantime, it would be appreciated if parents could complete the survey which will be e-mailed out later today.

Thank you for your patience during a very stressful and difficult time for us all.

#### **Message from Graham Harry** **(O6 Youth Worker)**

Hi Everyone,  
I hope everyone is keeping safe and well at home. It must be quite strange being at home all the time instead of coming to school. If you are anything like me, who is also in my house all the time, you must be really looking forward to the time you can see and play with your friends again. If you have no siblings, you might be feeling kind of lonely. I just want to reassure you that the great thing about friendship is the fact that being a friend continues even when we cannot see each other. We still love and care for each other, we still think of each other, we still maybe pray for each other. We are still friends! I often quote this verse 'A friend loves you at all times' - and that includes when we are in the middle of lockdown. So if you are on your own and you haven't spoken to your friends for ages - be reassured they are thinking of you! I just want to say I am still thinking of you all and I am praying for you. And I am looking forward to when I can see you all again"  
From Graham (TheO6)



#### **Ottery St. Mary School Sports Partnership**

Please see the attached from Tracy Moran (King's Primary Liaison PE Teacher) with some great ideas to stay active during lockdown.

### Is your child eligible for Free school meals?

Families in Devon are being urged to check if their children are eligible for free school meals as the coronavirus crisis creates more hardship across the county.

Devon County Council is appealing to hard-pressed families to make sure they do not miss out on free food for their children - even if they are not currently in school. Eligible children who are at home are entitled to food vouchers worth £15 a week, which can be exchanged at most supermarkets.

Families can apply online through the Devon Citizen's Portal and need to supply their child or children's name, date of birth and current school as well as their own name, date of birth and National Insurance number.

[https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal\\_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=/CCSCitizenPortal\\_LIVE/](https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/)



May we never again  
take for granted:

Friday nights with friends,  
Family gatherings,  
Birthday celebrations,  
The roar of a stadium,  
Mornings at the gym,  
Packed dance floors,  
Coffee with a friend,  
Crowded concerts,  
LIFE ITSELF.



your self  
worth is not  
defined by how  
productive you are  
during the pandemic

@beth.evans

YOU ARE  
OKAY



### The book of Hopes

This is a collection of short stories, poems, essays and pictures to comfort inspire and entertain children in lockdown. The extraordinary collection of short stories, poems, essays and pictures has contributions from more than 110 children's. The short stories (all under 500 words) are completely free for all children and families.

[https://issuu.com/bloomsburypublishing/docs/thebookofhopes\\_interactivepdf](https://issuu.com/bloomsburypublishing/docs/thebookofhopes_interactivepdf)

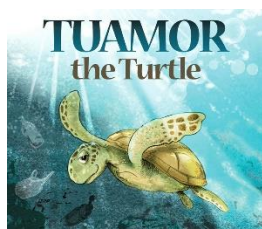
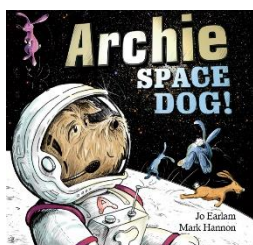
### 2 free children's stories online

Jo Earlam, author of Tuamor The Turtle, Sea Champ and a friend of mine from Sidmouth Running Club has 2 children's stories free to listen to on YouTube and with extra resources online at

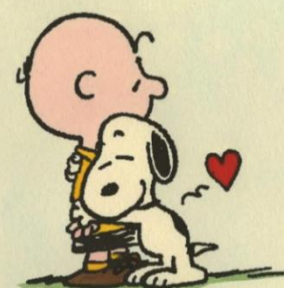
[www.tuamortheturtle.com](http://www.tuamortheturtle.com)

[www.archiespacedog.wordpress.com](http://www.archiespacedog.wordpress.com)

Jo hopes that Archie will become a canine cosmonaut children's champion during coronavirus lockdown with so many of us dreaming of being somewhere different!



Every day may not be good,



but there's something  
good in every day.

It's okay if  
the kids didn't get dressed today  
you lost your rag  
they watched four straight hours of TV  
no one did any craft or baking  
dinner was chicken nuggets again  
there's a washing-up mountain in your kitchen  
you didn't do Joe Wicks' PE lesson  
your family board game ended in tears

It's okay if  
you're not loving every minute  
of lockdown family time

This is not normal,  
but we're doing our best.

You got this.



### Hay Festival Programme for Schools

The 2020 programme for schools has been created especially for learning at home, bringing authors straight from their house to yours from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd May. Each day from 8am onwards, you can see two primary (years 3-6) authors introduced by Konnie Huq and two secondary (years 7-10) authors introduced by Jenny Valentine. These events will be available to watch again on Hay Player and you can access teaching materials to support learning before, during and after the festival.

<https://www.hayfestival.com/c-247-programme-for-schools.aspx?genrefilterid=79>



Have we realized it yet?

That nobody is missing the material things.

We all miss the company of others,  
great conversations, a hug..

That's what life is all about.

### The importance of play during lockdown

Whether as a parent/carer or part of the children's workforce, we are all juggling responsibilities and our own emotional responses to COVID-19 making it a challenge to provide a steady base for our children and young people. The power of play can benefit us all at any age! It states that '*playing, particularly shared play is linked to wellbeing and reducing stress in adults and children.*'

Download the full resource at:

<http://southyorkshirefutures.co.uk/syf/the-importance-of-playing-with-your-child-during-coronavirus-covid-19/>



### Year 2 and Year 5 pupils Fire Safety

As you know, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service usually visit schools to give Fire Safety Talks to Y2 and Y5 pupils which is currently not possible, so they have created some resources which are available and support Fire Safety & Prevention Education as well as giving pupils some activities to complete. All their resources aim to support the PSHE 2020 Curriculum. They have also created a resource pack to support the delivery of the Great Fire of London.. Here is the link to their website.

<http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/YoungPeople/Index.cfm?siteCategoryId=5>

### NSPCC COVID-19 support documents

Please see attached document from the NSPCC with guidance, advice and support for children, parents/carers and professionals.

The 3 areas for children are:

- Childline-Calm Zone
- Childline-staying in touch with friends during lockdown
- Childline-What is Coronavirus-How to cope-Getting support

**NSPCC**