



SCHOOL CLOSURE- NEWSLETTER 9

01404 812599 Friday 22nd May 2020. Website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

Well, it's been 12 days since the Prime Minister announced the reopening of schools from 1st June for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and what a busy 12 days it's been! Thank you to everyone for completing our online survey about returning to school. The results currently show that **14** parents plan to return pupils in Reception, **10** in Year 1 and **16** in Year 6. I know a lot of you may be worried about sending your children back to school and we had 24 parents who ticked undecided in our survey. Every one of us wants the very best for our children and I know how stressful this time has been for many families. Please remember that it is your parental choice and you must do what you feel is best for your child(ren). I am in the process of completing the Devon County Council Risk Assessment for reopening (which will be shared with The Governing Board on Tuesday 26th May). After that, I will be sending out a more detailed letter of what school will look like and hopefully this will help those parents who are still undecided to make their decision. The government will only make the final decision on whether to press ahead with the reopening of schools when it reviews the latest science on 28th May. The return of some pupils will be delayed if the evidence does not support the decision, so watch this space. I saw these words written to The Clash song 'Should I stay or should I go?' and thought they were quite relevant for this week's newsletter.

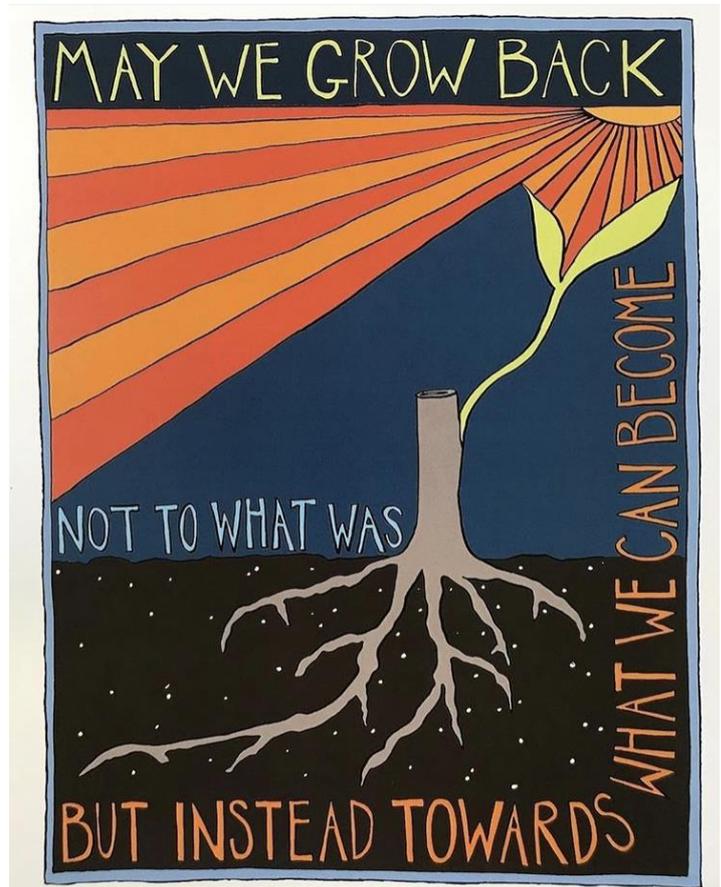
Next week is half term so there will be no newsletter and no Google Classroom/Tapestry. Please have a great week off and enjoy the time with your families.

Should we stay or should we go?

Boris, you've got to let us know
Is it safe for us to go?
If you say we're safe and fine
We'll be there 'til the end of time
So you got to let us know
Is it safe for us to go?

It's always disease disease disease
You're happy when we're on our knees
The guidance you give at best is slack
So if you want schools to go back
Come on and let me know
Is it safe for us to go?
Should we stay or should we go now?
Should we stay or should we go now?

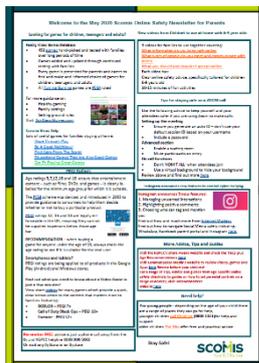
If we go, will there be trouble
And if we don't will it be double
So come on and let us know
Is it safe for us to go?
Should we stay or should we go now?
Should we stay or should we go now?





Scomis Online Safety newsletter

Please see attached the Scomis online safety newsletter with some top tips for staying safe on a Zoom call, PEGI ratings for films, DVDs and games as well as videos from Childnet to watch at home with 6-9 year olds.



The National Book Tokens and Puffin Big Dreamers Writing Competition

In collaboration with the Puffin Festival of Big Dreams, we've teamed up with six of the UK's most exciting authors - from Robin Stevens to Carrie Hope Fletcher - to get children writing. It's simple: children can send us a short story of no more than 300 words, using the theme **BIG DREAMS** by 28th May. They can interpret the theme however they like: an epic fantasy inspired by a dream, an amazing adventure that takes place in another world, or a true-to-life story set in an imaginary school. Our esteemed judges will award one winner in each age group the **grand prize of a £200 National Book Token**. The winning stories will be chosen by not one, not two, but six amazing Puffin authors: Nathan Bryon and Sam Copeland (6-10), Robin Stevens and Yassmin Abdel-Magied (11-15), and Emma Smith-Barton and Carrie Hope Fletcher (15-18).

https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/big-dreams?utm_source=nbt&utm_medium=email&utm_content=big-dreams&utm_campaign=20200515_writing-competition

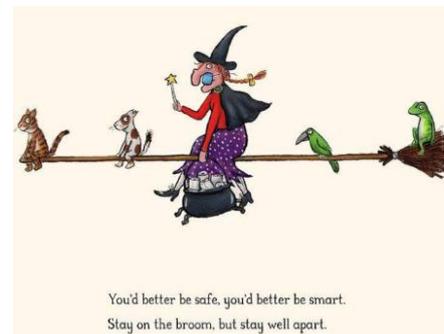


Staying safe posters for children

From the Gruffalo Cave and to the Family Tree: Staying home with your favourite characters Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler have been inspired to create an extraordinary set of illustrations and verses to help share the important message about staying safe and to help lighten the spirits of families everywhere.

The messages will be a helpful talking point for little ones while we move through these strange times.

<https://www.gruffalo.com/activities/activities/posters-of-julia-donaldson-and-axel-scheffler-reim>



Just in case no one has told you today...

1. You're doing a great job.
2. You can get through the difficult days.
3. You're not alone.
4. Things will get better.
5. Your best is more than enough.



heart

Social distancing story 'While We Can't Hug'

From the creators of the internationally adored The Hug, Eoin McLaughlin and Polly Dunbar, is the new story: While We Can't Hug.

Hedgehog and Tortoise were the best of friends. They wanted to give each other a great, big hug. But they weren't allowed to touch.

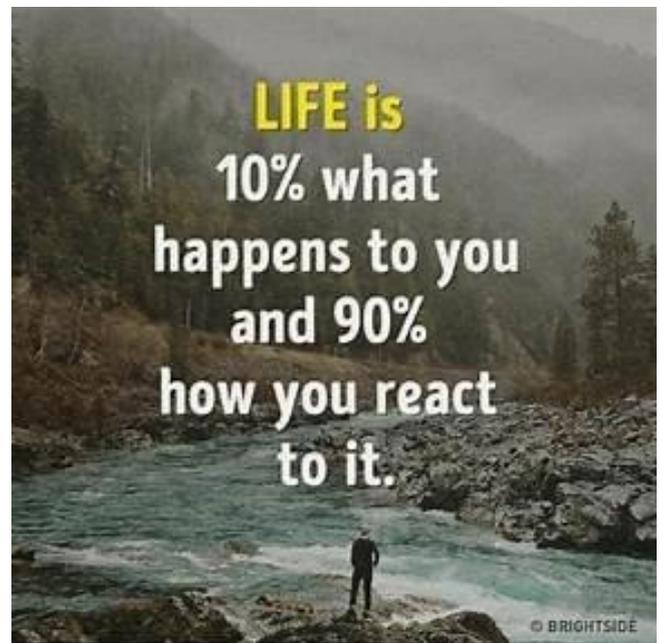
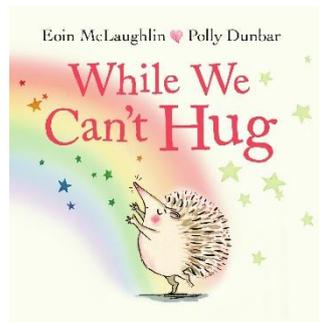
Don't worry," said Owl. "There are lots of ways to show someone you love them."

So the two friends wave to each other, blow kisses, sing songs, dance around and write letters. And even though they can't hug and they can't touch, they both know that they are loved.

A gorgeous, uplifting, inspiring picture book that makes social distancing fun!

Released on 6th August. To pre-order:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/While-Cant-Hug-Eoin-McLaughlin/dp/0571365590>



Revised government guidance on supporting your child with home learning

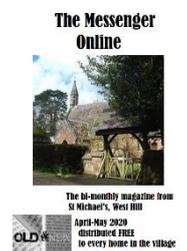
The government have updated their advice to parents and carers (21st May) on looking after primary school children and supporting them with their education at home.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

The Messenger

A number of magazines could not be delivered around the village before the restrictions. For an online copy of the April/May 2020 edition please see:

<https://stmichaelatwesthill.weebly.com/the-messenger---aprilmay.html>



Your greatest contribution to the world may not be something you do, but someone you raise.

— ANDY STANLEY



MyPositiveOutlooks.com

May half term (Monday 25th-Friday 29th May)

As per the e-mail on Tuesday 19th May, school will be closed during half term week.

The office will still be checking e-mails sent to admin@...but please do not leave phone messages on the answer phone as the office will be unstaffed.

Please keep an eye on your e-mails regarding the reopening of schools from 1st June.

During half term week, work will not be set on Google Classroom/Tapestry.