



NEWSLETTER 21

01404 812599 Friday 11th March 2022 Website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,



ATTENDANCE

The whole school's attendance last week before was **96.1%**. This is just below our target.

COVID IMPLICATIONS ON STAFFING

This week has been particularly hard with 5 members of staff off school due to Covid. Unfortunately, it has meant that many classes have been without a Teaching Assistant for the whole week and we would ask for your understanding and patience if books have not been changed, children have not read in school or intervention groups have not taken place. Staff have all been under extreme pressure with several classes implementing outbreak measures (5+ cases) and pupils eating lunch in classrooms, having separate playtimes etc. In addition, many teachers are having to juggle the demands of teaching their class as well as providing online learning for those at home with Covid.

To make matters worse, I also tested positive on Wednesday night so will not be in school until at least Tuesday (assuming 2 negative tests on day 5 and day 6). I am still contactable via the school office on admin@...if anyone needs me.

Next week will also be another challenging one as Mr Pantling (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Bennett (Wed-Fri) will also be out of school with their Year 6 Class at PGL.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS ON COVID 19 VACCINATION FOR AT RISK 5 to 11 YEAR OLDS

Children aged 5 to 11 years who are in a clinical risk group or who live with someone who is immunosuppressed can get the COVID-19 vaccine, in line with advice set out by the [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#). Eligible children include those with diabetes, immunosuppression, learning disabilities, and other conditions as outlined by the [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\) in the Green Book](#).

Vaccinations help to increase protection against COVID-19, which is particularly important for those with underlying health conditions.

Further information is available in the [guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years](#) published by UKHSA. Check out [frequently asked questions](#) on the vaccination programme including information on eligibility, accessibility and advice for parents of children at high risk from COVID-19. Following [advice](#) from the JCVI, healthy 5 to 11 year old children will also be offered two 10 microgram doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The NHS will prepare to extend this non-urgent offer to all children during April.

WEEK 21 WORD OF THE WEEK: equality

Noun: (abstract)

the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities.

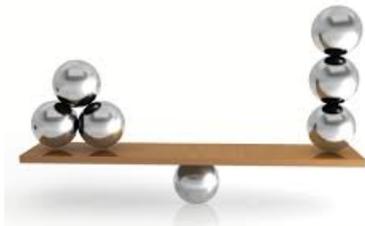
"an organisation aiming to promote racial equality"



adjective: equal

being the same in quantity, size, degree, or value.

"add equal amounts of water and flour"



We would love to hear from you if your child makes great use of our 'word of the week' (or any of the other new vocabulary they have been taught) at home, so please email wotw@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk to let us know!

YEAR 3/4 TAG RUGBY FESTIVAL

On Tuesday afternoon, Class 4 took part in a year 3/4 tag rugby festival at Kings School. They were split into 3 teams, Hurricane, Tornado and Storm, and took part in a mixture of skills based games and tag rugby matches. For many of our children, this was their first time playing tag rugby and whilst some were nervous beforehand, it was a fantastic afternoon - despite the chilly wind on the astroturf! The children showed determination, teamwork and honesty throughout and out of the six schools taking part, West Hill came third, with our Tornado and Storm teams coming second within their group tournaments. Well done Class 4 and thank you to Mrs Darde, Mrs Davey and Mrs Ulanowsky for accompanying us.

EASTER EGG COLOURING COMPETITION

Hall & Scott are running an Easter Egg colouring competition. Children can colour an egg (template attached) and return it to school before Wednesday 6th April. The best entry will win £100 for West Hill Primary School and an Easter egg for themselves.

The top 11 eggs will also be displayed around Ottery St Mary spelling out a word for children to find.

A BUSY WEEK AHEAD

We wish the very best of luck to Year 6 children, staff and some brave volunteer parents who are heading away for a week at PGL. This is sure to be a fantastic week for all of them with the children building wonderful memories to take with them beyond their life at West Hill. They will be kept busy with abseiling, climbing, high ropes, ATV, zip wires and more.

Year 5 will be having adventures of their own with their Activity Week. They will be out and about visiting Escot on Tuesday and Plymouth Aquarium on Friday. Back at school they will be partaking in a Tudor day, an art workshop with a professional artist and a full day of activity with Sporty Stars. Have fun everyone.

PARKING NEXT WEEK - IMPORTANT

Coaches will be collecting children from school on Monday and Friday mornings and returning children back to school on Friday afternoon. In fact, we expect 2 coaches on the afternoon of Friday 18th March. Therefore please can you avoid parking along Beech Park at drop off and pick up times on these days to allow the coaches access to the school. It is impossible for them to drive down Beech Park when it is full of cars.

PTFA NEWS

The Spring Ball Committee have commenced plans and would like to share the date of Saturday 14th May 2022. Please keep the date free!

RED NOSE DAY

Next Friday 18th March is a non-uniform day, with any donations made going direct to Comic Relief. Please see attached poster for more details.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SPORTY STARS EASTER HOLIDAY CAMPS

Sporty Stars are offering activity camps over the two weeks of the Easter Holidays. Activities include zorbing, archery tag, nerf wars, sports, bouncy castle, arts and crafts and more. Details and booking forms can be found here: <https://www.sportystars.co.uk/sidmouth-holiday-camp.html>

This year they are offering free places to children on free school meals. This is on a first come, first serve basis. If you are eligible for a free place, the office will already have sent you an email directly.

RAINBOW WARRIORS & MINDFULNESS

There are a few places available at the lunchtime clubs:

Tuesday - Year 2,3,4,5 & 6

Thursday - Reception & Year 1

Sessions are 30 minutes and cost £4, payable in advance for the term (£24 for 6 weeks)

To book or for more information please email Kara: karatwinkle@hotmail.com or call on 07778127685

CRICKET CLUB

Clements Coaching is running an after school cricket club. We are now opening this out to Years 3 and 4, as well as 5 and 6. Sessions will start on Thursday 17th March from 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Sessions are 1 hour long and cost £3.

To book please email Alex: aclementscoaching@hotmail.com or see attached flyer for more details

TABLETOP SALE IN AID OF HOSPISCARE

West Hill Pre-School Committee are taking part in a tabletop sale in aid of Hospiscare on Saturday 7th May. We are asking for donations of hand-me-down clothes and toys to sell. Please bear us in mind if you are having a clear out over the next few weeks as we would be very grateful for good quality, complete, clean and saleable items. Please can you leave them in the Foyer of the Village Hall by 29th April and a member of the committee will collect them. All proceeds raised will go to the Pre-School and Hospiscare. Many thanks.

With my best wishes for a lovely weekend,



Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher