



West Hill Primary School

Newsletter 12th September 2025

Note from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you to a new school year after what I hope was an enjoyable summer break.

I would like to start by extending a warm welcome to all of the pupils and families in our new Reception class. It was a pleasure seeing you last Thursday, and I look forward to what will hopefully be a long and happy collaboration on your child's journey through the school.

At the same time, welcome to the many new pupils and families across the rest of the school who joined us in the past seven days. I hope you have been made to feel part of the community and will enjoy your time at West Hill.

While on the theme of new faces, welcome to Mrs Yvonne Hammerton-Jackson, who wrote to parents this week to introduce herself. Welcome finally to Mrs Karen Schulz, who has joined us to add teaching capacity for Class 6 when I am out of class.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our 'Meet the Teacher' event this Tuesday. It was great to see so many of you in school. All slides and resources shared in these meetings have been sent out electronically.

Quite a buzz has been created around the development of our new library – watch this space! More details on our book fayre will follow next week.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Pantling – Acting Headteacher

Info for the grown-ups

Dinner money

Please remember to top up your dinner money balance on your Scopay account, school dinners must be paid for in advance of ordering. Thank you for your help with this.

Secondary school applications

The admissions portal is now open for families with children in Year 6 to submit their applications for secondary school places. Families can apply online by visiting: www.devon.gov.uk/admissiononline. The deadline for applications is 31st October 2025.

This week in our school!

Reception Class

Well done Reception Class - you have settled into school really well this week and we are all very proud of you! To start the year off we've been singing the nursery rhyme Humpty Dumpty and made our own Humpty puzzles.

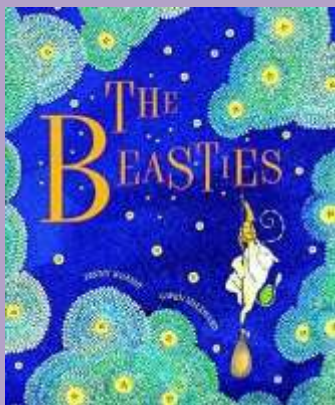


Class 1

Class 1 have had a brilliant start to the year. We've been reading 'Oi Frog!' in English, counting to 20 in Maths, learning about different groups of animals in science and even had our first Forest School session on Thursday morning. What a busy week!

Class 3

Year 3 have had an excellent first week back. We have loved reading the story of *The Beasties* and have rewritten some of the bed time stories from the book using different features of writing.



Class 5

This week in year 5 has been brilliant! We have looked at our new text, 'The Diary of a Killer Cat' and have had a go at creating our own humorous back to school diary entries. In Maths we have looked at rounding and have started out gymnastics' topic in PE. I am very proud of all the children and how hard they have worked this week!

Class 2

Year 2 has had a fantastic start to the new school year! We've been working hard in Maths, exploring *place value*, and in English we've been busy retelling the classic tale of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Our efforts are really paying off - we've earned lots of house points, added stars to our class jar, and collected plenty of individual raffle tickets too. Well done, Year 2 - keep up the brilliant work!

Class 4

Class 4 have settled in really well and enjoyed learning about their new topics in geography, history and science. This week the children created these bright, vibrant, colourful and bold Mexican folklore bird art images.



Class 6

Wow - what a fantastic start to the year for Class 6! We have been incredibly impressed with everyone's positive, mature attitude and desire to learn. The children have enjoyed meeting their new Reception buddies, as well as getting used to their new roles and responsibilities. We are sure they will thrive in these roles and be excellent role models to the rest of the school.

LEARNING TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE

Our Learning Behaviour CHAMPIONS – Summer 2025:

At West Hill Primary School, we truly believe that 'learning' is the first step to success. All children have the potential to learn, but 'learning to learn' equips our pupils with the skills to be effective, lifelong learners.

We aim for our pupils to acquire the skills necessary to be:

- Independent
- Motivated
- Resilient
- Cooperative
- Problem-solvers

**We are not what we know but
what we are willing to learn.**

The Learning Behaviour Champions for the Summer term were:

Summer Term 2025	Reception	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
Independent	Pippa	Sam	Emily	Summer	Bonnie	Amelia	Imy W
Cooperative	Grace	Darcey	Ross	Ori	Max H	Emilia	Poppy
Resilient	Harrison	Jacob	Hugo	Pippa	Max W	Henry	Marcus
Motivated	Ottillie	Joccoa	Theodore	Clara	Ted	Mia	Rupert
Problem Solver	Arthur	Florence	Mateo	Arthur	Alfie	Freddie	Pippa



Independent



Resilient



Motivated



Co-operative



Problem-solver

They each received 25 house points for their teams.

CONGRATULATIONS to them all.

European Day of Languages

On Friday 26th September we will be celebrating European Day of Languages. It is held every year on this date to celebrate the different languages spoken in Europe. On this day there are many events and celebrations taking place across Europe. The first European Day of Languages was held in 2001. There are over 200 European languages and Russian is the most widely spoken language in the continent of Europe. Being able to speak different languages can help you to understand different cultures, travel and study abroad, live and work in different countries and even make new friends. The European Union has 24 official languages and the most commonly spoken are French and English. If you would like to find out more about this special day please check out their website <https://edl.ecml.at/en/>

You can download the Language Angels APP to help your child access games and Karaoke from EYFS to Y6 in support of European Day of Languages.

user name: la2023french password: la2023french

WOW of the week!

Mr Martin is in training for next year's London Marathon! Last weekend he ran the Great North Run, a half marathon! Mr Martin ran on behalf of Max Appeal, a charity supporting families of children with disabilities. Well done Mr Martin, we are all very proud of you!

Mr Martin's Enthuse charity page can be accessed [here](#)



Dates for your diary

September

Thursday 25th September

Friday 26th September

w/c 29th September

4pm Phonics information evening – all welcome

European day of languages

Book Fair all week (details to follow next week)

October

Wednesday 8th October

Wednesday 15th October

Wednesday 22nd October

Thursday 23rd October

Friday 24th October

Yoga workshop for every class

Reception class village walk

Year 5 sharing assembly 10am

Seasonal flu vaccinations

Last day of half term

Half term – Children return to school Monday 3rd November 2025

Finished at last! Following many years in the planning stage West Hill Parish Council is delighted to announce that the footpath between West Hill Road and the Village Hall is at last finished. People coming from the western side of the village now have a much shorter, safer route to school.

We were so pleased to see so many people using the new entrance on the first day of term. Thank you so much for your kind feedback.

It's been such a mammoth project for the Parish Council feels that there should be a ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new path. Please join members of the school council, staff and Parish Council at a short ceremony at **10.30am on Friday 19th September 2025.**

Please gather on the Village Hall side of the footpath

West Hill Parish Council

Please come along to West Hill's annual Macmillan coffee afternoon!

Save the date - Friday 26th September 2025, 12.30-15.30, West Hill Village Hall (upstairs room)

Everyone welcome, so do please bring a friend or two!

Donations of cakes, biscuits, home made goods are always appreciated. Please drop any offerings off to the village hall on the morning of the event. Don't forget to label your boxes (so you get them back), also, what type of cake - whether it's gluten free, contains nuts etc... We do also have some dairy free locals so all types of cakes are invited.

Thank you as always. Last year we made in excess of £600!

Please feel free to contact Michaela on 07847488640 if you have any questions.



**Positive
Parenting
Project.**

Stepping into September with confidence

Sep 2025

September often brings new beginnings and new challenges for children and parents. To help you navigate these, we have some tips on [managing separation anxiety](#) with young children, books for [alleviating shyness](#) and [managing friendship problems](#), a template for setting up [a happy homework routine](#) plus advice on [galvanising an unmotivated teenager](#).

All this plus news about two new exciting podcast episodes and other updates from the Positive Parenting Project.

Click here for more details [Solutions for those September parenting challenges](#)



September 19th, 20th & 21st

DadFest Devon

Location: Beryl's Campsite, Beeson, Devon. TQ7 2HW

Awarded 'Best Small Event in the UK'

& the only festival just for dads & their children

Dads/ male carers with children of all ages welcome

- campfire stories & songs • archery • bat walk •
- Forest School • star-gazing • circus skills • stroke a lobster • art & craft space • wrestling show •
- slip n slide • green wood working • beach fishing •
- soccer skills • music workshops • kids disco •
- food & beers • World Dad Dancing Championships

Fri. 19th to Sun. 21st September 2025

DadFest2025 tickets must be bought in advance

Dad + 1 child (all ages): £109

Dad + 2 children (all ages): £119

Dad + 3 children (all ages): £129



Ticket includes camping & all activities - nothing more to pay

Concessions available - please contact the organisers

Get food tickets too: £40 (dad): £30 (children)

= all meals & drinks all weekend!

To book use QR code or search for 'ticket tailor DadFest Devon'
or email: info@thedadsnetwork.org

CELEBRATING
35 YEARS OF
SOCCER SERVICE
and
CHRIS'S 80TH
BIRTHDAY



AN AFTERNOON
OF MEETING OLD FRIENDS,
MUSIC, GAMES, CAKE AND
FOOTBALL! RAISING MONEY FOR
YOUNG LIVES VS CANCER



SATURDAY
20TH SEPTEMBER 2025

FENITON SOCIAL CLUB
4PM-9PM

**YOUNG LIVES
vs CANCER**

**DROP BY AND
SAY HI!**
FOR ANY QUESTIONS
CONTACT
GRACE.CHAMBERLAIN@HOTMAIL.COM



Honiton Music Centre

An exciting new project supported by the Devon Music Hub, Department of Education and Arts Council to encourage young people to take up a musical instrument, keeping it as affordable and accessible to learn as possible!

- When:** Every Wednesday evening during term time from 4:00pm through to 6:30pm
- Where:** Honiton Community College Music Department
- Activities:** 30-minute group instrument lesson, 30-minute musicianship skills lesson and 30 minutes Ensemble session
- Who:** Any youngster in the Honiton area, either Primary or Secondary school age
- Cost:** Only £4 a week!
- Which instruments can you learn:**



Sign up ASAP through scanning the QR code below as there are only 7 places per instrument!



Devon Music Education Hub | Supported using public funding by: Department of Education | ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Exmouth Music Centre

Fun and affordable music tuition

Learn Together Group

For complete beginners

Play Together: Next Steps Group

A band for those that have progressed from the Learn Together Group and those having instrumental lessons

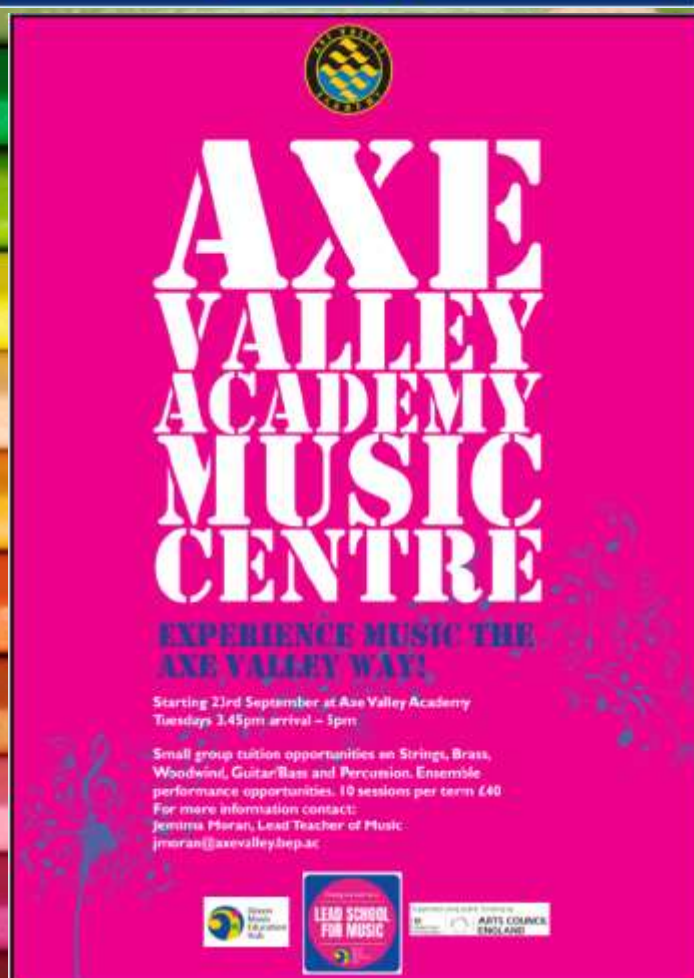
Brixington Primary School

Friday evening from 4.30pm

Scan the QR code to sign up or email kandsgmusic@outlook.com for further details



Devon Music Education Hub | Supported using public funding by: Department of Education | ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



AXLE VALLEY ACADEMY MUSIC CENTRE

EXPERIENCE MUSIC THE AXLE VALLEY WAY!

Starting 22nd September at Axle Valley Academy
Tuesdays 3.45pm arrival – 5pm

Small group tuition opportunities on Strings, Brass, Woodwind, Guitar/Bass and Percussion. Ensemble performance opportunities. 10 sessions per term £40

For more information contact:
Jennifer Moran, Lead Teacher of Music
jmoran@axlevalleybep.ac




COMMUNITY MARKET

9.30 – 12.30

Join FORCE for local food producers & crafters, refreshments & more.
Telephone Lyndsey: 07964836429 for more info or visit us on the following dates:

OPEN 9.30AM-12.30PM

- 27th September
- 25th October
- 22nd November
- 13th December

cancer charity force

Registered Charity No. 104806

**The Institute, Yonder St
Ottery St Mary EX11 1HD**

West Hill Primary School

Beech Park, West Hill, Devon EX11 1UQ – 01404 812599 – admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk