



West Hill Primary School

NEWSLETTER 9

01404 812599 Friday 19th November 2021 Website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,



ATTENDANCE

The whole school's attendance last half term was **96.7%**. We are pleased that attendance is still on the increase following the situation with COVID cases in school.

WEEK 9 WORD OF THE WEEK:

bravery



noun

the quality or state of having or showing mental or moral strength to face danger, fear, or difficulty :

the quality or state of being brave

brave

adjective

If you are hurt or upset, telling an adult you trust is the brave thing to do.



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!

STAFFING UPDATE

I am very sad to inform you that we will soon be saying goodbye to three members of staff before Christmas: Mrs Quincey (Y5/Y6 TA), Mrs Stevens (Reception class teacher) and Madame Shackleton (French teacher to Class 4, Class 5 and Class 6).

Mrs Quincey has been with us since September 2020 and is delighted to have been offered a part-time teaching post in another Devon school which starts on 6th December, so her last day in school will be Friday 3rd December. We will be recruiting for her replacement over the next few weeks.

Mrs Stevens has been with us for six years and will be leaving on Friday 17th December 2021 to take up a specialist post teaching vulnerable children. She will be combining that with study for a Post Graduate Certificate in Specific Literacy Difficulties. Following a vigorous recruitment process, we are pleased to announce that Mrs Burkill has been appointed to start in January 2022. Mrs Burkill is currently working in another Devon School and has been teaching since 2013 (with over 6 years in Reception.)

Madame Shackleton will also be leaving us on Friday 17th December 2021. She has dedicated over ten years to West Hill Primary School teaching French to Class 4-Class 6 as well as providing lunchtime French club to Key Stage 1.

I would like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment to West Hill Primary School and I know how much they will all be missed.

ONGOING LUNCH MENU CHANGE

We have been monitoring our lunch wastage over the last few weeks and have decided to make some small changes, these are:

Each Wednesday: children will no longer have the option of Roast or Creamed Potatoes, we will only serve Roast Potatoes.

Each Friday: children will no longer have the option of pasta or chips, we will only serve chips.

Week 3 Monday: the pudding has been changed to jelly as the chocolate rice pudding was very unpopular!

Whilst we understand that some children may be disappointed with these changes we hope you agree that we have a responsibility to cut food waste where we can and this is a small step in that direction. We will continue to monitor our food waste and inform you if we feel any other changes are necessary.

POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to the Year 6 children for selling poppies during their lunch break last week. This year West Hill Primary School have raised **£400.62** for the Poppy Appeal. Well done everyone.

TEACHING ASSISTANT VACANCIES

Please be aware that the school currently has a few vacancies for Teaching Assistant roles. We believe that this represents an exciting opportunity to work with our wonderful children, and are looking for people who are flexible, dedicated and of course passionate about helping children learn in a happy, safe environment. If the role of Teaching Assistant at West Hill Primary would be of interest to you, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school office via admin@ to register your interest or speak to Mrs Boulton/Mr Pantling in the mornings/afternoons.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

The Governing Board has a vacancy for a parent governor. If you are interested in joining us please see separate email with further information.

We also have vacancies for co-opted Governors (who cannot be parents). If you know someone from your place of work or within the local community, who may be interested, please ask them to contact admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk for further information.

UPDATED PRIVACY NOTICES

Our privacy notices have been updated and these are available on the school website:

[main privacy notice](#)

[pupil privacy notice](#)

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Hall and Scott are once again organising a Christmas Card Competition. Like last year, there will be prizes for the winner plus 2 runners up and the winning school. If you would like to take part, please use the template attached. All entries must be in by **3rd December** and the winner will be announced the following week.

FLU IMMUNISATIONS

Virgin Care have moved the date arranged in November for flu immunisations. The new date given to us is Monday 13th December. Notification of the link for providing consent will be provided no later than 2 weeks prior to the date and will close approximately 1 week beforehand.

NEW LUNCHTIME TOYS

The children have this week been enjoying lots of brand-new lunchtime toys, such as Lego, dinosaurs, cars, table tennis and big chalk. This is all thanks to Kate Davey, Fiona Darde, Kate Salter, Leah Pegley and Helen Dunning for their recent fundraising efforts through **The 3 Peaks Challenge**, and to everyone who contributed. A wonderful £1800 was raised for the school. The children gave ideas for the first round of spending but there is still money remaining in the pot. We are keen that children continue to enjoy their lunchtime and more exciting toys will follow as we listen to their feedback, so watch this space!

RECEPTION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 NATIVITY

Due to COVID still being a concern, each performance of our Nativity will be restricted to 100 spectators. To enable each parent to have the opportunity to see their child's performance, tickets will be limited to 2 per family (including siblings, regardless of age).

Tickets will be on a first come, first serve basis and unfortunately no additional tickets will be allocated this year. To request your tickets please email admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk stating which performance you would like to attend (Wednesday 8th Dec at 2pm or Friday 10th December at 10am.)

All spectators will:

- be asked to wear face masks due to the number of spectators and close proximity
- be asked to use hand sanitiser on entering the Village Hall
- observe a one way in and one way out system
- be asked NOT to video the performance as some children do not have consent

PARENT FEEDBACK/OFSTED

Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school, from the

quality of teaching to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. The survey can be completed at any time; you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected. More than one parent/carer can complete the Ofsted parent View questionnaire. It would be really useful for as many parents as possible to complete this prior to our next Ofsted inspection. Thank you for your support.

Please see: [Ofsted-Parent View](#)

PARENT SUPPORT

Citizens Advice East Devon are pleased to offer a new, innovative project providing caseworker style support for parents. They can offer advice on a wide range of issues such as family issues, benefits, adult disability and SEND, housing, maximising income, financial capability, debt, childcare, training, employment, separation/divorce and the related child arrangements, communication (supporting phone calls, emails, letters, forms e.g. Disability Living Allowance) with other organisations/agencies and accessing charitable support. Response will be by phone, email or text and a time arranged to call/meet the parent to explore how to help the family in an ongoing capacity if required.

School staff can refer parents so please let us know if you are interested in accessing this.

PTFA NEWS

100 CLUB

To be in with a chance of winning in the first few months' draws, please return a 100 club entry/renewal form ASAP. Paper forms will be included in book bags today for you to complete and return to the school office by next Friday 26th November. Thank you for supporting your PTFA and good luck!

CHILDREN IN NEED

Many thanks for all of the donations to Children In Need this week by way of coins in the buckets. There was certainly a buzz around which house will win! Keep an eye out on Facebook (West Hill Primary School PTFA) or Class Whatsapp groups for the winner!

TEA TOWELS

This Christmas we have created an all-school tea towel, which includes your child's self-portrait, for the bargain price of £5 each. Please find attached an order form that you can pop into the school office by Friday 3rd December, to ensure you receive yours by the final week of term.

TREASURER NEEDED

We are in urgent need of a PTFA treasurer. Since our amazing treasurer stepped down in September, we have been unable to fill the role. Can you spare a bit of time to help us with the accounts? You do not need to be an accountant to take on the position. Some tasks involved are keeping track of the in-goings and out-goings, paying expenses when required and giving the group an overview of our account before each meeting. If you are able to audit our accounts at the end of the year and submit it to the Charity Commission then even better! (This can be done externally if required). If interested please contact the school office, or us at PTFAWH@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk. Many thanks!

COMMUNITY NEWS

GLOW IN THE DARK DODGEBALL

Sporty Stars will be hosting a glow-in-the-dark dodgeball evening for pupils of West Hill Primary School on Tuesday 23rd November at West Hill Village Hall.

Come and experience this unique and spectacular new concept. Glow sports combine UV lights, face paint, fluorescent bibs, music, and specialised sports equipment, to create a fun and memorable experience. Perfect for bringing excitement into the cold winter evenings!
We recommend children arrive wearing sporty clothing, they will be provided with all the equipment they require including fluorescent bibs and face paint.

Timings:

Key stage 1: 5:15pm - 6:15pm

Key stage 2: 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Bookings:

The cost of these sessions is £6 per person and is limited to 30 children per session.

Book online via the website here: <https://www.sportystars.co.uk/glow-sports-events/>

HOMELESS SHOEBOX APPEAL FOR THE CLOCKTOWER SURGERY, EXETER.

If you would like to donate a shoe box for the homeless, please could you drop it off at St Michael's Church in West Hill. Please label clearly whether it's for a lady or gent (no razors, sharp objects or hand sanitiser please). 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.

Unfortunately, they cannot accept blankets and coats as in previous years but would appreciate plain new women's underwear in a size 8,10 or 12 and men's boxers in small or medium also thermal underwear (underwear must be new and in original packaging or with labels on). The deadline is **Sunday 5th December**.

CHEER UP BOX FOR FAMILIES ON BRAMBLE WARD

I'm launching Operation Bramble Christmas 2021 if anyone local would be interested in taking part (again) this year. The idea? A shoebox appeal for Christmas but running locally - to create a "cheer up" box for a family. Our aim is to make sure every family on Bramble children's ward and the neonatal unit who is in for Christmas gets a box on Christmas Day.

A bit different this year - as this has grown in popularity and as the hospital has limited storage this year, we are planning for any above the number we need for the hospital to be donated to a local family in need via the Ottery larder.

So, if you are interested, read on for more details...

In previous years we suggested bags or boxes - this year we are asking for boxes please as these are so much easier to stack. As it's a gift, it's nice if the box can be wrapped in nice paper but please wrap the box and its lid separately so we/ the nurses can look inside. It can be a shoebox, or an Amazon box or a Christmas gift box (lots of places now seem to have these) roughly adult shoebox size.

Inside the box there isn't a prescribed list but the loose remit of things that might cheer a family up who is stuck in hospital/ not having a great time. The only thing we ask is that the items are new and that any food items are in their original packaging for allergy purposes. If you are stuck though a great box might include -

Nice things to eat. Eg posh biscuits, chocolate, mince pies, hot chocolate sachets

Something to do. Ideally things that span a range of ages eg playing cards, travel Connect 4, drawing or colouring pad, felt pens, craft that isn't too messy, dominoes.

Something comforting/ uplifting eg mini toiletries, battery powered twinkly lights or Christmas decoration.

A card - from your family to theirs.

It doesn't have to be expensive- Aldi, Wilko etc all have great things - just a selection of things that might cheer a family up.

We will need boxes by December 16th please - **there are 3 collection points in West Hill and one in Aylesbeare, so please contact me on alisonpearson1@yahoo.com or 07711 312888** and I can arrange timings for drop off. Thank you in advance to anyone who can take part - it's just the loveliest thing to be involved in.

With our very best wishes Alison, Bill, Harry and Isabel Pearson

alisonpearson1@yahoo.com/ 07711312888

WEST HILL PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE HOST CAROLS BY THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The West Hill Pre-School Committee would like to welcome the local community to carols around the Christmas Tree on Friday 10th December at 6pm, complete with mulled wine, mince pies and other goodies for sale (and a special visitor will be making an appearance!). We will also be selling raffle tickets on the evening which will be drawn the following week.

If you would like to attend, please can you email whpreschoolevents@gmail.com with numbers in your party so we can gauge numbers attending the event for refreshments etc.

Unfortunately, the Pre-School Committee have had to make the difficult decision to cancel the Pre-School Christmas Bazaar this year. Historically, the village hall gets very crowded at this event and there is still some uncertainty around Covid-19. We were especially conscious of this when so many people see vulnerable family and friends over the festive season.

We look forward to welcoming you at Carols by the Christmas tree for some festive cheer and thank you for your support.

West Hill Pre-School Committee

With my best wishes for a lovely weekend,



Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher