



West Hill Primary School

Newsletter 19th September 2025

Note from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our ongoing staff professional development, Laura Syree, Family Hub Partnership Lead for Exeter and East Devon spoke to all staff this week about the variety of services available within Devon to support families across a range of different areas. It was great to hear more about their offer, which I wanted to highlight to everyone.

Family Hubs are there to help families across Devon build strong, healthy, happy lives. They support families by connecting them to local services that support emotional, physical, social and financial wellbeing. Family hubs are for:

- Anyone expecting a baby
- A Parent/Carer with children aged 0-19 years old
- Young People from age 13 and over
- A Parent/Carer for a young person with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) up to age 25.

Their information line is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm – 0800 538 5458. Anyone can phone the line and have a conversation about their family circumstances.

In other news, today saw our newly-elected school council members attend the opening ceremony of the long-anticipated footpath from the village hall out to West Hill Road. We have been liaising with local police to request they present a session on road safety to the children, but in the meantime, let us look forward to many years of safe and happy use of this new route to and from school!

Warmest wishes,
Mr Pantling – Acting Headteacher

PTFA News

The PTFA AGM is on Friday 26th September at 15:40, location TBC. Drinks, snacks & craft activities will be provided for the children. Please come along to find out more about how you can get involved- in any capacity, no matter how small.

Did you know we have a PTFA WhatsApp group? Speak to your Class rep or message Nik on 07989 692446 to be added in & stay in the loop on all the latest updates.

☀ We're looking for a new PTFA Chair! ☀ No experience needed- just a bit of enthusiasm and willingness to make a difference. You would be supported by Nik as Secretary, Rachael as Treasurer and a band of brilliant PTFA parents. The next PTFA meeting is after school on Friday 26th Sep. Please either come along, chat to any member of the PTFA or email us with questions at ptfawh@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk 💖 Thank you! 🍷

This week in our school!

Reception Class

We've had a very exciting week in Reception Class!

To celebrate learning our first letter - 's' - we had some slippery visitor in the classroom! A slimy box of snails! Everyone was very kind and looked after the creatures, particularly when they tried to escape!



Class 1

Class 1 enjoyed reading *The Mixed-up Chameleon* by Eric Carle and then made their own mixed-up chameleons through collage.



Class 2

Year 2 has had another wonderful week! In particular, we've been learning 3 new rich vocabulary words. Can you remember the actions? Have a go at using them in a sentence!



Class 3

Year 3 have been enjoying learning about atlases, with particular focus on countries of Europe this week. We located different countries using the atlas, and then drew their flags to create our own colourful maps!



Class 6

Class 6 have been transported back to Victorian times this week! As well as being inspired by William Morris in Art, we have been spending our English lessons immersing ourselves in 'Street Child' - a book about a young boy whose only option is to live in a workhouse. We particularly enjoyed using the Chromebooks to help us become experts at using some impressive new vocabulary, including words like 'imposing', 'torturous', 'arduous' and 'unsanitary'.



Class 5

Year 5 have started their space topic this week in science! Together we have learnt about the 8 different planets in our solar system and how they can be grouped into two different categories. We have also completed the infamous run challenge this week. During the challenge, I was immensely proud of all of the children as they ran around the field with great enthusiasm and perseverance.

School Council

This morning our newly elected School Council were proud to participate in the opening ceremony of the new pathway linking West Hill Road to the Village Hall. They were met by Francis Pullman and other members of the Parish Council to help cut the ribbon and declare the pathway officially 'open'. Year 6 Class Councillors Charlie and Efa gave short speeches to celebrate the brand new pathway and thanked all those involved for making it happen.



Info for the grown-ups

School Photos

Save the date for our photographer, booked to come and take individual and sibling school photos on **Wednesday 15th October**. They assure us that any orders will arrive before Christmas!

Census Day Meal Change

Please note that on Census Day, **Thursday 2nd October**, there will be a change of menu. The meal on that day will be;

Main: Breaded Chicken with potato wedges

Vege: Tomato and courgette frittata with potato wedges

Sides: Baked beans or salad sticks

Jacket Potato: with cheese, beans, tuna, or coleslaw

Pudding: Chocolate flapjacks

The lunches ordered on Census Day help to secure our funding for the year ahead, so we encourage your child to order a school lunch and try something new, we don't even mind if they bring a packed lunch as a back up!

KS1 and Reception Nativity Performance

Please see 'Dates for your diary' section for the Nativity show times, we will communicate after half term regarding tickets.

Harvest Festival Donations

Our annual collection for Ottery Foodbank is on **Wednesday 1st October**, they request tinned food and non-perishables such as pasta and other packaged food, nothing fresh please.

WOWs of the week!



Mrs Townsend has completed her training and is now a fully qualified Forest School Leader! We are really proud of her hard work to gain this accreditation!



Scarlett won a medal at cricket this week. Well done, Scarlett!

Dates for your diary

September

Wednesday 24th September
Thursday 25th September
Friday 26th September
w/c 29th September

Stockland cross country event 3pm
Phonics information evening 4pm - all welcome
European day of languages
Book Fair all week

October

Wednesday 1st October

Tuesday 7th October
Wednesday 8th October

Phonics information evening 5:30pm – Reception class
Harvest Festival donations collected for Ottery Food Bank
Y6 Boccia & Curling event at Kings School
Whole school Yoga Workshop
Stockland cross country event 3pm
Phonics information evening 5:30pm – Year 1
School photo day, individual photos
Reception class village walk
Y1 & Y2 trip Leap Then Look
Y5 sharing assembly 10am
Seasonal flu vaccinations
Last day of half term

Wednesday 15th October

Tuesday 21st October
Wednesday 22nd October
Thursday 23rd October
Friday 24th October

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

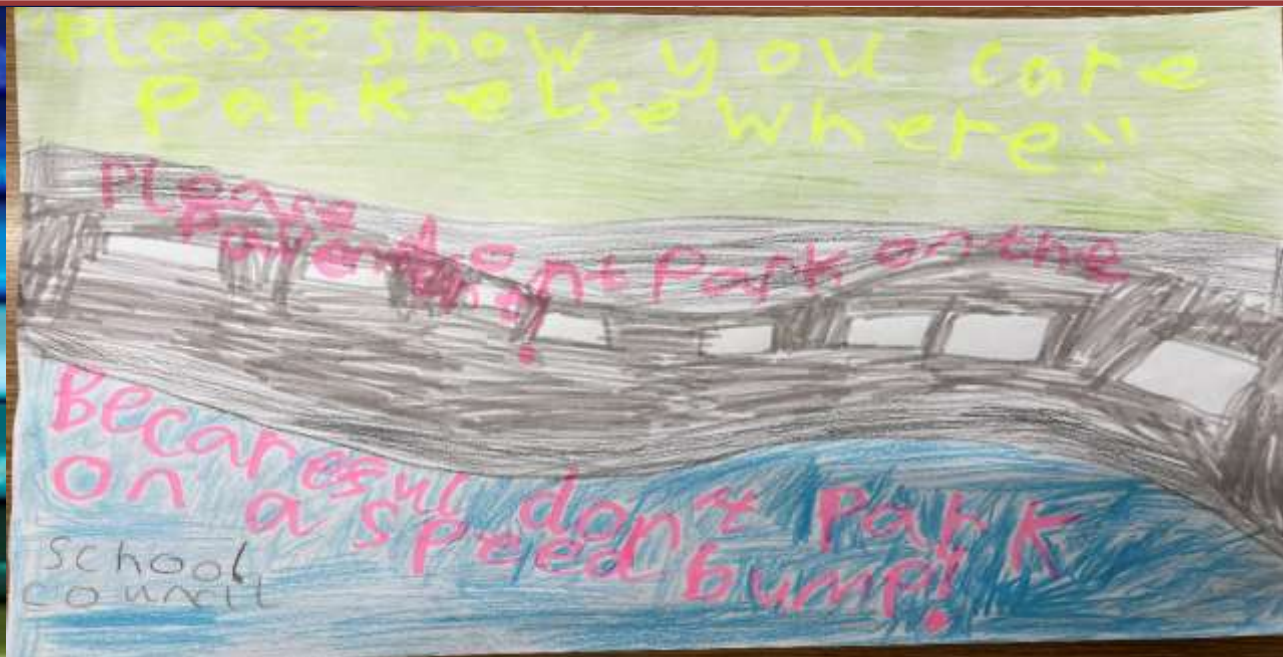
w/c 10th November
Tuesday 18th November
Friday 21st November
Friday 28th November
Wednesday 3rd December
Wednesday 10th December
Friday 12th December
Friday 19th December

Anti-bullying week
Y6 PGL parent information meeting
Children In Need
Y3 & Y4 Christingle Service
Y4 sharing assembly 10am
Reception, Y1 & Y2 Nativity performance 2pm
Reception, Y1 & Y2 Nativity performance 10am
Last day of term

Parking at school

Thank you to everyone who avoids parking on the road approaching the school on Beech Park. We appreciate new parents to our school may not be aware that we try not to park there to help visibility for road users and pedestrians, and to prevent congestion at busy times.

Please see below the message from our School Council Members



SIDMOUTH GIRLS STORM
DYNAMOS

COME & TRY CRICKET

FREE TASTER
SESSIONS FOR GIRLS

11 October 2025

22 November 2025

AGES 7-10 - SCHOOL YEAR 3, 4, 5 & 6

TIME: 9-11AM

VENUE: ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

FULLY QUALIFIED ECB COACHES

Taster sessions for girls in Primary years 3-6.
Try basic cricket skills, meet our lead coaches and chat
with older girls to find out why cricket is so much fun.

A friendly introduction ahead of our summer program —
all abilities welcome!

For further information or to book a place, contact
girlscricket@sidmouthcricketclub.co.uk
sidmouthcricketclub.co.uk



DYNAMOS
CRICKET



Mr Martin is running
the 2026 London
Marathon! What an
amazing endeavour!

"I am running the
London Marathon for
Contact, a charity
which supports
disabled children and
their families. My
Enthuse charity page
can be accessed [here](#)
or can be via the QR
code. Any support and
donations are very
welcome!"

September's Musician of the Month

Kate
Bush



Books to read...



About: Kate Bush is an English singer, songwriter, record producer and dancer. In 1978, at the age of 19, she topped the UK Singles Chart for four weeks with her debut single "Wuthering Heights", becoming the first female artist to achieve a UK number one with a self-written song.

Genres: Art Pop, Experimental and Art Rock

Active from: 1975 - Present

Origin: Bexleyheath, Kent, U.K.

If you like Kate Bush, try...

- Blondie
- Akiko Yano
- Sparks

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