



NEWSLETTER 15

01404 812599 Friday 21st January 2022 Website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,



ATTENDANCE

The whole school's attendance last week was **97.7%**. This is just above of target of 97.5%, so well done everybody.

WEARING MASKS AT SCHOOL

As a result of the Government making changes to Plan B, the rules around face masks in schools are being removed. From 27th January, face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in communal areas. Therefore, we will no longer be asking any volunteers or visitors to school to wear a mask. I appreciate that some of you may still wish to wear one in communal areas but there will be no expectation on you to do so and it will be a personal choice.

LFD TESTING

Our January Covid risk assessment from Devon County Council states ' *Schools are strongly encouraged to ask parents and other visitors to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before entering the school!*

With this in mind we would ask any adults to take a lateral flow test before coming into the school as a volunteer e.g. for reading or Forest School.

CHANGES TO SELF- ISOLATION FOR POSITIVE CASES OF COVID-19

From Monday 17th January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

PUPILS WHO ARE CLOSE CONTACTS OF COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an **LFD test every day for seven days** and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

HOLIDAYS AND QUARANTINE

You should plan your holidays within school and college holidays as usual. Avoid seeking permission to take your children out of school or college during term time.

You should refer to the [guidance on travelling abroad from England](#) before booking and travelling.

All pupils travelling to England must adhere to travel legislation, details of which are set out in the guidance on [travelling to England from another country](#).

Please keep in mind that you and your children may need to quarantine when you return from a trip overseas. Any quarantine should also fall within the school or college holidays.

WEEK 13 WORD OF THE WEEK: equip

Verb: equip

Past tense: equipped

supply with the necessary items for a particular purpose.

"the rescue team were all equipped with radios, amongst other tools"



Noun: equipment

the necessary items for a particular purpose.

"suppliers of office equipment"

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!

PARENTS' EVENINGS

We appreciate that the last few parents' evenings have been conducted by telephone and we were really hoping to be able to invite you into school for our next round of parents' evenings to be held this term. However, having discussed this at our staff meeting, staff unanimously feel it would be safer to continue with telephone calls. Teachers will therefore be offering a 10 minute telephone call per child for the first 2 weeks back after half term (Monday 28th February to Friday 11th March 2022). Further information about booking your appointment(s) will follow on 4th February which will allow you a 3 week window in which to book an appointment.

We would politely ask all parents to book an appointment during the 2 week window and not ask teachers for appointments at other times.

CURRICULUM LETTERS

The curriculum letters for the current term will be sent to parents by email on Monday 24th January.

BE SEEN - BE SAFE Hi-VIS JACKETS

We have been delighted to see so many children wearing their hi-vis jackets to and from school helping them to be seen and keep safe. Parents have told us that the children themselves are taking responsibility and reminding their grown-ups that they want to wear them.

Be Seen - Be Safe.

CENSUS DAY

We had a super take up of school meals yesterday. Thank you for your support on this.

READER HELPERS NEEDED: CALLING ALL PARENTS/CARERS!

Thank you to the additional volunteers who have come forward this week to help with reading. We would still welcome volunteers on the following days:

Reception - Monday and Wednesday

Year 1 - Wednesday

Year 2 - Wednesday mornings

Year 3 - Wednesday and Friday (both mornings)

Year 4 - Any day!

Year 5 - Monday - Thursday

Year 6 - Any day!

We appreciate that with ongoing restrictions, some may feel hesitant volunteering to hear pupils read and/or help change reading books; however, we would welcome anyone who had any time at all to spare (preferably afternoons). Please email admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk FAO the relevant teacher if you think you have the time to spare to help with this.

ARRIVING FOR SCHOOL IN THE MORNINGS

We would like to remind you that the school gate closes at 8.55am. If children arrive after this time, they need to be taken to the office by an adult and sign into the late book. They will then be marked on the register as late. Increasing numbers of children are arriving after this time, which leads to disruption to the rest of the class and missed learning. Please can we remind you to be on time to give your child the best start to the day.

COATS/WINTER WEATHER

As we are now in winter, please can all parents ensure that their child/children come to school with a coat each day. Each day, children spend between 1 hour and 1 hour 15 minutes outside during their 3 play times and we do not have enough spare coats for everyone who forgets. Thank you for your support with this.

ART AND CRAFT CLUB

A reminder that Graham Harry will resume Art and Craft Club on Thursday 27th January for 3 weeks for those already signed up in Class 2 and 3.

SCHOOL NURSE

The School Nurse Service is available to any parent who may have concerns about the physical or mental health of their child or requires additional parenting support and advice. Details of how to contact the service are attached. West Hill falls into the Eastern Hub service.

ROADWORK NOTIFICATION

We have been informed from Devon Highways that West Hill Road will be closed from **7th March 2022 until 18th March 2022**. The section of road affected will be from the junction with Eastfield for approximately 100m to the west. A diversion route will be signed via the B3180. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

This is due to rescheduled drainage repair work along West Hill Road.

PTFA NEWS

THANK YOU

Thank you for your support in 2021, we look forward to sharing fun fundraising ideas with you for the spring and summer terms soon!

A big thank you to West Hill Singers who kindly donated the PTFA £94 following their Carol concert at the RBL in December.

SPRING BALL

The spring ball is due to be held this May, but due to a very limited number of people currently interested in organising this, it may not be possible! It is only with your help that events such as these can occur. The PTFA team also have two big events in the spring/summer to organise (Queen's Jubilee and Summer fete), so cannot commit to running this event with only their small team. Please email PTFAWH@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk if you can be of any assistance to the ball planning team. Not only is the ball a fundraiser for the PTFA, but a brilliant night out within the village!

RAINBOW RAFFLE AND HAMPERS

To celebrate equality and to coincide with LGBT History month, we will be holding a raffle for rainbow hampers. Please see the attached poster for each class' colour. The aim is to fill your class hamper with only items in that colour! It can be anything such as toys, food, drinks, games, toiletries, books etc. You will have until half term to make any donations via the school office and raffle tickets (for a chance of winning any of the hampers) can be purchased using the following

link: <https://raffall.com/285496/enter-affle-to-win-west-hill-rainbow-hampers-hosted-by-west-hill-primary-school-ptfa>

With my best wishes for a lovely weekend,



Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher