



NEWSLETTER 35

01404 812599 Friday 22nd July 2022 Website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the last newsletter of the school year. I would like to thank all parents/carers for your support over the last school year with both your children's learning and with supporting school events. It has been our first year of returning to 'normal' after the previous two years being so disjointed with Covid lockdowns and it has been so lovely to resume large gatherings with parents/carers on site to celebrate special events with us.

We would like to wish the Year 6 pupils the best of luck in their secondary schools as well as the other few pupils who are leaving West Hill and moving on to other schools/education opportunities. I hope you all have a restful and relaxing summer holiday and fingers crossed for some sunshine.

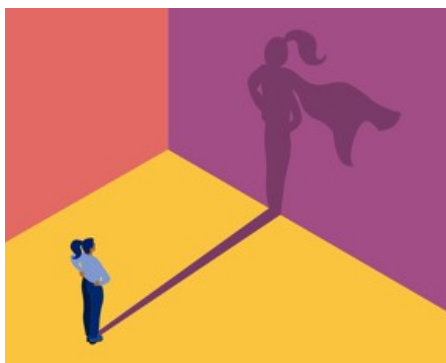
Please note that pupils return to school on **Monday 5th September** (as Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September are non-pupil days.)



ATTENDANCE

Our whole school's attendance last week was **94%**. This reflects the high level of bugs and chickenpox at school.

WEEK 35 WORD OF THE WEEK: **pride**



Noun: pride: describes a feeling of happiness that comes from achieving something. When you do a good job or finish a difficult task, you **feel pride**.

"They felt a glow of pride as they watched their son collect the award."

Verb: to be especially proud of a particular quality or skill. "He prided himself on his honesty".

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!



WARM WEATHER REMINDER

The warm weather continues into next week.

****PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD BRINGS A WATER BOTTLE, SUNHAT AND HAS SUNSCREEN APPLIED BEFORE ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL.****

BRINGING BOOKS HOME

Thank you to all parents who provided bags for their children to transport their exercise books home. If you haven't already, please can we ask all children to bring 2 large, strong, named carrier bags to school asap, as books are being sent home today and/or Monday.

MENU UPDATE

The school dinner menu for Monday 25th July will be the week 1 Monday menu - pasta bake, vegetable fajitas or jacket potato. Tuesday 26th July is our school picnic so please remember to send your child with a packed lunch or let them know if you will be bringing their lunch if you are planning to join us at the picnic.

END OF TERM FAMILY PICNIC

Please join us for a family picnic on the school field on the last day of term (Tuesday 26th July) from 12.15-1pm. This is a lovely family event, so we hope to see as many of you as possible.

All classes will be taken to the field and will sit with their teacher. Parents/carers will be allowed to enter the school field (via the gates) from **12.15pm-12.25pm** to collect their child(ren) for their family picnic. Please try to arrive within this time slot so that children are not left feeling anxious. If you do have to arrive after this time, please let your child(ren) know and you will need to come to the school office as the gates will be locked.

At 1pm the pupils will return to class to collect their belongings and parents will be asked to vacate the field. Term ends at **1.15pm** and children will be collected in the usual way from the playgrounds.

LIBRARY BOOKS

Please can we ask that all library books are returned to school today/Monday, especially if your child is in Year 6.

DINNER MONEY ACCOUNT FOR YEAR 6 CHILDREN

For children who are leaving the school at the end of term please make sure all outstanding balances are cleared to £0. If the account has funds remaining, we will refund these on the last day of term or funds can be transferred to a younger sibling if preferred (please let the office know). Thank you.

CYCLE SAFETY

On Wednesday, we were contacted by a concerned parent who witnessed one of our pupils cycling to/from school fall off in the middle of the road. They are very concerned that a tragic accident is going to happen. They have witnessed children cycling all over the road, including the adult who was seen swerving over onto the other side of the road.

If you or your child are cycling to/from school, please ensure they have adequate road safety.

Thank you.

STARTING AND CHANGING SCHOOL- ONLINE SUPPORT CLASS FOR PARENTS

While we might be looking forward to a good break, this can be a difficult time of year for many children. Many are saying goodbye to a teacher, classroom, and friends. Others are preparing for the bigger change of moving to a new school.

If you would like additional support ahead of this change, My Family Coach are holding a class on **Thursday 28th July from 7:30pm-8:00pm**; this will be perfect as we discuss Starting & Changing School.

Please remember that you may see a rise in distressed behaviours in your child because of the changes to usual routines, hot weather and tiredness.

You can help by:

- Creating a simple plan for the summer to share with their child
- Keeping some normal routines at home, like a regular bedtime
- Making time for relaxing, rest play, and not over-scheduling activities

PTFA NEWS

THANK YOU

Jo and Nicola would like to say a massive thank you for all your support at PTFA events throughout the year. It has culminated in a fantastic total of over £7,000 (tbc) raised at the Summer Fete. Well done and thank you to everyone who helped, attended and spent so generously.

NEW PTFA MEMBERS

It is now time for a new chair(s) to take on the lead role of the PTFA team. Jo and Nicola will be handing over this role to a willing volunteer (or two) at the AGM in September. This is an opportunity to work with an enthusiastic team to help raise money and provide great experiences for the children. Please feel free to speak to Jo and Nicola with any questions.

AGM - SAVE THE DATE

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st September at 7.30pm at the Royal British Legion.

WINTER BALL

The Village Hall is booked on Saturday 12th November for a Winter Ball, however, in order for one to occur a Winter Ball team is needed ASAP! If you can help a team arrange caterers, band, decorations etc, then please email PTFAWH@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE SUMMER ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme provides free places to free school meal children (and their friends) over the summer holidays. It is also extending free places to Ukrainian families across Devon. A scheme runs for 4 hours per day including a hot meal this can be for up to 16 days across the Summer Holidays. To access the programme, click on the link below, where there is a list of providers and details of how to book.

[HAF providers - Summer 2022 - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/haf-providers-summer-2022)

THE O6 HOLIDAY CLUB

The O6 will be running its annual holiday club from 8th to 11th August. This year we see the return of Superhero Academy. Please see the attached poster for details.

EXETER LIBRARY FREE SUMMER EVENT

Please see the attached poster advertising a free upcoming event at Exeter Library this Summer on 27th August.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Children aged 4 - 11 can join in the Summer Reading Challenge at their local library for **FREE** this summer! The Summer Reading Challenge, produced by The Reading Agency, combines free access to books with fun, creative activities during the summer holidays. Throughout the Challenge, library staff and young volunteers support children to discover new authors and illustrators and explore a wide range of different types of books and ways of reading. This year's theme is *Gadgeteers*, with a focus on science, inventions, and making the world a better place while having fun! Sign up at your local library from Saturday 9th July to join in and get your *Gadgeteers* collector poster.

How it works:

- Visit your local library and speak to a member of staff to sign up
- Set a reading goal (6 books is recommended) and borrow and read library books of your choice
- Collect stickers along the way to complete the poster
- When you complete the challenge, receive your certificate and medal!

The Reading Agency have prepared a short animated video for parents.

[Gadgeteers! - Summer Reading Challenge 2022 - Trailer - YouTube](#)

BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT

There is a really great conservation activity taking place nationally this week and until 7th August. It is the Big Butterfly Count. There is a website where you can download a chart and record how many butterflies you see over a 15 minute period. You can even take a photo of a particular butterfly and check it against the chart. The website is: <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org> and more details can be found here: [Big Butterfly Count in UK begins with eyes on declining numbers](#)

With my best wishes for a lovely weekend.



Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher