



# West Hill Primary School

## NEWSLETTER 10

01404 812599 Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Website [www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers,

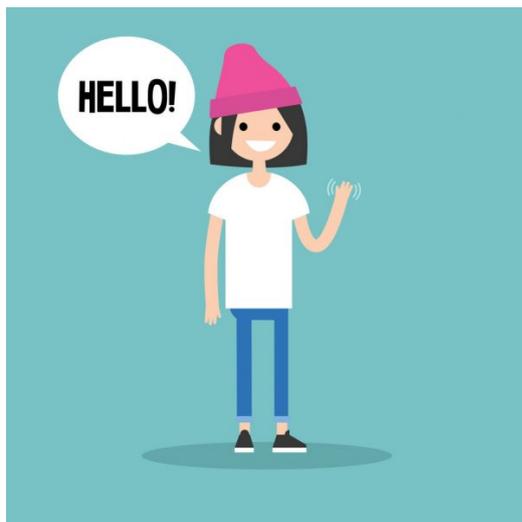


### ATTENDANCE

The whole school's attendance up to last week was **96.4%**. Well done everyone.

WEEK 10 WORD OF THE WEEK:

# affable



*adjective*

friendly, good-natured or easy to talk to.

"an affable and agreeable companion"

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](mailto:wotw@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk) to let us know!

### WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH - WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Your child should have already brought home a Christmas menu form this week. This needs to be completed with their choice and returned by **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021**. If you didn't receive the menu, there is one attached to this newsletter. **Children can also wear their Christmas jumper on the day with non-uniform clothes.**

Dinner accounts for Key Stage 2 children should be in credit by £2.50 on the day. No payment is necessary for children in Key Stage 1.



## CHRISTMAS CARDS



The Christmas post-box will be operating from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December. The children will be able to post their cards to each other and to any adults who work in school (no cards please to friends outside the school as they won't get delivered!) The Year 6 elves will deliver daily for the last 2 weeks of term. Please make sure that all cards have the name and class for each child on the envelope. Any with no class will have to be opened to try to track down who they are for.

## PLASTIC POTS AND TUBS

We are acquiring an increasing amount of un-named plastic pots and tubs on a daily basis as well as lunch boxes/bags which are being left at school. Please can you ensure your child's belongings are all named and remind them to bring things home at the end of each day. Without names, we are unable to return them to their owners and have no option but to recycle them at the end of each week. Thank you.

## PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

The Governing Board has a vacancy for a parent governor. If you are interested in joining us please see last week's 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](mailto:admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk) for further information.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

After School Club has now been up and running for a few weeks and we have several families that currently use our service. If you would like to book a session, please contact [trisha.ratcliff@westhillpreschool.com](mailto:trisha.ratcliff@westhillpreschool.com) to request a registration form.

We pick children up from school and they return to the Village Hall with us. We then play games, create art and play. We have access to the garden to burn off energy too. We have a lovely light snack around 4.00-4.30pm. The children get involved in making their own sandwiches, buttering toast, hot cross buns or bagels and are offered fruit too.

The cost is currently £8 for the session, this is up to 5.30pm when all children must be collected. We are considering offering a shorter after school club alongside this for up to an hour, please let us know if this would be something you would be interested in by emailing the above address.

## EAST DEVON GAMES CROSS COUNTRY FINALS AT BICTON

Last Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November, we were delighted to be able to take boys' and girls' teams for years 3/4 and 5/6 to take part in the East Devon Games Cross Country Finals at Bicton College, competing against hundreds of children from other schools. The children all showed great teamwork, determination and self-belief, and competed well. Well done to all the children involved:

Year 3: Oliver M, Evelyn P, Freddie C

Year 4: Rose D, Erin C, Jess T, Gracie B, Thomas V, Otis W, Teddy L, Ted D

Year 5: Matthew D, Micky C, Timothy G, Lucy S, Dotti P

Year 6: Lucy R, Poppy R, May K, Matilda G, Otto G, William S



All the children ran well and placed well in the events.

A particular shout-out to Ted D for finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 3/4 boys' race, and Rose D for finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 3/4 girls' race.

Our 3/4 girls and 5/6 boys both finished in 2nd overall in their races, which is also a fantastic achievement.

Thank you to parents Mrs Davey, Mrs Treen and Mrs Smart for helping the children take part in this wonderful event.

From Mr Pantling

### **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.

### **RECEPTION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 NATIVITY**

Due to current COVID rates 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](mailto:admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk) stating which performance you would like to attend (Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2pm or Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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

Please note Devon County Council 'Informe' (19<sup>th</sup> November) states 'The government has made a new announcement this week about [when people in England should take rapid lateral flow device \(LFD\) tests](#). Previously, the advice has been to take LFD tests regularly twice a week. But the new advice is that people in England should be taking a LFD test on days when they are more likely to catch or spread COVID-19. For example:

- when they will be in a high risk situation that day, such as mixing with other people in crowded indoor spaces where there is limited fresh air.

**With this in mind, we would ask if you could do a lateral flow test before attending the nativity or tonight's Christingle service for Class 3 and Class 4.**

### **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 by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

### **CLUBS**

We have attached an updated clubs list so parents are aware of all the clubs currently on offer for

children. Some are already at full capacity, but please do check with the office if your child is interested in any of them.

## PTFA NEWS

### 100 CLUB

Today is the deadline for 100 club entries, please keep an eye out in the next few weeks for winning names!

### CHILDREN IN NEED

Many thanks for all of the donations to Children In Need last week, and to the Y6 house captains for collecting each day.

Congratulations go to Bendarrach, who raised £168.97. They were (very) closely followed by Warren with £168.59, then Moorlands raised £138.74 and Elsdon £110.87

A fantastic amount was raised for CIN with a total of **£587.17**

### TEA TOWELS

This Christmas we have created a whole 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](mailto:PTFAWH@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk). Many thanks!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### CHRISTMAS SINGALONG

Come and have a pub style Christmas singalong at the British Legion from 6-8pm on Saturday 11th December. The West Hill Singers will be singing for your enjoyment and need lots of cheery voices to join in and make it a fun evening. Family Christmas favourites, some carols and a bit of George Ezra and Oasis.

Bring your neighbours, friends and family, grab a pint or a glass of wine or two and come and blow away the winter blues with us and raise the roof with an upbeat singsong.

This is a free event but donations are encouraged in our big bucket for the West Hill Primary School PTFA.

The lovely Sharon Andrews will print some lyrics for you all.. but in the meantime grab your hairbrush, warm up with some scales and practice in your kitchen.

All friends welcome.

### 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**.

### **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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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