



West Hill Primary School

Newsletter 26th September 2025

Note from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As well as being European Day of Languages, today saw us celebrate Teaching Assistant Appreciation Day. This national event presents an opportunity to celebrate the essential, yet often under-recognised, role of teaching assistants. I would like to thank them on behalf of everyone in our school community for the tireless work they contribute to classrooms and across the school every day, and I am sure you will join me in celebrating their achievements and raising awareness of their impact on our children. Thank you, Clare Hedges; Kirsten Hayball; Niki Townsend; Mel Morris; Marie Orpin; and Hillary Willis for everything you do for our school.

In other news, thank you to parents and carers who attended this week's information meeting about Little Wandle Letters and Sounds, our new phonics scheme. I hope the information was useful. Thank you to Mrs Collin for leading this event. More information for Reception Class will be shared on 1st October, and on 8th October for Class 1.

Well done to the children in Key Stage 2 who ran at the Stockland Cross Country event on Wednesday: they all put in a great effort and can be proud of their achievements.

Looking ahead, I hope the children enjoy us hosting a book fair next week, and that the children are able to select book(s) they would like to read. Every book purchased for home will lead to more fantastic, brand-new books for the school!

Warmest wishes,
Mr Pantling – Acting Headteacher

Stockland Cross Country Races



On Wednesday, I took 12 runners to Stockland Primary Academy to compete in the first cross-country race of the year. For lots of these children, it was their first experience of the event and I was extremely proud of the resilience and determination they all showed. There were great results from all, with Thomas Pantling and Ella Churchill coming second in their respective races on their Stockland debuts. We have another race in a fortnight, and then two more in March which I am sure will bring the infamous Stockland mud that we managed to avoid in the sunshine this week! Thank you to all the parents who helped with the event, whether coming on the coach, marshallng or just coming to cheer on the team! – Mr Sapwell, PE Lead

This week in our school!

Reception Class

In Reception we've started our topic called 'Marvellous Me'! We've been learning that, although we are all different, lots of things about us are the same. Having read a lovely story called: "You be You", everyone then decorated their own pebble fish to show that we are all different but all equally important.

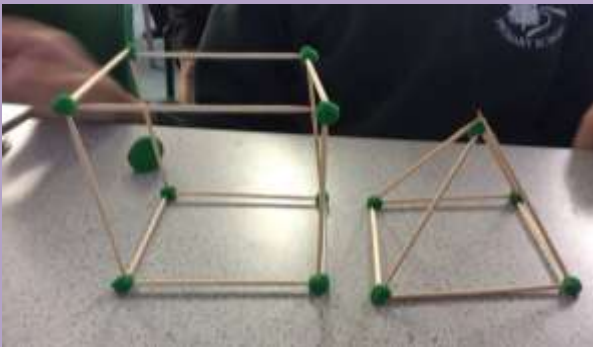


Class 1

Another busy week in Class 1! We've enjoyed reading the story of Sylvia and Bird, learning about the properties of 2D shapes, looking at the artwork of Andy Goldsworthy and finding out about different animal diets.

Class 3

Year 3 have been learning all about 3D shapes this week, including investigating their properties. We had great fun on Tuesday making 3D shapes with cocktail sticks and play-dough!



Class 2

Year 2 have worked incredibly hard in English this week, writing their own versions of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Mary Finch. They then shared their fantastic stories with the Reception Class, using brilliant storytelling voices to bring their tales to life.



Class 4

Class 4 have created these wonderful self-portraits in the style of Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo. They used water colours and oil pastels to add a vibrant and colourful Mexican style background.



Class 5

Year 5 have wowed me this week showing that they can adapt and be brilliant even when I am off sick! During my two days away, the children behaved superbly and made me very proud by working hard in my absence. In music this week the children played glockenspiels and learnt how to keep rhythm. In maths, we have been working with shape and looking at their various properties.

Class 6

In Class 6 this week, we have been using the Chromebooks to aid our Maths learning about the nets of different 3D shapes. We used the website Polypad to test out whether different nets would accurately create a 3D shape, watching the nets fold before our eyes! We could then spin the shapes round to look at them from different angles. What a fantastic resource.

Info for the grown-ups

Double Yellow Lines on Beech Park

There is a consultation open with Devon County Council regarding proposed double yellow lines on Beech Park, the consultation is now live until 3rd October. This is the link to the DCC webpage and parents are invited to respond online via this page. [Local Waiting Restriction Programme Tranche 2 - Roads and transport](#)

Census Day Meal Change

A reminder that on Census Day, next **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!

Harvest Festival Donations

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

Mental Health Matters

Welcome to this brand new section of the newsletter: Mental Health Matters. Every fortnight, I will be updating you on anything and everything to do with mental health and wellbeing.

I'm sure you don't need me to tell you how important it is for us to support our children in looking after their mental health. According to the Children's Society, 1 in 6 children aged 5-16 are likely to experience a mental health problem. This has increased by a shocking 50% in the last 3 years. The good news is, mental health has been part of the PSHE curriculum since 2020 and is becoming something that the children understand and discuss much more naturally than when I think back to my own school days (or even the start of my teaching career!).

As a school, we aim to teach the children about the importance of understanding our emotions, looking after our own wellbeing and knowing what to do when we are struggling with our mental health. Hopefully, this will help to equip them with the skills they need to negotiate an ever-changing world. I hope you will find this section of the newsletter useful and please feel free to send any feedback via the school office

- Mrs Pedley (PSHE Lead and Mental Health Champion)

#HelloYellow - World Mental Health Day

On Friday 10th October, thousands of schools, communities and companies will be wearing yellow to raise vital funds for the charity Young Minds as well as helping young people to realise that they're not alone with their mental health.

**Hello
Yellow**
FRIDAY 10 OCT

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

WOWs of the week!

Did you see our School Council in this Week's Sidmouth Herald? See the story here: [West Hill footpath officially opened by primary school](#)

Thomas has been cast as Jack's sidekick, Hamlet the Piglet in this year's Le Navet Bête pantomime at the Exeter Northcott Theatre. Thomas will be performing to audiences of up to 460! 'Break a leg', Thomas!

He will be sharing this role among six children, so if you want to catch Thomas in the show, these are 'his' dates;

Saturday 6th December 2:30pm

Saturday 6th December 7pm

Sunday 14th December 11am

Sunday 14th December 3:30pm

Sunday 21st December 2pm

Sunday 21st December 6:30pm

Monday 29th December 2pm

Monday 29th December 6:30pm



Dates for your diary

September

w/c 29th September

Book Fair all week

October

Wednesday 1st October

Phonics information evening 5:30pm – Reception class
Harvest Festival donations collected for Ottery Food Bank

Tuesday 7th October

Y6 Boccia & Curling event at Kings School

Wednesday 8th October

Whole school Yoga Workshop

Stockland cross country event 3pm

Friday 10th October

Phonics information evening 5:30pm – Year 1

Wednesday 15th October

Y6 librarians trip to Devon Libraries

School photo day, individual photos

Reception class village walk

Black History Day

Tuesday 21st October

Y1 & Y2 trip Leap Then Look

Tuesday 21st October

Parents evening (booking link will follow soon)

Wednesday 22nd October

Y5 sharing assembly 10am

Thursday 23rd October

Parents evening (booking link will follow soon)

Thursday 23rd October

Seasonal flu vaccinations

Friday 24th October

Last day of half term

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

w/c 10th November

Anti-bullying week

Tuesday 18th November

Y6 PGL parent information meeting

Friday 21st November

Children In Need

Friday 28th November

Y3 & Y4 Christingle Service

Wednesday 3rd December

Y4 sharing assembly 10am

Wednesday 10th December

Reception, Y1 & Y2 Nativity performance 2pm

Friday 12th December

Reception, Y1 & Y2 Nativity performance 10am

Wednesday 17th December

Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 19th December

Last day of term

 **SCHOLASTIC**

COME TO THE **Book Fair**

**FILL YOUR
SCHOOL WITH
FREE BOOKS
WHEN YOU BUY
FROM THE
BOOK FAIR***

**READING
GIVES YOU
SUPERPOWERS!**

**LAST YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT
HELPED TO DONATE OVER
£5.3M
IN BOOKS TO SCHOOLS
NATIONWIDE**



Art © Day Pitkey



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!"



West Hill Primary School

Beech Park, West Hill, Devon EX11 1UQ – 01404 812599 – admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk