



West Hill Primary School

Newsletter 3rd October 2025

Note from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by saying thank you and congratulations (!) to any parents who were able to purchase a book from the Book Fair this week. Your support and patience is certainly appreciated. Let's hope your effort proves worthwhile and we raise a good amount to buy books for school. Plans for the new library continue apace, and the children across the school have now voted for their favourite theme...

In addition, thank you to everyone who attended the Reception Class Little Wandle phonics input this week. Mrs Collin, Mrs Powley and Mrs Burkill were delighted to see so many of you. We will ensure all resources shared are made available to everyone. A reminder that Class 1's session is on 8th October.

Next week brings two events focused on Mental Health and Well-being: on Wednesday, Kara Green will be doing yoga and mindfulness sessions adapted for each class (funded by our wonderful PTFA), while on Friday, everyone is invited to wear yellow and to make a donation to YoungMinds. Donations can be made online via the following link: <https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/s/3265/3267> Alternatively, please bring in a cash donation to the school office.

On a final note, I am sure you will join me in congratulating Bruce Wilkinson on his successful appointment as Chair of the PTFA at last the AGM. Please see the PTFA section below for news and information. I will take this opportunity again to thank them (you!) for everything you do to support the school.

Warmest wishes,
Mr Pantling – Acting Headteacher

Harvest Festival

Thank you so much for all your generous donations for Ottery Food Bank, and thank you to Rev Mac from St Michael's Church for leading our assembly.

Click here to listen to our amazing children singing *Think of a World!*

west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/West-Hill-Primary-School-2.m4a

This week in our school!

Reception Class

Reception Class have had a lovely week - we've been learning some new sounds, including the letter 'o'. To help us practise the letter formation, everyone made an octopus and decorated it with lots of 'o's for the suckers on each tentacle.



Class 2

Year 2 have been busy creating wonderful pieces of art for the Sidmouth Science Festival!

Their work will be on display at Kennaway House from 11th - 18th October as part of this year's festival, along with Year 3 & 4's hexagons. The theme for 2025 is "Underwater Wonders", and the children have enjoyed exploring the magic and mystery of the ocean through their creative pieces.



Class 4

Year 4 have been playing the recorders and glockenspiels in music to Abba's *Mamma Mia!*



Class 3

Year 3 - Year 3 have continued to improve their gymnastics skills this week by practising different jumps off benches. We have incorporated half turn, pike, tuck and star jumps into our performances!

Class 5

This week in year 5 we have been learning how to use relative clauses in our English. Together, we have been learning how to drop relative clauses into simple sentences to give more detail. I have been very impressed by how the children have listened and applied this new skill in their writing, well done!

Class 6

Year 6 have been working hard on some formal writing this week in the form of a balanced argument. I was so impressed by the children's introductions that every single child was rewarded with at least one house point! Here is an extract from Charlie's introduction; what an impressive start!

This term, Class 6 have been following the grim hardships of a particular young orphan: the protagonist of the thrilling tale 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. Throughout Chapter Eight, Jim is presented with a rare opportunity - the possibility of freedom. A choice awaits Jim and a spark of hope ignites: should he risk it for a sliver of a chance and join the hungry boys and skinny dogs on the streets of London, or stay in the relative safety of the workhouse?

Info for the grown-ups

Uniform Policy Reminder

Thank you to all parents and carers (and children) for the effort you go to adhere to the school's uniform policy. The children turn up every day looking smart and ready to learn. Please could we politely draw parents' attention to a couple of points in the current policy:

Earrings: these should be a simple stud, please. Hoops, drops, or large earrings are not permitted.

Hair: 'long' hair should be tied back, please. Previous messaging to parents has defined 'long' hair as shoulder-length. Hair ties should be green or white.

Reasonable adjustments to the school uniform can be made to accommodate individual pupils' needs, for example for medical reasons or SEND. We would always want to work with you to find solutions should any issues arise around uniform and would encourage a conversation should this be needed. Thank you very much for your support. A copy of the current policy is available at [Policies | West Hill Primary School](#)

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](#)

Secondary school applications

The admissions portal is now open for families with children in Year 6 to submit their applications for secondary school places. Families can apply online by visiting: www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline. **The deadline for applications is 31st October 2025.**

PTFA News

Many thanks to Bruce (Y4 Dad) for stepping into the Chair role and enabling the PTFA to continue its good work supporting the school. Key things from the PTFA are:

- The Halloween Disco is Friday 24th Oct with £2 tickets available to buy through SCOPAY. Please see attached poster.
- The Winter Ball is planned for Sat 15 Nov. While the Band 'Kick', the 'Posh Nosh' Caterers and the hall are all booked our previous lead has had to withdraw from the PTFA. We urgently need a team to deliver the ball and if you are interested, please contact Bruce in the large playground asap. If no one volunteers by next week we will have to cancel this lovely event and lose the £462.50 in deposits paid.
- The next PTFA meeting is on Thu 9th Oct at 8pm via MS Teams. The aim of this meeting is to agree how the PTFA is going spend the fundraising profits this year and how we can support the amazing library project. If you're not already part of the PTFA What's App chat and are interested in attending please email ptfawh@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk for a link to the meeting.
- The PTFA needs additional support to fundraise and spend money on your children. There are a wide range of things you can do from helping prepare a ball, running a stall at the fete, baking cakes for a cake sale, selling sweets at the disco and sorting the mountain of second-hand uniform currently sat in the PTFA cupboard. If you think you can offer some support (no matter how small) then please let us know.

Hello Yellow

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

As a school, we will be taking part in this event by encouraging the children to wear something yellow for a suggested donation of £1 to YoungMinds. As an extra incentive, all children are invited to bring something yellow for members of school staff to wear too (the sillier, the better!) Staff have agreed to wear all of their fetching accessories to a special assembly at the end of the day for all to see.

Donations can be made online via the following link:

<https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/s/3265/3267> Alternatively, please bring in a cash donation to the school office.

Of course, the above is purely optional and your child is welcome to wear mufti on 10th October, even if it's not yellow!

The children will also be taking part in some fun activities relating to positive mental health and wellbeing, as well as each class taking part in a yoga workshop with Kara Green earlier in the week.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 7 th October	Y6 Boccia & Curling event at Kings School
Wednesday 8 th October	Whole school Yoga Workshop
	Stockland cross country event 3pm
	Phonics information evening 5:30pm – Year 1
Thursday 9 th October	Y2 Pyjama party
Friday 10 th October	Hello Yellow – non-uniform day
	Y6 Librarians trip to Devon Libraries
Wednesday 15 th October	School photo day, individual photos
	Reception class village walk
	Black History Day
Friday 17 th October	Reception Class Vision Screening
Tuesday 21 st October	Parents evening
	Y1 & Y2 trip Leap Then Look
Wednesday 22 nd October	Y5 sharing assembly 10am
Thursday 23 rd October	Parents evening
	Seasonal flu vaccinations
Friday 24 th October	Whole school Dance Workshop
	PTFA Halloween Disco
	Last day of half term

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

w/c 10 th November	Anti-bullying week
Tuesday 11 th November	Y5 & Y6 Megawatt Workshop
Tuesday 18 th November	Y6 PGL parent information meeting
Friday 21 st November	Children In Need
Friday 28 th November	Y3 & Y4 Christingle Service
Wednesday 3 rd December	Y4 sharing assembly 10am
Wednesday 10 th December	Reception, Y1 & Y2 Nativity performance 2pm
Friday 12 th December	Reception, Y1 & Y2 Nativity performance 10am
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 19 th December	Last day of term

Our next Cafe Church is this **Sunday 5th October at 9.30am.**



We will be celebrating Harvest with Mac & Matt leading the informal service. There will be music, chat and crafts for the children, which have been prepared by Linda & Fiona. Coffee ☕ and yummy food 🍩🍰 will be served - oh and after the service, there will be a Harvest Brunch of bacon butties!! 🥓🥓 Please stay and enjoy!

Harvest gifts of dried and tinned goods would be welcome - they will be donated towards Ottery Food Bank.

Hope to see you on Sunday, Love from all at St Michael's

Join us

Tickets £2 Per
Child. Payment
To Be Made Via
Scopay No Later
Than Thursday
16Th October



FOR BOOGIE FEET AND SUGARY TREATS
AT THE WEST HILL VILLAGE HALL

West Hill Primary School

PTFA Halloween Disco!
ON

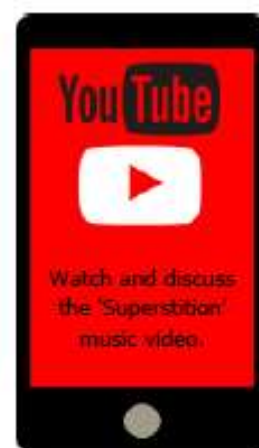
FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2025

Time: KS1 4pm-5pm
KS2 5:30pm-7pm

Sweet
Bags £2
Bottled
Drinks £1
Cash Only
Please

October's Musician of the Month

STEVIE WONDER



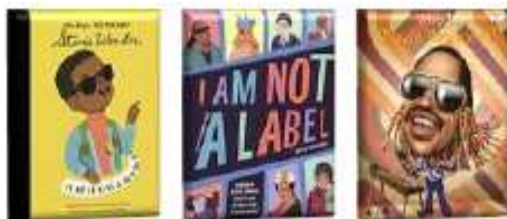
About: Stevie Wonder is an American singer-songwriter. He is credited as a pioneer and influence by musicians across a range of genres that include rhythm and blues, pop, soul, gospel, funk, and jazz. A virtual one-man band, Wonder's use of synthesizers and other electronic musical instruments during the 1970s reshaped the conventions of R&B.

Genres: Blues, Pop, Soul, Gospel, Funk and Jazz

Active from: 1961 - Present

Origin: Michigan, U.S.A.

Books to read...



If you like Stevie Wonder, try...

- Ray Charles
- Gladys Knight & The Pips
- Marvin Gaye



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!"



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