



NEWSLETTER 20

01404 812599 Friday 4th March 2022 Website www.west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,



ATTENDANCE

The whole school's attendance in the last week before half term was **93.4%**. This is below our target, but in line with the number of Covid cases in school.

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is distressing and concerning and could be causing some children to feel anxious and unsettled. So it is essential that children are being effectively supported during these times.

Some of you may be seeking guidance as parents in relation to the current uncertainty and anxiety that many children feel at the moment.

At times like this, we need to give children the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to help them develop coping strategies, including balanced thinking, resilience in the face of uncertainty or things over which they have little or no control, and recognising the value of sharing their feelings with trusted adults.

Here is a selection of resources designed to help children to manage their anxiety:

- [Advice to help talk to pupils about Ukraine](#)
- Coping with anxiety and building resilience in our [Additional Resources page](#). Search Anxiety and Resilience on this page
- [Children's Mental Health toolkit](#), published for Children's Mental Health Week, is still available. You'll find here lots of resources relating to anxiety and stress
- BBC Newsround offer guidance on how to talk to children about the current situation. There is a section containing tips for children who are feeling sad or upset about something they have seen, heard or read: [Advice if you're upset by the news](#). It also has lots of videos and reports about the war in Ukraine that have been produced for children [Newsround videos and reports](#) - scroll down for a section on the war in Ukraine

- Place2Be's educational psychologists have also shared advice about how to discuss war and conflict with children and young people - and how you can best support them at this difficult and worrying time. Read their advice [here](#)
- **Useful Websites** selected by the Devon Educational Psychology Service as offering key advice for parents, carers and school staff supporting children in understanding the current situation in Ukraine.
 - [Supporting children to manage anxiety over war, conflict and crises - BPS](#)
 - [Talking to your children about scary world news - Mental Health Foundation](#)
 - [War, Crisis, Tragedy: How to talk to kids when the news is scary- KQED](#)
 - [Talking with Children About War and Violence in the World - Family Education](#)
 - [How to talk about Ukraine with children - Save the Children - Download the full blog](#)
 - [How to talk to children about Russia invading Ukraine in an honest but reassuring way - Kasia Delgado](#)
 - [How to Talk to Kids about What is Happening in Ukraine - Alexia Dellner](#)

ROAD SAFETY- POLITE REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Due to the rainy weather this week we have noticed more children travelling to school by car which has increased congestion around the school, particularly at morning drop off time.

Visibility for pedestrians has been significantly reduced as more parents have been parking in Beech Park which then restricts the flow of 2 way traffic. With this in mind, please can we ask you to park elsewhere and leave Beech Park clear of parked cars.

This week a parent witnessed a 4x4 mount the pavement near the crossing point which is extremely dangerous for pedestrians.

Furthermore some cars have been seen travelling particularly fast entering Beech Park and the Village Hall car park with no consideration for pedestrians.

In order to keep you all safe and to avoid any future accidents, please can we ask drivers to show respect to pedestrians and for pedestrians to be aware of cars around them ensuring children cross roads safely with their adult. Thank you for your support with this.

WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday, we were blown away by the variety of costumes worn by the children for World Book Day. Such an array of creativity and talent on display! The children enjoyed a visit by Jo Earlam, a local author, who visited each class to read from her books and answer their questions. She also shared exciting facts about reading and how books are created: from an idea all the way through to the printing process.





Staff also enjoyed their opportunity to dress up!

It was a special day - thanks go to everyone who helped with costumes at home and of course to Jo Earlam for giving her time and creative input.

WORLD BOOK DAY TOKENS

Each child will have brought home a World Book Day token to the value of £1. This gives all children the chance to experience choosing and owning a book.

The World Book Day books are a gift to children from booksellers and publishers. World Book Day works with publishers to create a list of £1 books to appeal to a wide range of children at all ages, interests, and stages of reading. Publishers suggest titles and a selection panel chooses from these submissions. The selection panel includes a range of expert voices from libraries, communities, partner charities and retailers. The World Book Day **trustees** approve the final list and the chosen publishers then produce and publish the books.

They are available from booksellers who give them to children in exchange for the £1 token. Please remember to take your children out to spend their token.

ASSEMBLY VALUES

Each term we will be focussing on a termly value in assemblies on Wednesdays and Fridays. This Term's value will be **Happiness**. Each week we will have a different theme:

Week 1 - Introduction to the value

Week 2 - What makes you happy?

Week 3 - How to be happy

Week 4 - International Day of Happiness (20th March)

Week 5 - The Pig of Happiness

Week 6 - Evaluation of the value

WEEK 20 WORD OF THE WEEK: **satisfaction**

Noun: (abstract)

fulfilment of one's wishes, expectations, or needs, or the pleasure derived from this.

"I looked round with satisfaction"



adjective

fulfilling expectations or needs; acceptable, though not outstanding or perfect.

"he didn't get a satisfactory answer"

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!

PTFA NEWS

SAVE THE DATE!

The Spring Ball Committee have commenced plans and would like to share the date of Saturday 14th May 2022. Please keep the date free!

RAINBOW RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone that took part in the Rainbow raffle, either by donating items to fill the hampers, or by purchasing tickets. We have raised a fantastic £411 for the PTFA, and we are delighted to announce the lucky winners were:

- Red - Yusur Goodfellow
- Blue - Kate Conway Davies
- Green - Karen Walter
- Yellow - Cathy Ann Poole
- Purple - Jenni Marshall
- Pink - Kirsty Trude
- Orange - Holly Newsam

Congratulations to these winners!

COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that kindly donated items to the refugees of Ukraine. A big thanks also to Louise Down and Nicola Davies who played a huge part in collecting and dropping the items off elsewhere.

RED NOSE DAY

We will be collecting donations on Friday 18 March for Comic Relief, which will also be a non-uniform day.

COMMUNITY NEWS

RAINBOW WARRIORS & MINDFULNESS

There are places available at the lunchtime clubs:

Tuesday - Year 2,3,4,5 & 6

Thursday - Reception & Year 1

Sessions are 30 minutes and cost £4, payable in advance for the term (£24 for 6 weeks)

To book or for more information please email Kara: karatwinkle@hotmail.com or call on 07778127685

CRICKET CLUB

Clements Coaching is running an after school cricket club. Numbers are low so far, so we are now opening this out to Years 3 and 4, as well as 5 and 6. Sessions will start on Thursday 17th March from 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Sessions are 1 hour long and cost £3.

To book please email Alex: aclementscoaching@hotmail.com or see attached flyer for more details

TABLETOP SALE IN AID OF HOSPISCARE

West Hill Pre-School Committee are taking part in a tabletop sale in aid of Hospiscare on Saturday 7th May. We are asking for donations of hand-me-down clothes and toys to sell. Please bear us in mind if you are having a clear out over the next few weeks as we would be very grateful for good quality, complete, clean and saleable items. Please can you leave them in the Foyer of the Village Hall by 29th April and a member of the committee will collect them. All proceeds raised will go to the Pre-School and Hospiscare. Many thanks.

With my best wishes for a lovely weekend,



Mrs. Cheryl Boulton
Headteacher