

Chief Executive Officer: Mrs Alison Nettleship
Head of School: Mrs Rachel Dinnis
Assistant Head of School: Mr Simon Wilkins

Friday 22nd October



Weston Mill Community Primary Academy
Ferndale Road
Camel's Head
Plymouth
PL2 2EL

Email: westonmill.reception@discoverymat.co.uk

Newsletter

As we reach the end of this part of term, we would like to remind parents of the importance of notifying the school of your child's absence by 9.00 am. Please call the school on 01752 365250, leave a message or speak to someone and give a reason for the absence. We are monitoring all illness, especially at this time of COVID, and we are doing our very best to keep the children safe and following all authority guidelines as required. Please can we also remind you, if your children present with COVID symptoms, you book a PCR test and inform us of the result once it is through, ensuring the safety of our school community.

We hope you all have a well deserved break over the half term holiday and we will see the children bright and early on Monday 1st November.



Weston Mill Community Primary Academy is taking part in Plymouth City Council's 'Engines Off for Clean Air' campaign!

We are asking anyone who drives to school to pledge to make a small but hugely positive change for our school community and the local area by switching off engines when stationary.

- An idling engine operates less efficiently and can produce twice as many exhaust emissions as an engine in motion
- Every minute an engine is idling it creates enough exhaust emissions to fill 150 balloons. The harmful pollutants in these emissions include nitrogen oxide, sulphur dioxide, benzene and particles of soot and metal
- Children are more at risk as they breathe twice as fast as adults and are often level with exhaust fumes
- Engine idling wastes fuel, costs money and is an offence under Section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988

With your help we can make the streets around our school an Engines Off Clean Air Zone and a safer and friendlier space for our children.



Y6 Swimming Reminder

Children in Y6 will be taking part in their swimming lessons after the October half-term. Sessions will commence on Monday 1st November – Friday 19th November 2021.

Children will need their swimming kits every day. We kindly suggest they bring the following items:

- Full school uniform (jumper, trousers/skirt, shirt/polo top)
- School shoes
- Swimming costume/shorts
- Towel
- Spare underwear

Children may also bring goggles

We look forward to providing this experience for the Y6 children and thank you for your support

We are collecting loose parts!



We want your old things!! We are developing loose parts play within our foundation stage unit this year and need your help!

Loose parts play involves using a wide selection of everyday objects and materials to create, build, invent, experiment and play with. Research has found that loose parts play has a significant number of benefits for our children including: developing their imagination, creativity, physical health, fine and gross motor skills, behaviour, cooperation, communication, team work and concentration in class. Although at times our playground with begin to look like a building site or scrap yard, rest assured that there will a tremendous amount of learning involved, not the mention, fun!

We would be extremely grateful if you could donate any unused objects and materials from the list of suggestions below.

Loose parts list

Natural materials (if you ever want to bring in these from weekend adventures we will always find use for them!)

- Pebbles
- Leaves
- Sticks
- Wood slices
- Drift wood
- Bark
- Flowers
- Pine cones
- Seeds
- Shells
- Dried beans



Recycled materials

- Lids
- Corks
- Bottles
- Buttons
- Paper towel tubes
- Kitchen roll holders
- Mug tree
- Yogurt pots
- CDs
- Old style scales
- Boxes
- Fabric- large pieces such as old curtains or bedding, as well as smaller pieces.
- Shower curtains
- PVC tubes, guttering
- Curtain rings
- Gears from clocks
- Knobs for appliances
- Gift wrap
- Old keys
- Padlocks and keys
- Postage stamps



School Meals

As winter approaches, we feel it's important the children have a hot school lunch and will therefore the sandwich option has been removed for this period until the menu is re-viewed. They will have three delicious hot meals to choose from, as soon as the new menu is through, we will put it up onto our website and Facebook. Page.

Year 4 School Residential Trip

After the success of our previous trips to Nethercott Farm, we are now organising the next visit for Monday 21st – Friday 25th March 2022. The trip is open initially to children in Year 4.

Nethercott Farm is a charity established by Michael Morpurgo 40 years ago. The charity offers city children from all over the country a unique opportunity to live and work together for a week at a time on a real farm in the heart of the countryside. It is a, 'learning through doing' experience of a different life – children will work to look after animals, discover where our food comes from, work outside completing a range of farming tasks and learning how farming affects their everyday lives.

The total cost of the trip will be £260 per child, (after a subsidy from Discovery MAT). Deposits of £50 will be required by 15th November 2021, another payment of £100 will be required by the 10th December 2021, the third payment of £50 will be required by 24th January 2022 and the final £60 will be payable by 28th February 2022. All monies must be paid via the ParentPay system, by these dates, to secure the place and all money paid is non-refundable as the school has already committed to the trip.

We will be leaving school in the morning of Monday 21st March and returning to school early evening on Friday 25th March (times will be confirmed closer to the date).

We understand that you may have reservations as the children are young, but children all have a fantastic time and often talk about this as a highlight of their time while at our school. This residential trip has been an extremely rewarding experiences for both the children and the adults.

Please have a look at the charity's dedicated website for further information: <http://farmsforcitychildren.org>.

If you have any queries or concerns and would like to discuss the trip, please feel free to speak to Mr Wilkins or Miss Carpenter, who have both been on numerous occasions.

If you are interested in reserving a place for your child, please complete and return the slip which will be attached to the letter sent out. Any unreserved places still available after 15th November 2021 will be offered to Year 5 children.

