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Head of School: Mrs Kathryn Catherwood  
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## Newsletter 3rd February 2023

What a great week! The children have enjoyed their Times Tables Rockstars Challenge today as part of NSPCC Number Day, which has ignited their competitive spirit. I am looking forward to hearing the results once the competition ends later this evening!

This term, our School Improvement Priorities have changed. We will be developing the following areas across the Spring and Summer Term as identified in our new priorities: To promote oracy and language development across the curriculum; Improving outcomes for all children through adaptive teaching; To develop pastoral support which promotes school attendance and punctuality; and Improving outcomes for all children through targeted academic support in reading.

Next Friday, we be Safety Week at school. The children will be working together in their house groups to explore how they can be safe and who to seek help from if they feel they are in an unsafe situation. This will be our first House Day since the Covid19 Pandemic and we are really looking forward to the children building relationships across the school and working together with children from different classes and year groups.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Kathryn Catherwood

Head of School

### Weekly attendance for 30th January - 3rd February

The UK Government expectation is 96%. We are striving for children to achieve this as there is a direct link between attendance and achievement .

This week, our whole school attendance is 90.6%

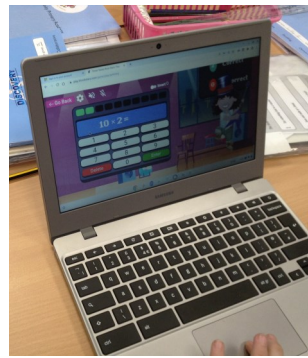
This week's winners are : **Cape Town Class** and **Santiago Class**

LONDON	93.5
NAIROBI	91.3
MOMBASA	88.1
CAPE TOWN	96.3



SAN FRANCISCO	91.4
TOKYO	91.4
SANTIAGO	91.5
CANBERRA	93.8
DUBAI	78.2
OSLO	91.3

# Number Day



London class have been exploring the numbers 6, 7 and 8 this week. We have been making creatures out of playdough with 6 or 8 legs. The children had to sort a collection of objects counting carefully and give them to the correct number alien. For number day today we looked at triangles and made a mathematical star with 6 points to display in our space station!



## At Weston Mill Community Primary Academy punctuality matters.



Look at the table below to understand how lateness affects your child's learning time.

Minutes late each day	Number of school days missed in a year
<i>If you are late by the number of minutes below each and every day...</i>	<i>...this is how much learning you will have missed, by the end of the year.</i>
5 minutes	2 school days
10 minutes	6.5 school days
15 minutes	10 school days
20 minutes	13 school days
30 minutes	19 school days

If your child arrives at Weston Mill after 8:55am, they will be given a late mark on the register.

If your child arrives after 9:15am, their late mark becomes an unauthorised absence for the morning session.

**Make every minute count!**



# HELP PAYING FOR YOUR CHILDCARE



Government help with childcare costs for parents.  
Whether you have toddlers or teens, you could get support.

## Tax Free Childcare

We are now registered for Tax Free Childcare. This scheme can be used to pay towards breakfast club and after school club. Please use the following link to APPLY or your Tax Free Childcare Account.

Apply at [www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare)

[Watch this video](#) to find out more about how to apply.

Please use the 'How to use Tax-Free Childcare' guide on the next page to set up your Tax Free Childcare account.

Once you have registered for your Tax-Free Childcare account, and have selected Weston Mill as your childcare provider, you will be issued with a reference code. Please email this code to [westonmill.desk@discoverymat.co.uk](mailto:westonmill.desk@discoverymat.co.uk). You can then set up regular or one-off payments to school from your Tax-Free Childcare account. To support the administration team, we kindly ask that these payments are made on **1st day of each month**. Your ParentPay account will then be credited with the payment amount.

If you need any further support, please speak to Mrs Searle or Mrs Catherwood.



From Monday 16th January, Breakfast Club session times will be changing. The sessions will now be bookable for the following timings:

7:00am — 7:45am at £2.65

7:45 — 8:45am at £3.50

Parent Pay has been updated to reflect these changes.

UK Government

Help for Households

You might not realise you could get help with childcare costs

Check if you're eligible today  
[Go to childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://Go to childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Childcare Choices

# HOW TO USE TAX-FREE CHILDCARE

For every £8 you pay in, the government will automatically add £2, up to the value of £2,000 per child per year (or £4,000 for disabled children)

1

## CHECK YOU'RE ELIGIBLE

Find out more about eligibility on [www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare](http://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare)

You **can't** use Tax-Free  
Childcare together with:

- ✗ Tax Credits
- ✗ Universal Credit
- ✗ Childcare Vouchers

2

## APPLY FOR TAX-FREE CHILDCARE

Apply at [www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare)

If eligible, you'll get an online  
childcare account.

[Watch this video](#) to find out more  
about how to apply.

3

## PAY MONEY INTO YOUR CHILDCARE ACCOUNT

You can deposit money into your  
childcare account using a debit card,  
but it's quicker by standing order or  
bank transfer. We'll add the  
government top up automatically  
and you can use this money when it  
shows as 'available'.

4

## SELECT YOUR CHILDCARE PROVIDER(S)

Your childcare provider(s)  
must sign up to receive Tax-Free  
Childcare payments.

5

## PAY YOUR CHILDCARE PROVIDER(S)

Use the money in your childcare  
account, including the government  
top up, to make one off or regular  
payments to your childcare  
provider(s).

6

## RECONFIRM

To continue getting the government  
top-up, you'll need to confirm your  
details are up to date every 3  
months. We'll send a reminder when  
you need to do this.



# Café Connect



10:00am - 2:00pm Wednesday  
The Barn, Kit Hill Crescent, Barne Barton, PL5 1EJ

Join us for a midweek Starbucks coffee and help us tackle food waste by taking away donated food from M&S, Lidl and Tesco.

Upcycle clothing - bringing something you no longer need or take something you could use.

Safe and friendly environment where all ages are welcome.  
Plus children's activities in the mornings

Plymouth Barnardo's Children's Centres

Citywide Spring Timetable 9th Jan -31st Mar 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Latch on</b> Rees - 1 - 2.30pm	<b>Latch on</b> High View - 10.00 - 11.30 (Term time ONLY)	<b>Latch on</b> Nomony - 1 - 2.30pm	<b>Latch On</b> Plymbridge - 1 - 2.30	<b>Latch On</b> Fourwoods - 10-11:30
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> 9.30-11 Southway Church of the Holy Spirit, Cliffatford Rd, PL6 6EJ	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> 10 - 11.30 - The Barn	<b>Breastfeeding support cafe</b> Southway Community Centre 9.30 - 11.30 (term time) with Latch On 10-11.30	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Mainstone</b> - 9.30 - 11	<b>Chatterbox with baby weigh</b> Tothill Community Centre 10 - 11.30
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> Rees 1 - 2.30	<b>Baby &amp; Me</b> Fourwoods - 10-11 Rees - 10-11	<b>Chatterbox with baby weigh</b> Honicknowle - 1 - 2.30 Compton Church 1 - 2.30	<b>Baby &amp; Me</b> Plymbridge - 1.30 - 2.30 ★ Crownlands - 1.30 - 2.30 (please book for Crownlands)	<b>Introduction to solid foods</b> 10 - 11 Rees - 13th Jan - Crownlands - 20th Jan Further dates & venues to follow PLEASE BOOK
★ <b>Step by step</b> The Barn 9.30-10.30 & 10.45-11.45 PLEASE BOOK	<b>Step by Step Support drop in</b> Starts 3rd Jan every other week Central Methodist Church 1.45 - 3	<b>Twins Group</b> Rees Well Being Hub 10-11.30 2nd & 4th Wed of the month	★ <b>Step by step</b> Whiteleigh 9.30-10.30 & 10.45-11.45 PLEASE BOOK	
<b>Bookstart</b> Nomony - 9.30-10.30 16th Jan - 6th Feb 27th Feb - 20th March	★ <b>Step by step</b> Nomony 9.30 - 10.30 & 10.45-11.45 PLEASE BOOK	★ <b>Step by step</b> High View 12.30 - 1.30 & 1.45 - 2.45 PLEASE BOOK	<b>Multicultural Group</b> Onward House - 9.30 - 11	
★ <b>Lets get cooking</b> The Barn 12.30-2 (with creche) - PLEASE BOOK	★ <b>School readiness</b> Nomony - 1.30 - 2,30 17th January PLEASE BOOK	★ <b>School readiness</b> 10 - 11 Crownlands - 25th Jan The Barn - 22nd Feb Whiteleigh - 8th March PLEASE BOOK	<b>Buggy walking</b> 1st Thursday each month Mannamead Wellbeing Hub - 9.30 - 10.30 2nd Thursday each month Nomony - 9.30 - 10.30 3rd Thursday each month Plymstock - 9.30-10.30	★ <b>ALL THESE ARE BOOKABLE</b>
	<b>Young Parents Cafe</b> Hendwell Centre, Southway - 12.30 - 2.30	<b>Cafe Connect</b> The Barn - 10 - 2	<b>Service Family Group</b> Plymstock - St Marys Church Hall 1 - 2.30 - Term time only	
	★ <b>Baby 1st Aid</b> Venues across the city 10 - 12 PLEASE BOOK			<b>Believe in children</b> Barnardo's

# Parent and Toddler Group

Weston Mill Community Primary Academy will be starting a Parent and Toddler Group. This group will be run by Maggie Antell, our Family Support Worker, and Emma Palmer, one of our Mealtime assistants.

The group will be held every Wednesday between 9-10am and will start on the 25th January 2023.

Our Parent and Toddler Group will be held in the additional HUT room. Please arrive through the main reception door from the school playground. A member of staff will be at the door to greet you.

Refreshments will be available.



## WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

Please follow us on our Facebook page - Weston Mill Community Primary

**You can also check our website for latest news, dates and letters.**





If you are interested in joining the PTFA, please contact the school office on 01752 365250 or email [westonmill.desk@discoverymat.co.uk](mailto:westonmill.desk@discoverymat.co.uk) for more information.

We are always looking for more volunteers to support us with events for the children and bring our school community together. Our PTFA usually meet once a month to discuss and plan for school events, but we are grateful of any time that you could spare to support us at school.



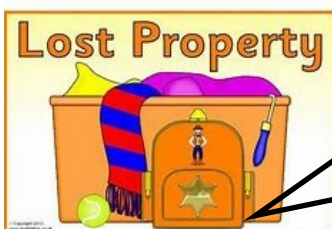
### Healthy Snacks

Children are welcome to bring a healthy snack into school to eat during their breaktime.

As a Healthy School, snacks should be either: a piece of fruit, a yoghurt or a cereal bar.

Snacks must not contain crisps, nuts, cinnamon or chocolate.

Thank you for your co-operation.



### Lost Property

We have a wide range of lost property items available in our Office area. Please come and have a look if you have recently lost an item.

Many Thanks.



# Dates for your



## February

- 7th February - Nethercott Farm Parent's Meeting @ 3pm or 4pm
- 9th February - Santiago Class Assembly @ 2:30pm
- 20th February - NPD - School Closed to all pupils
- 23rd February - Canberra Class Parent Reading Session @ 2:15pm
- 28th February - Cape Town Celebration of Learning @ 2:15pm

## March

- 7th March - Mombasa Celebration of Learning @ 2:15pm (New date)
- 9th March - Oslo Class Assembly @ 2:30pm
- 14th March - Dubai Class Celebration of Learning @ 2:15pm
- 23rd March - Nairobi Class Assembly @ 2:30pm
- 28th March - Canberra Celebration of Learning @ 2:15pm
- 31st March - Reports sent home
- 31st March - Spring Term ends

## April

- 17th April - Start of Summer Term
- 18th April - School Photographs

## Have you considered teaching?



WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY?

### HAVE YOU CONSIDERED TEACHING?

Devon Primary SCITT has helped hundreds of people begin rewarding careers as Primary School Teachers.

Join our Taster Day at Elburton Primary School in Plymouth to find out about teaching, and training with DPSCITT.

The session is designed to provide opportunities for you to:

- See a Partnership School in action & speak to staff
- Observe teaching and learning in different year groups
- Chat to Trainees about their experiences
- Meet the Course Director and ask individual questions
- Find out how our course works and how trainees are supported by school-based and centre-based staff.

For more details or to book your place,  
please visit [www.dpscitt.ac.uk](http://www.dpscitt.ac.uk)  
or call 01392 790 164.



**Teaching 'Taster' Day**  
**Elburton Primary School, Plymouth**  
Wednesday 8th February 2023  
9.15 - 12.30