West Berry Federation

Welcome Back!

NEWSLETTER
Sept 2026

Harbour Schools Partnership

A guiding light for education

Welcome Back!

We are looking forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 7th September. We hope you all had a wonderful Summer Break!

<u>Our school day</u>
8.00am Breakfast club begins *(to book a place please contact the school office)*
8.40am School gate opens
8.50am School day begins (*gate closed)*
9.00am West Down preschool children start
12.20-12.20 Lunch
3.00pm Preschool finishes
3.20pm School finishes



<u>Lessons during the first weeks</u>
For the first week back, we will have a more flexible timetable to enable teachers to settle the children back into class, establish strong routines and clear expectations. We will also be thinking about our school vision and values and what it means to be part of a supportive community.

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Team Building – Snapper

REMINDER: We are excited for our Courageous Camp the first week back for children in Year 3,4,5,6.
Location: Snapper, Collard Bridge
Date : Thursday 10th September:
Drop off at Campsite : 9am WD, 9.30 Berry
Pick up: Fri 11th Sept. 1.30pm or 3.20pm

Most important things to remember:

- Kit Bags to be bought into school Wednesday 9th September please
- Packed lunch needed for Day 1
- Complete consent form for trips
- Complete medication form if needed!

Please pay for the event by the 8th September deadline. This will help us to confirm arrangements and ensure that the visit can proceed as planned.
If the trip is not financially viable due to insufficient contributions, we may unfortunately have to cancel it.

Kit list for day at Snapper (Thursday)

- ☐ Packed lunch
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Waterproof coat
- ☐ 24hour suncream applied before arrival
- ☐ Sun hat
- ☐ Suitable clothing and footwear – these may get muddy!
- ☐ Bug repellent (optional)
- ☐ Medication required during the day (to be handed to a member of staff on arrival with a completed form)

Kit list for camping (please keep kit bags as small as possible to be dropped to school the DAY BEFORE CAMP OUT):

- Warm sleeping bag, sleeping mat and pillow
- Suitable outfit for the next day.
- Additional items for cooler weather overnight.
- Shoes that are easy to slip on and off (welly boot or crocs work well) to go in and out of tent/ school
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Personal medication (to be handed to member of staff on arrival and form completed)
- Sunscreen
- Bug repellent (optional)
- A plastic bag for dirty/wet items
- Book or small game to play quietly in tent if they wake up too early!

Things not needed:

- Any electronics including camera/ phones
- Money

Communication

Who do I talk to?

A lot can happen over five weeks, and you may have important information to share with your child's teacher.
The first morning back is always very busy, so it is important that teachers can focus on welcoming and supporting the children.
If you need to pass on an urgent message, it may be easier to email us in advance at westberryparents@thsp.org.uk or write it down. You can also leave a short message with the member of staff on the gate.

Teachers will be available at the end of the day. For more detailed discussions, please arrange an appointment so you can talk properly.

Someone different is picking up my child and I need to let the teacher know.

How to I set up Arbor?
How do I pay my bills?

Admin
Westberry@thsp.org.uk
WD - 863461 Berry - 883493

I need a medical form for a prescription or non-prescription drug.
I need a holiday request form.

I did not receive the forms sent out for a school trip

Can my child attend school – NHS advice link

What will my child be learning about this year?

School Website:
www.westberryfederation.org.uk

What are the term dates?

What is on the school dinner menu today?

I am concerned about a family in the community – what do I do?

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I think my child is having friendship issues in class.

How is my child doing in class- written report 2x a year, parent meeting offered 3x a year, weekly Dojo posts.

What can I do to support my child at home?

Attendance: Sarah.Higgins.thsp.org.uk

Will we get fined if we book a holiday?

What does poor attendance mean – why did I receive a letter?

Class Teacher

- Call to make an appointment
- Email westberryparents@thsp.org.uk for your message to be passed on.
- Leave a short message with staff member on the gate.

*Please note Dojo and Facebook are not used for private messaging

My child had a tricky weekend.
My child didn't sleep well last night.

My child says they are lonely on the playground.

Can you help me understand why an Education Psychologist is seeing my child.

There is a serious issue affecting our family at the moment

I think my child is entitled to Pupil Premium.

I think my child may need extra support in school.

Mrs Poynter & Mrs Jones westberryparents@thsp.org.uk

SENDCo/ Pastoral : Lucy.Jones@thsp.org.uk

I have spoken to my child's class teacher but I am still concerned.

I am concerned about standards in the curriculum

My child isn't dry at night and their friends are.

I am concerned about my child's health.
I am concerned about their eating/ weight.
My child won't sleep!

I have a safeguarding concern.

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Driving, parking and safety

Please park responsibly and considerately, and drive carefully through the village.
Do not park near crossing points and avoid driving past the school entrances when children are arriving or leaving.
The West Down staff car park is for staff only, unless you have made other arrangements with the school.
To help keep children safe, please arrive in good time and park so that you can leave without reversing while children are nearby. Please also share this information with anyone who may collect your child.

Lunch and free school meals

Allergy aware!

All children in YR, Y1 and Y2 can order a free meal each day as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals entitlement. These meals are ordered during registration each day. We will continue with our popular Summer Menu until October half term. The menu can be viewed on our website. Preschool children and children in KS2 can order a school meal during registration and parents should pay for this on Arbor.

Some families may be eligible for Free School Meals - please apply if you think you might be eligible even if your child gets a free Infant Meal because the Free School Meal entitlement may also unlocks additional funding for school and your family.

Children may bring a packed lunch to school. Packed lunch should be healthy and not contain sweets or chocolate bars (chocolate biscuits are fine as a treat). Please do not send your child with products containing nuts and please be aware of other possible allergies.

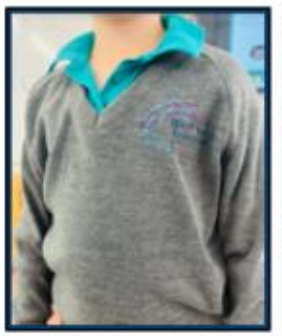
Uniform, equipment and belongings

Uniform

- **Grey v neck jumper or cardigan** with logo from Pedlars in Ilfracombe or supermarket chain stores without logo *(available from supermarket chain stores) Logo not mandatory.*
- **Plain polo shirt** in house colour *(available from supermarkets & Pedlars)*
- **Dark grey trousers/ shorts/ skirt/ pinafore or gingham dress** in house colour (skirts and dresses should be worn with shorts underneath)
- **Grey or house colour tights**
- **Grey or black socks**
- Footwear: **sensible active footwear** (any colour)
- Long hair should be tied back for physical education
- No jewellery
- No makeup











Pedlars homehardware

Please ensure ALL items are labelled clearly

Draw string bags or A4 book bag only – NO rucksacks.

No crocs/ slip on shoes or footwear with heels.

PE kits – white polo and plain black 'active' bottoms (Yr1-Yr6)

Refillable water bottle!

KS2 – Healthy snack for playtime.

Pencil Case Yr3,4,5,6			
2 x blue handwriting pens	2xpencils	Sharpener	rubber
Small ruler	Glue stick	Colouring pencils	2 x purple biro

Attendance

Parents do <u>not</u> have a right to take their pupil/student out of school for holidays during term time. By law you must ask permission for your pupil/student to miss school. If you don't you risk the school referring the case to the Local Authority and this could result in a fixed penalty notice or court summons. School follows a clear policy on holiday absence, but it is up to the headteacher of the school to decide whether or not the absence will be authorised. A copy of the full Attendance and Punctuality Policy is available on the School's website.

Parents wishing to apply for their pupil/student to have leave from school should complete the form and return it to school for authorisation at least 4 school weeks in advance of the proposed leave.

Some things to consider in respect of taking pupil/student out of school during term time:

- Pupil/student must attend school regularly to achieve their full potential
- Pupil/student who are kept out of school can feel vulnerable and miss out on key work
- Family Holidays in term time are disruptive to pupil/student's learning, and no holidays will be authorised unless under exceptional circumstances. Cost is not an exceptional circumstance.
- On average pupil/student who miss 10 or more days per school year fall behind significantly and can lose significant ground on their peers.

No holidays will be authorised in term time except in exceptional circumstances

- The School will not authorise absence for:
- Any type of shopping
- Resting after late night
- Look after brother, sister or unwell parents
- Travel to and from family events
- Routine Medical Appointments
- Visiting relative birthdays
- Holiday Request unless under exceptional circumstances
- Minding the house
- Farming

<u>Reporting Absence</u> – Call before 9.30am and let us know:

- Name
- Reason for absence
- Expected length of absence



If your child is absent from school and we haven't heard why, we have to consider them as missing. In this event we do what we can to find out where your child is contacting all of the child's parents and using all of their emergency contacts. If we are not able to confirm that your child is safe we may do a home visit or refer our concerns to the police or Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. This procedure is to ensure the safety of all children.

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Spaces Available



PLEASE COME AND VISIT!

WEST BERRY PRESCHOOL

Enquiries 01271 863461

Su Carey / Faye Poynter (Co-heads) would love the opportunity to show you around our small, happy and nurturing preschool. Please contact the school office to make an appointment.

Harbour Schools Partnership

westberry@thsp.org.uk

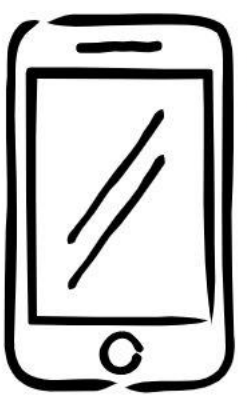
For more information visit: www.westberryfederation.org.uk

It is your

Birthday

Wear your own clothes on your birthday!

*If it falls on a day off you can choose to wear it before or after the holiday



Arbor

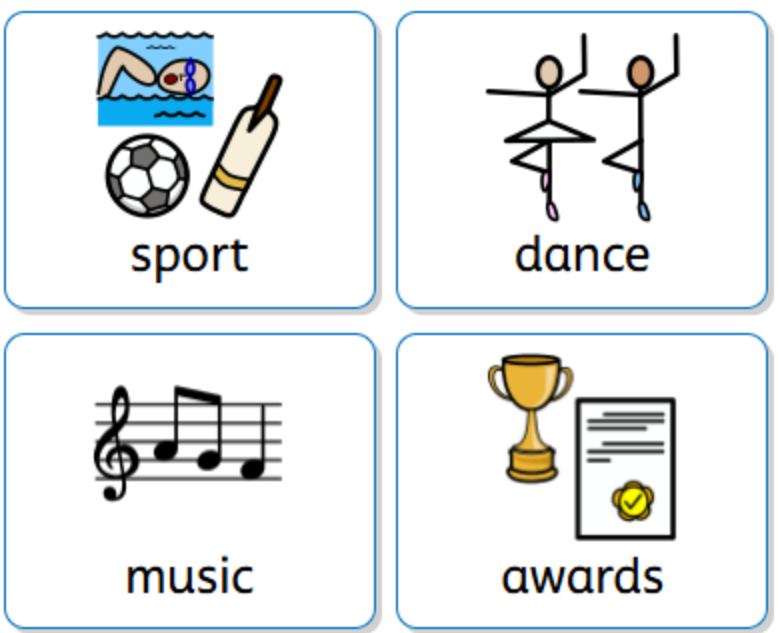
Download the Arbor App to manage your child's dinner choices, pay for trips and much more.

Celebration Assembly



Each week, we hold a **Celebration Assembly**, where we recognise one child from each class who has demonstrated our school values.
If your child has any achievements outside of school that they would like to share, please inform their class teacher and send in any relevant items for the assembly. These may include accomplishments in sports, dance, music, or other activities.







Music Lessons

Music lessons, choir and brass instrumental lessons are available. If your child is interested in music lessons in any of the following instruments next term please email Piano, Keyboard, Recorder, Oboe, Saxophone, Clarinet, Singing, Guitar, Ukulele and Music Theory with Christina.Barrow@thsp.org.uk We also have brass lessons available with Emma Nottage in Cornet, Trumpet, Euphonium and French Horn. Lessons in Guitar and Ukulele are also offered by Joe Steer. Book now for choir sessions in the Autumn Term and for lessons in September If you have any instruments which you would like to donate to the school we would be very grateful. In particular we always have a need for recorders and good quality ukuleles.

Data Forms

Please complete all data collections sheets. Most important the trip consent so your child can attend the camp out the first week back. All parents are entitled to receive information about their child's time in school but we can only do this if we have their contact details. When parents are separated we will send information to the parents with whom the child usually lives and any other parent of the child who gives us their contact details.

New starters!

If your child is starting school with us for the first time...
Starting school is a big and exciting step for you and your child. It is common for children and parents to feel a little anxious before quickly settling into school life. We want your child's time with us to be fun and productive, and for you and your child to feel safe. If you have any questions or concerns, however big or small, or however last minute – please get in touch. We will do what we can to make your child's time in our school positive. Emails to the westberryparents@thsp.org.uk address will be read by Ms Poynter or Mrs Jones and sent on to the appropriate member of staff.

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BREAKFAST CLUB

Please book through Arbor

Available 8am-8.40am
5 days a week
Term time only

	Pre-booked	Adhoc
8am-8.40am	£3	£3.50



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AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Slots are now available to book on Arbor.

Available 3.20-6pm
5 days a week
Term time only

	Pre-booked	Adhoc
3.20-4.30	£4	£5
Half hour intervals available from 4.30- 6pm	£4.50 per half hour	£5.50 per half hour

