



2016-2017  
FAMILY  
NEWSLETTER



Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017

No 14

Dear Parents and Carers,



**Dates**

**2016 - 2017**

- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March - Last day of term
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Pupils return
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May - Plant Sale
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Half Term week

**Last Chance  
To Enter!!**

**2 'Hospitality Package' Tickets to the Manchester United vs Chelsea game  
on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 4 pm  
(date and time of fixture subject to change)**

To be in with a chance of winning these amazing tickets which include a 3 course lunch and complimentary bar, please put £5 in an envelope, write your name, contact number and school on the front, and send the envelope back to the school office **to reach us no later than 4 pm on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017.** **The draw will take place on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.**

Will Young, KS3 Teacher at Ellen Tinkham School, is organising for a group of students and staff to go on a residential to South Africa in May 2018 and the money from the raffle will go towards this trip. Good Luck Everyone!!

**Comic Relief Day** - Students have been busy planning fundraising events for today's Red Nose Day. Check out the website and Class Blogs to see what the pupils have been doing!



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**48 Hour Absence** - Just to remind you that if your child has experienced diarrhoea and/or vomiting, you must not let them return to school until **at least 48 hours AFTER** the last bout of illness. Please notify the school office with any absence. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017** - Next Friday is the last day of the Spring Term before we break up for the Easter Holiday. Bidwell Brook is holding its traditional Easter Egg Hunt that day - keep an eye out for further details (and the elusive Easter Chick)!

**Polite Reminder** - Bidwell Brook School will be **closed** to pupils on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 for staff training. There will be no school staff on site. We re-open to pupils to start the Summer Term on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017**.

**On to other news from around the school:**

**Cake Stall**

We are planning a cake stall in school on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> of March to raise funds to adopt a pony at the Mare and Foal Sanctuary.

Two of our pupils attend sensory inclusion there every Monday and as a thank you for this placement we would love to raise £35 to enable us to do this.

Any donations of cakes will be most welcome on the day, and please remember to send money in with your children to enable them to purchase cakes.

Many thanks



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## What's On

### **Whizz-Kidz: Ambassador Club**

A free youth club for wheelchair users aged 8-25 years held on the first Sunday of each month at Plymouth Life Centre from 11.30am-5pm.

The club is run by Adam Simmons who is also a wheelchair user and lecturer at Plymouth University. Parents do not need to stay for the duration of the club as there are two health care assistants who are specifically trained to take care of all the medical and personal needs of the young people.

An application form will need to be completed before attending a session for young people that want to stay without a parent / carer.

To find out more call Sally on 07867 124901 or email [s.ellis@whizz-kidz.org.uk](mailto:s.ellis@whizz-kidz.org.uk)

### **Autism Awareness week**

Film Screening, KEVICC School, Totnes. 29th March 2017 at 7.30pm

Free entry, donations to National Autistic Society appreciated.

The film is about the inspirational story of Owen Suskind, a young man who was unable to speak as a child until he and his family discovered a unique way to communicate by emerging themselves in the world of classic animated Disney films. The emotional coming of age story that follows Owen as he takes his first few steps toward independence.



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### Parent Link

8 new workshops for parents with learning disabilities including:

Listening to your child. Learning about behaviour. Talking to your child. Quality time. Encouraging your child and Rules and boundaries.

Starting on Thursday 27th April, Exeter Community Centre. 17 St David's Hill.

Exeter. EX4 3RG 10.30–12.30pm

To book a place please contact Jo on 07808053992 [Jomdlup@gmail.com](mailto:Jomdlup@gmail.com)

### Drop-in Invitation from Maxine Lawrence.....

Dear friends and colleagues, as part of Autism Awareness Week, You are invited to drop in for Teas, Coffee, Cake, discussion, debate and information. Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 10am - 4pm The DAC, Ivybank 45 St David's Hill Exeter, EX4 4DN. **No on-site parking available.**

Venue within easy reach of Exeter city centre and both train stations. Many of us are working with children and families affected by Autism, without specialist training or expertise. This is an informal opportunity to share the experiences and knowledge you do have and hopefully find out more ways to support the families we work with. For more information, or if you would like to contribute towards this event, please contact: [maxine.lawrence@devon.gov.uk](mailto:maxine.lawrence@devon.gov.uk)

### The Friday Alternative

This social group is aimed at young people aged 18 years and above who have Asperger Syndrome. They meet every 6 -8 weeks in the Exeter area, usually on a Friday evening for a meal or ten-pin bowling. This is an opportunity to meet others informally, in a supportive group; to chat, discuss, debate or just to listen. People attending are expected to make their own transport arrangements to and from the venue and to have sufficient money to cover costs of the activity. For more detail, please contact Kevin Hickson on [khickson17@yahoo.com](mailto:khickson17@yahoo.com) or on 07813 318357



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### **South West Autism Support Services**

SW Autism are holding a series of training days aimed at helping families make sense of the difficulties they may be experiencing. The events are aimed at Parents, Grandparents, older Siblings, Family friends, Aunts/Uncles and anyone wanting to know more about Autism. The next training session is Friday May 5th 2017 from 9.30am - 2.30pm, Exeter. Places will be limited to 10 people, for costs and location details please email: [southwestautism@gmail.com](mailto:southwestautism@gmail.com)

### **Sesame Street**

Julia, the new furry character, was invented to reduce the stigma associated with autism and provide autistic children with a character they can relate to. The goal of Julia is to reduce the stigma associated with autism and provide autistic children with a character they can relate to.

To find out more go to: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-39324183>

### **Devon Carers**

Devon Carers is now able to offer a new course to support carers, which focuses on 'self-management'. This course is to help carers to take control of their own caring situation and lead a fuller life. Carers are encouraged to attend all three sessions but do not have to. Each session lasts for three hours and covers these subjects:

1. Introduction to self-care in a caring role
2. What we say and what we mean
3. Thoughts, feelings and behaviours

The courses coming up are as follows:

Dewdney Unit Exmouth Hospital, Thursdays 6, 13, and 20 April



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Durrant House Hotel, Bideford, Tuesdays 2, 9 and 16 May

Ockment Centre, Okehampton, Fridays 5, 12 and 19 May

Tavyside Health Centre, Tavistock Tuesdays 6, 13 and 20 June

Exeter Community Centre, Monday 3, 10 and 17 July

The first step to accessing a training course is to have a Carers Assessment.  
Contact the training team on: 03456 434 435

Enjoy the weekend and the Easter Holiday! We look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Warne".

Jacqui Warne  
Executive Head