



2016-2017

**FAMILY
NEWSLETTER**



Friday 16th December 2016

No 8

Dear Parents and Carers,

As it is the end of the Autumn Term and also the calendar year, I'd like to reflect on what's happened across the Learn to Live Federation this year.

Our pupils are continuing to make excellent progress and the targets set between school and our families within the Home:School Agreements really make a difference. Thank you for attending the Parents Evenings and supporting the teachers and classes.

Recently, Senior Leaders and I spent a couple of weeks monitoring teaching across both schools. We were particularly struck by the enthusiasm your children and young people have for their learning, and by the hard work and dedication of the staff teams who support them. We saw amazing learning in both schools.

At the end of January, the Ofsted Inspectors visited Ellen Tinkham School for a one day inspection, with the outcome being that the school remains "outstanding". This was a huge achievement and we all felt very proud of our pupils and staff. Bidwell Brook School is due a visit by Ofsted any time from the 3rd of January onwards and we look forward to welcoming the inspectors into school to showcase our work and the excellent progress that has happened since the last inspection in 2014. We're all determined to show that Bidwell Brook School is "outstanding" too!

Families, the PTFAs and friends of both schools continue to show their support with our Summer Fetes and Christmas Bazaars. The pupils have such fun in the run-up to these events - organising their stalls and making the gifts, and helping to run the tables on the day. All the money raised comes directly back to school to benefit all our pupils, so thank you for being part of this fundraising.

<p style="text-align: center;">Dates 2016 - 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 4th January - Pupils return to school• Tuesday 10th January 10am - PTFA meeting• Wednesday 18th January - Parents evening• Friday 10th February - Last day of half term



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In September, we opened the doors of Ellen Tinkham School's FE College at Bodley House in Exeter. The students moved into part of the building and moved again into Phase One of their completed classrooms during October half term. The space is fantastic and once the whole building is finished, will be a great hub for 16-25 year olds. It definitely feels like an FE environment rather than a school! Particular thanks must go to the Core Business Team of Senior Leaders including Dave O'Loughlin, our Premises and Health & Safety Manager, and to Carolyn Purslow, Emma Kenshole, Charlie Robinson and the team at the College who have made full use of the space and managed the moves while keeping up standards for the students. It is hoped the whole building will be finished and ready for an official opening next September, 2017.

Last week, we said goodbye to our long standing Chair of Governors, John Thorndyke and welcomed Kate Mythen as the new Chair and Steve Cleverly as our Vice Chair. I am sure Kate will introduce herself to you in the new year, and say hello at Parents Evenings.

Looking ahead, I expect 2017 to be even more rewarding as we see our children and young people being even more successful. Thank you to all our wonderful pupils, families and amazing staff who have made 2016 a great year.

We look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school on Wednesday 4th January 2017. Staff will return on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 for a training day.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Kind Regards

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

Jacqui Warne
Executive Head