



2016-2017  
FAMILY  
NEWSLETTER



Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016

No 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Parents Evening** - Bidwell Brook's parents evening took place on Wednesday. Thank you to those families who were able to attend and I hope you found the session very informative. As well as the teaching staff, I am sure you will also join me in thanking all our supporting staff who were on hand to run the crèche, serve refreshments and provide additional information to families. Their time was very much appreciated.

**Dates  
2016**

- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Half Term
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November - Occasional day school closed
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Last day of term
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Pupils return to school

**Permission Packs** - Please could you read, sign and return any data or permission forms you have been sent. Some information we need from you is statutory but other permissions relate to specific activities. Until we have your signature for these, your child may not be able to take part and will miss out. Thank you for your co-operation. It is really important that we have the correct telephone numbers and where mobile numbers are given that they are kept switched on during the day to allow us to be able to contact parents or carers if necessary.

**Family Newsletters** - Our aim is to send all newsletters home via email. If you do not have access to email, newsletters can be accessed via our website [www.bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk](http://www.bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk) Paper copies will only be distributed upon specific request to Kathy Smaldon in the School Office. Thank you.



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On to other news from around the school:

### **Pupil Premium funding for Schools**

**Pupil Premium** is additional funding for those who are eligible, given to state-funded schools in England to help ensure *all* pupils realise their potential and make good progress. The criteria for Pupil Premium are the same as for Free School Meals. If we authorise your child's Free School Meals claim, it means that the school is able to receive the Pupil Premium funding for your child, *even if* they do not take up the offer of a daily free school meal. This may be as high as £1320 per child.

**How do I qualify for Free School Meals?** If you receive **any** of these benefits you will be entitled to Free School Meals:

- Income-based & Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) on an equal basis
- Income Support (IS) \* Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (IBJSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA)
- Child Tax Credit (**without** Working Tax Credit) and with an annual taxable income assessed by HM Revenue and Customs to be less than £16,190
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit \* Where a parent is entitled to a Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment received for a further 4 weeks when no longer qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If your family circumstances have changed or you feel that you may be eligible for Free School meals then please let us know by phoning the school office and speaking to Carrie, ring the education helpline on 0345 155 019 or email [freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk)

Any information received will be treated in strictest confidence



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### Parents Evening Questionnaire

Please see attached a questionnaire in relation to the latest parents evening. We would be grateful if you could print and complete this. Please let us know if you would like a paper copy sent home with your child. Many thanks

### School Photos

Please could we have any orders for school photos sent to the school office by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Many thanks

**Message from Clare - School Nurse** - As some of you will be aware Boots Chemist has won the contract to deliver Flu vaccinations in school for the next 2 years for pupils in years 1, 2 and 3. This is the nasal vaccine.

I would strongly advise you to take your child to the GP and get them immunised to prevent getting Flu if your child is not in this age group.

Children under the age of 18 are entitled to have the nasal flu vaccine rather than the injection. This is much easier to give and less stressful than having an injection.

Pupils over 18 years will be offered the injection.

Our pupils are deemed to be in an at risk category and should be vaccinated. We have many pupils in school who would be very ill if they get Flu.

Please consider this request and speak to your GP. It is essential that our pupils are protected.

Thank you,

### Message from Lesley Williams (Clerk to Governors)

Sickness Policy- For your information the Sickness Policy has now been updated and can be found on the school website:

<http://bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk/school-policies/>



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**Message from Raegan (Physio)** - The second Wizz Kids wheelchair training session will be on Monday 3rd October 9.30 - 11.30am. Pupils/students who have previously sent in parental consent may attend.

### Up and Coming Events & Useful Information

#### Ivybridge Donkey Sanctuary

Back by popular demand from last year, we have Halloween with Billy Wiz - a magical spooktacular party. Party games - magic show - prizes. Prize for best fancy dress. Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October. 3pm - 5pm (Doors open 2.30pm)

Tickets are on sale now from the Ivybridge Donkey Sanctuary priced at £8.00 (picnic box included) the show is suitable for children aged 4.

Further details can be found at [www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk](http://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk)

**Museums at Night family event at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter at Halloween.**

**[Don't be Afraid of the Dark!](http://www.rammuseum.org.uk)** Friday 28 October, 7 - 9 pm please see - [www.rammuseum.org.uk](http://www.rammuseum.org.uk) for further details

#### PHAB

Our club is looking for new members! PHAB is a national, well-established charity across England and Wales. We run fortnightly social clubs for disabled and able bodied young people, aged 8-20, on the University of Exeter campus. We aim to promote equality by bringing together people of all abilities, encouraging complete inclusion. For more information about PHAB, see our website: <http://phab.org.uk/>



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Our next session will be 30/09/16 from 18.30 to 20.30. This session we will be making stained glass windows and light catchers for members to take home. Throughout the session there will be games, crafts and refreshments to keep our creative minds running. Again, please do let us know of any groups who might be interested. All new members are welcome!!

We have attached a map of the University campus in case this is of use to you. We recommend parking in Car Park C as we will have volunteers posted here to show the way and there is also free disabled parking available and full accessibility. The session will be taking place in Cornwall House, Activity room 1.

**Disabled Children: A Legal Handbook 2nd edition**

An authoritative yet accessible guide to the legal rights of disabled children and their families in England and Wales. The handbook aims to empower disabled children and their families through a greater understanding of their rights and entitlements. Each chapter has been adapted into a PDF for you to download for free. For more details on how to access the handbook go to:

<http://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/disabled-children-legal-handbook-2nd-edition> .

Enjoy the weekend,

Kind Regards

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

Jacqui Warne  
Executive Head