



2016-2017
FAMILY
NEWSLETTER



Friday 11th November 2016

No 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the lead up to Christmas, we have lots of events taking place across the Federation. Please take time to look at the diary dates and we look forward to welcoming you into school over the next few weeks.

Bidwell's Got Talent - What an amazing show last Friday! The pupils had a brilliant time rehearsing and performing, and thank you to the staff for supporting the show. Well done everyone.

Children In Need Day - This is taking place next Friday, 18th November. The Learn to Live Federation fully supports this fundraising event and I hope the pupils enjoy the planned activities!

Occasional Day - A polite reminder that the school will be closed for one day only on **MONDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2016**. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 29th November.

Inclement Weather - If we receive a significant snowfall this winter, please can I remind families to check the school website and tune in to Radio Devon for information about any possible disruption or closure of the school. *Please be assured the decision to close is not taken lightly.* If the school is open but School Transport is not running and you choose to drive your child to Bidwell Brook yourself, you will definitely need to collect at the end of the day. Please also be aware if the weather deteriorates during the day, we may require you to collect your child early. School Transport rarely cancel journeys and only do so in extreme conditions but if they decide not to run in the morning, they will automatically not operate in the afternoon.

**Dates
2016**

- Monday 28th November - Occasional day school closed
- Friday 16th December - Last day of term
- Wednesday 4th January - Pupils return to school



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Norovirus - Public Health England has asked if we could remind families about this common infection which causes symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting. Norovirus is highly infectious and spreads easily from person to person, especially in a close knit community such as school.

If your child has a suspected case of norovirus:

- Recovery time is usually 2-3 days. No specific treatment is needed for this mild infection, but it is important to keep your child hydrated with drinking fluids.
- Please do not send your child into school or another childcare setting **for at least 48 hours after their last bout of illness**. Your child will not be able to access the hydrotherapy pool for a period of two weeks upon their return to school.

Good hygiene is important to stop the spread of infection, especially hand washing frequently and thoroughly with soap and water, particularly after using the toilet and before eating or handling food. Good hygiene in the home will also help prevent spread to other family members. Toilets, including seats and handles, as well as door handles, wash basins and other frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected frequently.

If the symptoms do not resolve after 48 hours or if you are concerned, please seek advice from your GP or contact the NHS non-emergency number 111.

Thank you.

On to other news from around the school:

Physio News -Therapy Stars for October

Anthony (Yellow Class) for very good funfit sessions.

Marina (FE2) For being really active in school, using wheelchair less and using peanut, great bike riding.

Rural Skills News - We are excited to announce that the Bidwell Brook Rural Skills Department have been shortlisted as 1 of 3 finalists in with a chance of being awarded £1000 worth of building supplies through the RGB 'Well Built



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Community' fund. We have applied for the funding in order to construct a 'Forest Kitchen' - a sheltered, secure and safe area in which to introduce and develop important transferable life skills to our young people in a way that is engaging, exciting and motivating.

The funding will be awarded to the school with the most votes so please help by showing your support in any of the following ways:

- By visiting RGB's Facebook page and casting your vote on there (please also share on your timeline!)
- By emailing RGB@pmwcom.co.uk and putting 'Community Fund - Bidwell' in the subject box. Only one vote will be counted from each email address
- By visiting RGB's Torquay branch and placing a chip in the Bidwell Brook School box

Votes can be cast between *Friday 11th November and midnight on Friday 25th November* (votes can only be cast at the Torquay branch during normal opening hours). Votes cast outside of these times will not be counted.

Many thanks for your support!



Bidwell Brook PTFA

Thank you for all your contributions to the Bags2School collection this week. We have made **£160** this time. Do keep putting your old clothes, shoes, bags, belts, hats and soft toys on one side and there will be another collection in the spring. Gather from your friends and neighbours too! We can store bags as you fill them in our PTFA shed here.

NOTE: We said in error that the AGM is on the 15th Nov. It is actually on the **29th Nov, at 10am**. All welcome.

We are busy collecting some fantastic prizes for the Raffle at the Christmas Shows. Please encourage your families and friends to support us and come along to win win win!



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DARTINGTON SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP PARKING OFFER

Dartington Hall have a special membership offer for parents/carers of children who attend a school in the parish of Dartington. The cost is £35 for an annual parking permit that will enable you to use Dartington Hall's car parks and includes a range of additional benefits/discounts.

To take advantage you will need to quote PARKandDART and name the school your child attends. To sign up, please drop into the visitors centre opposite the barn cinema, alternatively visit the website www.dartington.org/membership or call 01803 847514.

Up and coming Events

Hannah's Seale Hayne - Hannah's Winter Wonderland

Friday 18 November 2016 - Friday 23 December 2016

For the first time ever, the Edwardian Quad at Hannah's is being transformed into a Winter Wonderland, with a 15m x 20m skating rink, a giant 50 foot snowman (with a bouncy castle in his stomach!), pop-up gift and food stalls, musical Christmas light shows and even regular snow showers. Visit their dedicated mini site: www.winterwonderland.org.uk There will be a whole month of special events, so log in and see what's on!

Enjoy the weekend

Kind Regards

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

Jacqui Warne
Executive Head

Attachments: EEDDS - Event at Totnes 14th November & D'ARTS Christmas Fair Flyer