



2016-2017

FAMILY
NEWSLETTER



Friday 25th November 2016

No 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

Occasional Day - Just a reminder that we have an occasional day this coming Monday, 28th November. Bidwell Brook School will be shut to both pupils and staff, with everyone returning on Tuesday 29th November.

December Dates - Please make a note of the events taking place in the run up to Christmas. We look forward to welcoming you to the school!

Bidwell Brook's Christmas Fayre - This is taking place on Friday 9th December from 10 am. We hope you can come along and support this festive event. Also, if you are in the Exeter area next Friday, 2nd December, you might like to pop in to Ellen Tinkham's Christmas Bazaar running from 10 am until lunchtime.

Christmas? Cracked It! - Last year we distributed this new toolkit. Families could use this, as much or as little as they wished, in the run-up to and over the Christmas period.

Over the last few months, we have revised the toolkit and even filmed a member of our Advocacy Team and a student working through the pack together. Next week, we will send you further details including the toolkit and a link to the online film describing how to use it. We hope you find it useful and informative, and would be keen to hear your views!

**Dates
2016**

- Monday 28th November - Occasional day school closed
- Friday 2nd December - Ellen Tinkham's Christmas Fayre
- Friday 9th December - Christmas Fair
- Wednesday 14th December - Lower School Christmas Show
- Friday 16th December - Last day of term
- Wednesday 4th January - Pupils return to school



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On to other news from around the school:

Diarrhoea & Vomiting: Message from Dave (Health & Safety Manager)

If your child suffers an episode of diarrhoea or vomiting they **MUST NOT** attend school for at least 48 hours after their last episode. This is to protect both other pupils and staff. I appreciate that your child may often appear to be fine within a few hours of an episode, however the 48 hour period of absence is on the advice of Public Health England and cannot be reduced.

Additionally your child should not attend any swimming or hydrotherapy sessions for 2 weeks after the last episode.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Christmas Performance - Lower School Christmas Performance will be held on Wednesday 14th December at 10.00am.

Christmas Lunch - Thank you to everyone who has returned their orders regarding the Christmas Lunch which is being held on Thursday 15th December.

Physio News -If you would like your child to be seen at the next orthotic clinic on the 8th December please let Selina know.

Message from Support Services - New Life Charity

One of our families has told us about this national charity that has supported them with Play Pods and Toys for their daughter. They have been lent a set of equipment which is then changed every few months to match their daughter's changing interests. The charity's work is much wider than this so if you're interested just to go <http://www.newlifecharity.co.uk/> to find out more.



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Bidwell Brook PTFA- The AGM is being held on Tuesday 29th November - everyone is welcome to attend. 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!

Up and coming Events

Ivybridge Donkey Sanctuary - Christmas activities

Meet Santa at Ivybridge Donkey Sanctuary. The Christmas Fair is on Saturday 3rd December 2016. 11am - 3pm.

Support your local Donkey Sanctuary and meet the Ivybridge donkeys on the way to Santa's grotto. Stalls, traders, games, raffle and lots of Christmas family fun for everyone. Refreshments include turkey and stuffing rolls, mulled wine and warm mince pies.

Carols and songs by candlelight with The Reverend Chris Osborne on Wednesday 14th December 2016. Doors open 6pm with Carol service starting at 6.30pm. An evening of carols and songs with a children's nativity play and donkey procession. Lots of audience participation with Makaton based songs and a wonderful atmosphere as everyone sings by candlelight. Refreshments include turkey and stuffing rolls, warm mince pies and mulled wine.

Come and look around our gift shop, and why not adopt a donkey for Christmas - an ideal present for a loved one. Free entry, free parking. Everyone welcome - no need to book. For more information on either event please contact our Ivybridge centre on 01752 690200

BIS-net December Parent Workshops

Christmas can be a difficult time for many parents supporting teenagers with Behavioural Support needs. Teenagers who are at risk of displaying behaviours that challenge, are aggressive or may socially isolate them. The December



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workshops are designed to give various approaches that can be helpful to parents of any teenager, regardless of diagnosis or ability.

The training will take place at The Clare Milne Centre, Emperor Way, Exeter Business Park. EX13QS. Detailed directions will be sent out with each ticket purchase.

Supporting a Teenager with Challenging or Aggressive behaviors

This workshop will give an understanding of challenging behaviour and aggression, what might be behind them and what they might mean. It will provide a range of pro-active tools for parents to use to reduce these behaviours taking place as well as approaches to de-escalate and support during times of crisis and melt-down.

2 Day Ticket - £15 Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th December - 9:30am - 2:30pm both days

Supporting the Social & Emotional Development of a Teenager with Autism

This course will start by giving an in-depth understanding of Autism and how it can interrupt typical social and emotional development, as well as create static thinking patterns. It will then allow parents to practice adjustments and approaches that can re-visit this social and emotional development through interactions with their Teenager. 2 Day Ticket - £15 Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th December - 9:30am - 2:30pm both days. To book a place contact: Direct Line - 07715068494 Switchboard - 01392 360645

Email- sam.h@cedaonline.org.uk

www.bis-net.org.uk

Enjoy the weekend

Kind Regards

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

Jacqui Warne
Executive Head