



2016-2017
FAMILY
NEWSLETTER



Friday 20th January 2017

No 10

Dear Parents and Carers,

Parents Evening - It was lovely to meet many of you at Parents Evening this week. If you have any further questions about your child's education, please make a note in the Diary and the teacher will be in contact with you.

I am sure you will also join me in thanking our wonderful staff who supported the running of Parents Evening, and also to our *Governors* who spent time meeting you all.

Bidwell Brook PTFA Family Swim - Don't forget the Family Swim taking place on Saturday 11th February at the Riviera Leisure Pool in Torquay. The PTFA has hired the pool and for only £2 per person, families can come together for a fun swim session. I hope you will be able to take advantage of this great offer!

On to other news from around the school:

Physio Information

Orthotic Clinics this term will be held on:

Thursday 26th January

Thursday 9th February

Thursday 2nd March

Thursday 16th March

If you would like an appointment for your child please let Selina know, thanks

- Dates
2016 - 2017**
- Monday 6th February - FE Art Exhibition Birdwood House Totnes
 - Friday 10th February - Last day of half term
 - Monday 20th February - Pupils return to school
 - Friday 31st March - Last day of term



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The next Exeter Mobility Wheelchair clinic is **Monday 30th Jan**. Please contact Raegan if a student you wish for your child to be seen.

Message from Clare School Nurse -

Nappies

I am very aware of the fact that some family are struggling with a very short supply of nappies for their children.

I am writing to ask that if you have any spare nappies that you are not using would you please send them into school. We can redistribute them to families that are really short. This would be very much appreciated

Transport Meds

Could we please remind parents/carers of children who have transport medications, that these medications are your responsibility, so please could we ask that transport medication bags are replaced when they are broken. These bags are stored in a small medical cabinet in school, so the bags must not be too big - a small pouch or bumbag with their name on is ideal. Please can we also ask that you check the expiry dates.

Many thanks



Bidwell Brook PTFA Coming up this year....

Bags2School collection: 15th March Send in your: Men's, Ladies and Children's clothing / Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around) / Handbags / hats / Bags / Scarves and ties / Jewellery / Lingerie / Socks / Belts / Soft toys / Household linen / Curtains / Towels / Bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

Other Collection on 15th March: This time we are also collecting: CDs, DVDs, Games, Mobile Phones and Ink Cartridges. Please send these in a separate bag and we will send them off to claim money for the PTFA.

Plant Sale: This is now booked for the 19th May, in our usual spot outside The Mansion on Fore Street, Totnes. When you start off your seedlings, please plant



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a few extra for us. We find that we are often asked for Courgettes, Lavender and other Herbs.

Swim Event: We hope that you've seen the poster we sent home for the Swim at Torquay's Riviera Centre on the 11th Feb. For only £2 each we look forward to having fun together.

If you would like to come along to PTFA meetings, or help out at any events, just put a note in your child's home/school book or contact Daisy at school.



Annual Reviews 2016/17

We have sent out letters to all parents asking for your availability for your child's Annual Review of Statement meeting. If you haven't already, please send these back to us as soon as possible. We plan to have the dates of your child's meetings with you just after Half Term.

These are statutory meetings and many of you will already know that we run these as Person Centred Reviews here at Bidwell Brook School. We work hard in the school to ensure that your child's views are also included in the meeting, even if they cannot be there themselves. If you want to talk to anyone about this meeting or what Person Centred means, do contact your class teacher or Daisy and Dawn in the Support Services Team.

Safeguarding our Children:

Many of our children will have been given mobile phones, tablets, laptops or iPads for Christmas so it's worth taking the time to remind ourselves how to keep them safe when accessing the internet using these devices.

This is the link to advice on how to set the Parental Controls on your devices:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Parental-controls/>



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Snack & Cooking

Please find below the costs for Snack & Cooking for the Spring Term. Whilst these contributions are voluntary this is an instance where we rely upon the support of parents/carers to provide a valuable activity within the school.

Class	Rainbow	Green / Yellow / Purple / S1 / S2 / S3 / S4 / FE1 / FE2
Weekly	£2.00	£3.00
1st Half Term(6 weeks)	£12.00	£18.00
2nd Half Term(6 weeks)	£12.00	£18.00
Total for Whole Term (12 weeks)	£24.00	£36.00

All payments should be sent into school along with the orange payment card either weekly or at the beginning of the half-term. Please make cheques payable to **Devon County Council**. Alternatively you can pay online at www.scopay.com/bidwellbrook.

Sainsburys Vouchers

We are once again collecting Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers, so please can we ask everyone to save them and bring them into school. Please ask your friends and neighbours as well, the more we collect, the more equipment we will be able to get for school. Many thanks

Gardening Tools

We are looking for gardening tools. If anyone has any unwanted garden tools that they would like to donate to our work Experience students, it would be very much appreciated. Many thanks



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What's On

The BASH Awards 2017

For the first time in Devon, the new BASH awards, which will take place on 4th March 2017. The BASH awards (be Active, be Safe, be Healthy) have been developed specifically for people with disabilities.

The BASH awards aim to recognise the positive achievements that people with disabilities have made in their efforts to be more active, keep safe and take up a healthy lifestyle. They have been developed by the Blue Light Day planning group.

Nominations need to be sent by 31st January and places to attend the event need to be booked by 20th February. <http://ow.ly/35Dx307Reas>

Independence at Home

Independence at Home works to improve the independence and quality of life of people of all ages with long term illnesses or disability.

It provides grants up to £500 to people of all ages who have a physical or learning disability or long term illness and who are in financial need.

Grants may be used towards the cost of mobility and disability equipment, home adaptations and other essential items not available from public funds.

Individuals will need to be referred by an appropriate professional such as Social Worker, Occupational Therapist or Disability Advice Worker.

An application form can be downloaded from their website and they accept applications throughout the year. www.independenceathome.org.uk



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Dizzy Divers

Dizzy Divers helps disabled and disadvantaged children and adults learn to scuba dive. It provides funding towards training through relevant and specialist organisations. Participants are asked to make a donation (if they can afford it) with the cost.

The training is available nationally as Dizzy Divers will put individuals in touch with their nearest training organisation best suited for their particular needs. Age restrictions may apply. These are set by the training organisations - usually 13 years+ All scuba diving training requires a medical declaration and/or Doctors certificate. To apply: contact support@dizzydivers.co.uk or telephone: 07824 559 038 or visit: www.dizzydivers.co.uk

Living Coasts - Torquay

Living Coasts is an aquarium and coastal zoo located on Torquay seafront, the site is reasonably wheelchair/pushchair friendly.

Carers go free, disabled child/adult reduced prices, disabled toilets • disabled parking • assistance dogs permitted • A3 photocopied guide available on request manual wheelchairs free to borrow. For more details go to:

<http://www.livingcoasts.org.uk/>

Climbing Out

Climbing Out is a charity that works with young people facing life changing injury or illness. It runs 5 day residential outdoor activity programmes that aim to help young people regain their confidence and self esteem as well giving them the opportunity to realise that they can still achieve. Activities include Kayaking, gorge scrambling, hill walking, challenges, quizzes and BBQ. All costs are covered by Climbing Out.

For more information contact Kelda Wood on info@keldawood.co.uk or tel: 01743 892961 or visit: www.climbingout.org.uk

Free NSPCC Online Safety Workshop for Parents/Carers

Wednesday 1 February 2017, 9.30am (for 10am start) - 12pm
Lower Guildhall, Royal Parade, Plymouth.



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Worried about your child's safety online and want to learn more about how to protect and support them? This FREE Workshop is all you need to ensure you have the knowledge to help them understand how to stay safe when learning, socialising or playing online.

Designed by O2 and the NSPCC, it will give you the skills to understand the internet and technology as your children see it - from online games and cyber bullying, to setting up privacy settings, age appropriate parental controls and more! This workshop is organised and supported by Plymouth Parent Carer Voice (PPCV). Visit Plymouth Parent Carer Voice on Facebook or email:

hello@plymouthpcv.co.uk

The Friday Alternative

This is a social group for 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. 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 or on 07813 318357

Kind Regards

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

Jacqui Warne
Executive Head