



2016-2017
FAMILY
NEWSLETTER



Friday 6th January 2017

No 9

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the Spring Term 2017! I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Thank you if you were able to join us for the Christmas productions and our Fayre in December. Your continued support is much appreciated by all the staff and students.

Please continue to look at the Bidwell Brook School website www.bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk for the latest news and updates from across the school. Our newsletters are available to download from here too. In the event of inclement weather, the website will show whether the school has unfortunately be forced to close, plus announcements of any closure will be made on local radio stations.

Parents Evening - Bidwell Brook's Parents Evening is taking place on Wednesday 18th January 2017. Letters will be sent home very soon with details about the evening. I hope you are able to come along and meet with the teacher, spend some time at the School Gates Café and chat with other families and Governors.

On to other news from around the school:

FE Art Exhibition

We have an exhibition opening on 6th February at Birdwood House Gallery Totnes where students from the FE Department including students who are working towards their "explore" arts award, will be exhibiting their work to the public.

Everybody welcome, the exhibition will run until the 10th February.

- Dates**
2016 - 2017
- Tuesday 10th January 10am - PTFA meeting
 - Wednesday 18th January - Parents evening
 - Friday 10th February - Last day of half term



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Message from Kate Mythen, Chair of Governors.

Dear Parents/Carers

Can I start by wishing you and your families a very Happy New Year.

I have just taken over as Chair of Governors from John Thorndyke, who has done a brilliant job over the last few years. Huge thanks must go to him for all his hard work, support and commitment to the federation. He will be a hard act to follow.

I retired just over two years ago after a long career in education as a teacher and senior leader in a number of different secondary schools. I have been a governor of the federation for almost two years and during this time it has been a privilege to spend time in Bidwell Brook School, Ellen Tinkham School, and most recently in the new Ellen Tinkham FE College, meeting with the dedicated staff and observing the many varied opportunities available for your children to support them and their learning. My most memorable visits have been to see your children taking part in sports days, school fetes, end of term concerts and meeting the student council and hearing their views about the school.

I am very proud to be involved with the schools, working with a group of governors who bring a wide range of skills and expertise to support and challenge Jacqui and her team in ensuring a commitment to the highest standards of education and support for your children.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the future. I will be attending the parents' evenings in both schools; Ellen Tinkham on January 17th and Bidwell Brook on 18th January and hope to meet some of you then.

Kate Mythen
Chair of Governors



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Request from Alex Hannis - Rural Skills

If anyone has any clean lidded metal containers they no longer need please could you send them into the school where they will be made good use of. The large the better. Many thanks

What's On

Theatre Royal Plymouth

On Thursday 12th January at 12.30pm the Theatre Royal Plymouth are delighted to bring you a specially adapted relaxed performance of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs for customers with a wide range of disabilities and for those on the autistic spectrum.

Before the show:

You are welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy at the Theatre

During the show:

The theatre lights will stay on, the theatre doors will stay open, you can leave the theatre and come back in again, There will not be any loud bangs, There will be a chill out zone, You can talk and don't have to be quiet

Tickets are just £10. Please call Box Office on 01752 267222 to book.

Transition Information network - TIN

Tin's purpose is to provide information about the transition process that is useful to disabled young people, parents/carers and professionals. For more details go to: <http://www.transitioninfonet.org.uk/>

Devon County FA Inclusive Football Club

Is your son or daughter keen to take part in a team sport this year? If so Devon County FA have a wide range of Inclusive Clubs throughout the County.

Clubs [in our area](#) include:



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Exmouth Youth Inclusive Football Sessions Tel: 07970678371 email:

pcamero37@gmail.com

Pinhoe Spartans Youth FC (Exeter) Tel: 07866107579 or email:

andy.barefoot@virgin.net

Newton Soccability FC Tel: 07890261782 email: carolinesharp65@hotmail.com

Tavistock Specials Juniors FC Tel: 07749798808 or email:

redrum347@hotmail.com

Torquay Utd Junior Inspirations Tel: 07740355895 or email:

mattanthony@torquayunited.com

Please use the contact details above regarding the club you would like more information on.

Face2Face - Free training course for parent carers

The training will help you to develop a deeper understanding of the emotions you faced when discovering your child had additional needs and the impact it has had on your life. Being part of Face2Face means that you will benefit from the emotional and practical support of other parents and also be able to use your own experiences to offer support. This Free, eight week course will be held at Newcourt Community Centre, Blakeslee Drive, Exeter EX2 7FN. Every Monday from 9.30am - 2.30pm on the following dates: January 23rd and 30th February 6th, 20th and 27th March 6th, 13th and 20th For more details contact Bel McDonald, Face2Face Co-ordinator Tel: 07825 739171 or email bel@face2feac-exeter.org.uk

Kind Regards

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

Jacqui Warne
Executive Head