



2016-2017
FAMILY
NEWSLETTER



Friday 24th February 2017

No 12

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a pleasant half term break.

***NEW* SCHOOL COMMS** - The new communication system has now been launched. This means we can share information with parents more quickly via email, text, online and smartphone app. It will also save parents - and the school - time and money.

As part of the service, you will be able to view your child's attendance; school details; your contact details and student details. You can also make payments via Instant Bank Transfer, debit or credit card, as well as view lunch balances and give online consent for activities such as school trips.

The parent portal is called *School Gateway* and if you haven't activated your account, you can do this with your email address and mobile number that the school holds on record for you. This needs to match the information we hold on the school system, so please contact us with up to date information if you are unable to login to the *School Gateway*.

* Download the app: If you have a smartphone, please download *School Gateway* from your app store (Android and iPhone). The app shows the same information as the website PLUS you can message the school for FREE - this will also save the school money when we send you a text message.

OR * Visit the website: www.schoolgateway.com and click on 'New User'. You'll receive a text message with a PIN number. Use this PIN to log into *School Gateway*.

Please call 01803 864120 if you have any queries. We hope that you will find *School Gateway* a great way to keep up to date with what's going on at school.

Dates
2016 - 2017

- Wednesday 15th March - Bags 2 School Collection
- Friday 31st March - Last day of term
- Wednesday 19th April - Pupils return
- Friday 19th May - Plant Sale
- Monday 29th May - Half Term week



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BIDWELL BROOK PTFA SWIM - Thank you to the PTFA for arranging the swimming session at the Riviera Leisure Pool in Torquay during half term. I understand the group had a great time and particularly enjoyed the slide and wave machine. It is hoped future sessions will be organised soon!

On to other news from around the school:

Message from Raegan (Physio Department)

We are receiving an increase in requests from parents for a room to meet with Reps at school to measure equipment for home for their child. Meeting spaces are limited at school so in order to facilitate these meetings, we have reserved a slot in the Therapy room every Wednesday from 12pm to 2pm. If you would like a rep to meet you at school with your child please try and use this time. All you need to do is phone the school office and check that the Therapy room hasn't already been booked and request to book the room. Please also check with your child's teacher that they will not be out on any trips that day (Classroom staff will not be available to help at the appointment).

Therapy stars for January:

Matthew (Yellow Class) for trying his new Orthotic equipment

Amelia (S4) for excellent physiotherapy work in the hydrotherapy pool and the mechanical saddle

Roman (S2) for completing lots of his physiotherapy activities

Sainsbury's Vouchers

These are now being given out in store. So please if you, your friends or families are given them, please send them in to us. The more we collect, the more equipment we can get for school.



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

Eye gaze Equipment

We were very pleased to hear this week that we have been successful in applying for grant funding from St James's Place Foundation. This will enable us to purchase an Eye gaze system. Eye gaze technology uses eye tracking software to enable the user to control a computer using eye movement. Thanks especially go to Kim Willey, Danny Bentham and Dawn Lewis for working on this project.

What's On

DISCplus are currently running a survey to gather views on the DISCplus newsletter, the Integrated Children's Services website and the Single Point of Access (SPA). The survey is really quick and easy to complete, your views will be appreciated and will help to shape the way these services are developed in the future. <http://surveys.virginicare.co.uk/s/TZL54/>



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Wizz Kids in Plymouth

Recently started this monthly youth group meets on a Sunday to promote independence for wheel chair users. Children and Young people aged 8yrs -21yrs are welcome to attend from 11:30am - 5:00pm at the Life Centre, Plymouth. As it has only recently opened places will still hopefully be available!

Autism Awareness Week

Tuesday 28th March, from 10am - 4pm at The DAC, Ivybank, 45 St David's Hill, Exeter, EX4 4DN

You are invited to drop in for Teas, Coffee, Cake, discussion, debate and information.

Many of us are working with children and families affected by Autism without specialist training or expertise. This is an informal opportunity to share the experiences and knowledge we do have and hopefully find out more ways to support the families we work with.

Unfortunately there isn't any on-site parking available. However, the venue is within easy reach of Exeter city centre and both train stations. For more information, or if you would like to contribute towards this event, please contact: maxine.lawrence@devon.gov.uk

Breaking the Barrier 2017

Surfing at Polzeath: Saturday 3rd June

Surfing at Saunton: Saturday 1st July

Cycling at Torbay Velodrome: Saturday 29 July

Trampolining at Bodmin Ibounce: Saturday 5th of August

Surfing at Bigbury: Sunday 3rd September



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Please note the event on Bigbury Beach 3rd of September will celebrate 10 years of Breaking the Barrier; triathlon certificates will be presented to young people participating in all three sports activities (cycling - trampolining - surfing) at this event. Breaking the Barrier would like to have participative music and fun for all the family on the beach. To find out more contact: Sarah-Jane Lawson, Tel: 01803 861 060

Kind Regards

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

Jacqui Warne
Executive Head