



2016-2017
FAMILY
NEWSLETTER



Friday 10th March 2017

No 13

Dear Parents and Carers,



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

WIN!

2 'Hospitality Package' Tickets to the Manchester United vs Chelsea game on Sunday 16th April 2017 at 4 pm
(date and time of fixture subject to change)

To be in with a chance of winning these amazing tickets which include a 3 course lunch and complimentary bar, please see the flier coming home today! Closing date for return of entries is 4 pm on Thursday 31st March 2017.

Will Young, KS3 Teacher at Ellen Tinkham School, is organising for a group of students and staff to go on a residential to South Africa in May 2018 and the money from the raffle will go towards this trip. Good Luck Everyone!!

Staff Training Day/School Closure - Please note the last day of term is Friday 31st March 2017. The school will be re-open to pupils on Wednesday 19th April 2017. Staff have an off-site training event taking place on Tuesday 18th April 2017, so the school will be shut with no-one available to take any calls. Thank you.



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On to other news from around the school:

Snack & Cooking - Spring Term 2017

Please find below the costs for Snack & Cooking for the current half 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 / Yellow / Green / Purple / S1 / S2 / S3 / S4 / FE1 / FE2

Weekly £2.00 £3.00

Total for Current Half Term (6 weeks) £12.00 £18.00

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.schoolgateway.com, don't forget you can:-

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 send app messages to the school for FREE - this will also save the school money when we send text messages.

Useful Physio Numbers

Invacare (for wheelchair repairs) - **0800 0696216**

PLUSS (for servicing slings) - **01392 224440**

Other useful contact numbers can be found on the school website.



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Messages from Danny Bentham

Parental Controls & Internet Filtering

Did you know that you can set up filters to help block access to inappropriate content / websites on any device that connects to your home WiFi? If your Internet Service is with any of the providers shown below then click on your provider to find out more about how you can enable internet filters within your home (links correct at time of writing). If your internet connection is provided by another company then they should also offer an option for enabling parental control filter settings - visit your internet service provider's website or phone them to find out how you can enable parental controls in your home:



TalkTalk



More information about Parental Controls and how to protect children from viewing inappropriate content can be found by following this link:
<http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/parental-controls>

*** The above links can also be found on our school website under the drop down menu: **Families > Safeguarding & E-Safety** ***

Digital Parenting Magazine



Over the next week we will be sending home a 'Digital Parenting Magazine' with each pupil. This magazine contains lots of useful information that gives expert advice and strategies to help your children or pupils navigate the internet safely. This magazine and previous issues can also be viewed online/downloaded by [clicking here](#).



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Key Stage 2 Fund Raiser

As part of a series of fund raising activities to help fund the Key Stage 2 residential this year we are running a Craft Fayre at Totnes Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 25th March between 10.00 and 14.00. We are offering tables at the fayre at a cost of £10.

If you are an arty or crafty person and would like to have a table to sell your crafts or if you know anyone who is and would like a table, please let us know through your child's home/school book. Please come and support the event with your friends and family. Refreshments will be available at the fayre and we would love to see you there.



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.



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What's On

DONKEY SANCTUARY IVYBRIDGE - EASTER FUN

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the Easter Fun at Ivybridge Donkey Sanctuary. Easter activities take place on Friday 14th, Saturday 15th & Monday 17th April 2017. Opening times 10am - 3pm, please note the sanctuary is closed to the public on Easter Sunday.

Come and enjoy the all-weather Easter egg hunt. You can also play to win Easter goodies with the seasonal tombola and special Easter raffle. Also on offer organised fun activities and games for the children including a craft corner.

Don't forget you can take a look around the donkey world shop for some donkey inspired Easter gifts. The donkeys will be at home for you to say hello to and you can even adopt a donkey as an Easter treat!

Food and refreshments on sale. Free Entry. Free parking. Everyone welcome. For more information call the Centre on 01752 690200.

Consultation

On Devon's Strategy for Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are seeking the views of parents and carers, children and young people and professionals on Devon's draft Strategy for Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Your views are really important in helping them to ensure they focus on the right things which will help them to improve the experience and outcomes for all children and young people with SEND and their families. If you would like to respond, please ensure you do this by 17th March 2017.

You can view the consultation documents and draft strategy on the Healthwatch website at <http://healthwatchdevon.co.uk/speak-out/send-strategy-consultation/> , or request a paper copy by phoning 0800 520 0640.



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Mencap - Planning for the Future

Planning for the future is Mencap's free Wills and Trust seminar service offering practical information about setting up a Will or Trust. Held around the country, these friendly, informative two-hour seminars provide clear, helpful advice on how best to provide financial security for a relative with a learning disability. The seminars are delivered by solicitors who specialise in this complex area of law. They will help you understand the merits of all your different options, and answer any questions you may have about this important decision. There are seminars all over the country, the Devon event is Thursday 4 May 2017, Barnstaple Town Council, Barum House, The Square, Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 8LS 12.30pm-2.30pm. Find out more about Planning for the Future seminars call Gina on 0207 696 6925 or email: willsandtrusts@mencap.org.uk

Enjoy the weekend!

Kind Regards

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

Jacqui Warne
Executive Head