



2017-2018

FAMILY  
NEWSLETTER



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

No 07

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Christmas Fayre 2017** - Thank you very much for making the Bidwell Brook Fayre such a success today! The monies are currently being counted but if you bought raffle tickets, sent in a gift or two or came along and purchased some wonderful homemade presents made by the students, we cannot thank you enough! We do appreciate your continued support.

**Christmas Shows** - If you were lucky enough to go along to the performance this week, I hope you had a wonderful time. Next Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup>, Key Stage Two will be putting on their Christmas Show. Photos will be taken by school and these will be posted on Class Blogs and our Facebook page if the pupils have the relevant social media permissions in place. A polite reminder: no photographs or filming by families please. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Christmas Lunch** - Tony and the team will be serving their delicious Christmas Lunch next Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. I am sure you would like to join me in thanking this team for preparing the feast which is always well received by pupils and staff alike.

**Inclement Weather** - Usually when I send a note advising of the process if the school has to close due to inclement weather, the UK suddenly has an abnormal heatwave! However, should Bidwell Brook need to close this Winter, the process will be as follows:

- The decision to close is taken by myself, following careful consideration from advice provided by DCC Transport and SLT colleagues who live at various locations across Devon.

**Dates  
2017 - 2018**

- Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - KS2 Xmas Show 10 am
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Lunch
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec - End of Term

**2018**

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January - Non pupil day
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - Pupils Return
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb - Half Term Week



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- If I feel the school needs to close, a notice to this effect will be posted onto our website by Danny Bentham. Social media pages including Facebook will also be updated.
- I will contact the Local Authority and the closure will be broadcast on local radio stations.
- Parents will also be sent a text advising of the closure via SchoolComms.

When the school is due to re-open, this will be notified via our website. Thank you.

**On to other news ....**

### FOOD BANKS

If you need to access a foodbank over the festive period, find your nearest one by accessing [www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org)

Clients of the foodbank need to bring a voucher from a referral agency which verifies their need. Organisations able to do this are; Citizens Advice Bureau, Health Professionals, Childrens' Centres, Age Concern, CHAT, Local Welfare Assistance.

### SNIPPETS

**Help with fuel/water bills** The Warm Home Discount scheme which may lead to a rebate worth up to £140. The discount is not paid to you but is deducted from your energy bill. To see if you can qualify, check online <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme/eligibility>. To find out more about energy saving go to: <https://contact.org.uk/advice-and-support/money-benefits-work-and-childcare/money-advice/help-with-fuel-and-water-bills/>

**Have your say DISCplus** are currently running a survey to gather views on the DISCplus newsletter, 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.virgincare.co.uk/s/TZL54/>



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We would love to hear the views of professionals and service providers in addition to families, carers and service users. Thank you for your time.

### **Help us receive extra funding by signing up for Free School Meals**

The Government pays additional money, called Pupil Premium funding to schools linked to certain eligibility criteria. The groups which attract pupil premium funding are; pupils eligible for free school meals, service children, looked after and adopted from care.

Funding is allocated on the January census data so in preparation for that we are encouraging all of our families who feel they may fit in to one of these categories and that the school don't know about to either register for free school meals, or to contact us.

If your child is eligible for pupil premium this means that you could also get help towards the costs of school residentials or other trips. It is therefore really important that all families who are eligible for free school meals, still apply, even though their child may already be getting a free meal, is taking in their own packed lunch or is tube fed.

If you think you might qualify for free school meals, contact the Free School Meals team at Devon County Council by email to [freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk) or by phone on 0845 155 1019 and they will help you to register. No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. All information held by the school is strictly confidential

(Please phone Lynne Williams at Bidwell Brook School if you have any queries.)

### **Fun Family Swim Session**

Downsouth, Down's syndrome Group are pleased to invite Bidwell Brook families who have a child/young person with Down's syndrome to join them at their next Fun Family Swim Session at the Waves Pool, Torquay on Sunday 10 December 2017 4.30 to 5.30pm where we will have exclusive use of the pool, waves and flume. The water is lovely and warm with a sloping entry and there is a baby pool too. We should have sole use of the changing rooms too but be aware that



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disabled facilities are in the men's/ladie's changing rooms so you will need to plan accordingly if you need these!

The pool will not be crowded - and as there is a strict limit on numbers, all places need to be pre-booked at [www.downsouth.org.uk/swimming.html](http://www.downsouth.org.uk/swimming.html) or by emailing [downsouthcharity@msn.com](mailto:downsouthcharity@msn.com) You will be asked to fill in a short registration form when you arrive but there is no charge for the session and free parking permits will be available on the day. We would love to see you there!

**Lost/Found Coin**

A special coin was handed into the office today following the Christmas Fair. If you or a member of your family has lost this item please contact the school office so that we may return it to you. Many thanks

**Enjoy the weekend! Stay warm!**

	<p><b>DON'T FORGET!</b></p> <p>LAST DAY OF TERM = <b>FRI DAY 15TH DECEMBER 2017!</b></p> <p>WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING PUPILS BACK TO SCHOOL ON <b>WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2018.</b></p>
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Kind Regards

Jacqui Warne  
Executive Head