

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

25TH NOVEMBER 2024



Even with the cold and wet weather we've been having, there are many heart-warming events in the next few weeks to look forward to:

WHAT'S COMING UP

Thursday 5th December - Students decorate the Christmas Tree

Friday 6th December - Christmas Bazaar, everyone invited, in the School Hall, 10 am - 11.30 am, raffle to be drawn at 11.45 am

Monday 9th December - Bags 2 School Collection - please send your bags in to us on Friday 6th December or Monday 9th December

Monday 9th December - Lower School Christmas Performance REHEARSAL 10.30 am

Tuesday 10th December - Lower School Christmas Performance, families invited to watch, 10.30 am

Tuesday 10th December - Upper School Christmas Performance REHEARSAL 1.45 pm

Thursday 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 12th December - Upper School Christmas Performance, families invited to watch, 1.45 pm for 2 pm start (first performance of two)

Friday 13th December - Upper School Christmas Performance, families invited to watch, 1.45 pm for 2 pm start (second performance of two)

Wednesday 18th December - Christmas Lunch

Thursday 19th December - Sixth Form Crafts & Carols Open Afternoon for families, 1.45 pm arrival

Friday 20th December - Christmas Grotto visit for all students

Friday 20th December - Last day for Year 11 families to submit their Sixth Form Application Form

Friday 20th December - Last day of term

JANUARY 2025

Monday 6th January 2025 - Pupils return to school

w/c 20th January 2025 - Parents' Evenings

CONTENTS INCLUDE

Christmas Performances = There are two Upper School Christmas performances coming up. A letter regarding how to get your tickets for each performance will be sent by the organising Teacher this week. Max 2 tickets per family.

YouTube Access - Useful info to help you set controls so that you only see the YouTube videos you wish either yourself and/or your child or young person to be able to watch.

Wraparound Care - There is a possibility Bidwell Brook can apply for funding to set up a Breakfast Club for pupils aged from Reception to Year 6. To help gauge interest, we sent out a survey asking for your thoughts. Thank you if you replied.

Bag 2 School - Collection Day is Monday 9th December. Please only send in your bags to us on Friday 6th or Monday 9th as we have nowhere to store them! Thanks.

Christmas Bazaar - We are opening our Bazaar to wheelchair users at 9.50 am this year, so they have room to move around! Everyone else is invited in at 10 am.

Raffle - If you could spare any wine, luxury food or gifts or a Tombola prize, please send these in to the School Office this week. Thank you very much. And don't forget to return your Raffle tickets to us to be in with a chance to win a prize!

Asda Cashpot for Schools - This initiative and great fundraiser finishes at the end of November. Please sign up to get an additional £1 donation for the school or do a final shop! thank you so much if you have helped us with this. We will let you know the final total when advised by Asda.

SWIFT Teacher Training - If you fancy a change of direction in your career, you could consider going into Teaching. One of your placements could be at Bidwell Brook! There are links in the newsletter to find out more.

Chickens - Our feathered friends living in Rural Skills are making sure their feet are keeping nice and warm by visiting the Cabin and enjoying the woodburner!

Devon Family Hub - A new FREE advice and guidance dedicated phone line has been launched and is open Monday to Friday, 10 am - 4 pm offering support and help to families. Tel: 0800 538 5458

Safeguarding - Our Safeguarding Team is available for a chat should you have any concerns.

Attachments - HAF Christmas Poster; Parent/Carer January Training opportunity

Christmas Performances - As you will see from the Diary Dates, we have two Upper School Christmas performances taking place this year. This is so we can accommodate all our families who wish to attend.

Both performances are a 1.45 pm arrival for a 2 pm start. A letter will be coming out from the Teacher organising the performances this week, giving you the opportunity to reserve tickets for one of the dates (**max of 2 tickets per family**).



Access to YouTube - We've had a couple of queries within Annual Reviews, from families asking for support to help control the type of videos that can be seen on YouTube. Justin Sharp, our Federation ICT Manager, has produced the following:

Control the content that you see on YouTube:

It is possible to influence the content that appears on YouTube for you and/or your child or young person. As an application that isn't designed for under 13s, YouTube prides itself on a vast collection of algorithms that analyse your viewing habits and [attempts to recommend additional videos along the same and similar topics](#). However these algorithms are not fool proof, and you can often find recommendations that don't align with your particular interests or beliefs popping up on your main page or automatically starting once a video you are watching has finished.

Here are several ways to try and control what those algorithms show you. None of them are an exact science and will not give you 100% coverage on avoiding unsuitable content, but they should give you a greater level of control over what you see.

DON'T share devices:

If all of your family accesses the same device for YouTube, and all do so using the same profile or login, the videos recommended to you will cover a wide variety of interests, maturity levels and suitability as everyone's viewing habits will be used to generate these recommendations.

It is recommended that adults do not share their personal device (i.e. tablet or mobile phone) with children in order to avoid this 'cross-contamination' of potentially mature content viewed by teenagers/adults and child-friendly content.

DO create user accounts for each person in your household:

On a [Windows](#) or [Apple](#) computer or laptop, each user in the home can have their own login for the device.

On certain Android tablets (i.e. [Kindle Fire](#), [Samsung Galaxy Tab](#)) it is also possible to create separate user accounts. However, this is not possible on an iPad or iPhone.

This will keep the content being viewed by one user (i.e. a child) completely separate to that of another user, such as a teenager or adult, who uses a different account.

The recommendations should then only recommend suitable content appropriate to each user based on their viewing habits.

DO Influence the videos you're recommended via Dislike, Report and Not Interested options:

- [Manage your recommendations and search results - YouTube Help](#)
- [Report inappropriate videos, channels and other content on YouTube - YouTube Help](#)

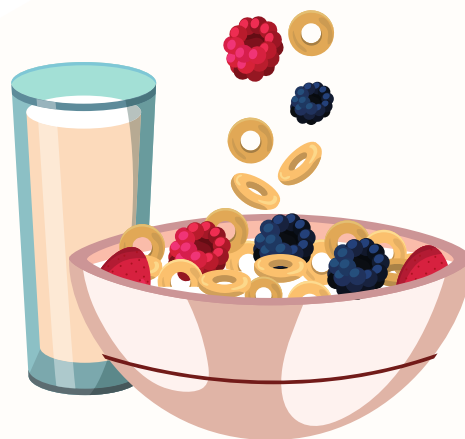
DO set up YouTube Restricted Mode:

Restricted Mode can increase the odds of screening out potentially mature content on YouTube.

This requires an adult with a Google Account to set up, which can then be managed on behalf of a child user.

[Turn Restricted mode on or off on YouTube - YouTube Help](#)

Wraparound Care - Last week, we sent out a [survey](#) asking for your interest if Bidwell Brook were able to apply for funding for a Breakfast Club. Only those families in Reception to Year 6 (class names with animals and colours) needed to respond to the survey, as Government funding is only available for our Primary pupils. Thank you for your responses! We will review the findings.



Clothes



Paired shoes



Handbags



Hats



Bags



Scarves and ties



Bras



Jewellery




Socks



Belts



Bag 2 School - Bags are being collected from us on Monday 9th December so please send them in Friday 6th or Monday 9th. Sorry, but we have nowhere to store the bags if sent in earlier than this. Bag 2 School collects all this  but not school uniform, duvets or pillows. Thank you.

Christmas Bazaar - Classes are busy planning and making items to sell at the Christmas Bazaar on Friday 6th December. The Bazaar opens at 9.50 am for students and visitors who need wheelchair access (a little extra space to move around) before we officially open the doors at 10 am.



The Christmas raffle is one of our biggest fundraising opportunities of the year, so please don't forget to return your money and stubs to the School office asap to be in with a chance of winning. We are gathering a good selection of prizes but are in need of some (full!) wine bottles, luxury gifts and foods, plus some smaller items for our Tombola. If you could help or donate in any way, this would be great! Thank you.



CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS - ASDA GROCERIES

Cashpot for School with Asda - Only a few days left to support Bidwell Brook and raise much needed funds! Even if you do not shop at Asda, you can still sign up and we get £1!

Have you or your friends or family members ever considered becoming a teacher? We are part of SWIFT Teacher Training and means Bidwell Brook could be one of your placement schools.



Our talented teachers get the opportunity to share their expertise with trainees and strengthen their own knowledge about effective teaching. As a school, we really like the fact that SWIFT Teacher Training courses have been designed by expert teachers. We think it is important for adults to be able to train flexibly with blended learning and feel they are starting a career where they belong - with a training community that celebrates successes and qualities of trainees from diverse backgrounds and career stages.

To find out more visit www.swiftteachertraining.org.uk or email info@swiftteachertraining.org.uk.

Rural Skills at BB - Our outdoor learning spaces are open and in use by the pupils although it's a little muddy!

And our lovely little flock are starting their annual winter moult. Students have seen some white feathers in their run but this is perfectly normal for this time of the year. Our feathered friends are getting lots of extra TLC from the Rural Skills students and are even having a wander into the cabin to warm up by the fire 😊



An advertisement for the Devon Family Hubs Advice & Guidance Line. It features a blue background with a large phone number '0800 538 5458' in green. The text includes 'in partnership with Devon County Council', 'DEVON FAMILY HUBS', and 'ADVICE HELP SUPPORT INFORMATION'. There is a 'CALL US' button and a 'We're here to help...' message. A small image shows a person's hands holding a smartphone. Logos for Devon County Council and Devon Family Hubs are also present.

The South Hams Family Hub has a new, free Advice and Guidance line.

It's open Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm. If you call, you will be able to speak to a fully trained practitioner for any support you need.

Or check out the Devon Family hub [website](#).

Safeguarding - Across our Federation, we take safeguarding very seriously and have robust policies and procedures in place. If you ever have a safeguarding or wellbeing concern, please contact your **Designated Safeguarding Lead - Kate Bromage**.



If Kate is unavailable to speak to or meet with, please contact one of our **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads**.

DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS

Marie Barrett

Tom Cook

Danielle Prowse

Nikki Burroughs





The HAF website is now live...

**THE DEVON WIDE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS IS NOW
LIVE AT:**

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/haf-providers-map/>

**Fully funded places are available for children
who are accessing benefit related free school
meals**

More information can be found at:
<https://devon.cc/haf-parents-info>

For ages 5-16 years

Places are limited



DO YOU HAVE A CHILD AGED 8-17 WHO IS STRUGGLING WITH THEIR MENTAL HEALTH?

Anxiety, depression, self-harm and other mental health struggles are on the rise in children, particularly following the Covid-19 Pandemic. **As parents, we can be left feeling overwhelmed and helpless, not knowing where to turn for help.**

THIS GROUP AIMS TO SUPPORT YOU TO:

- Meet other parents who understand your situation for mutual support.
- Learn strategies to help you support your child, with no judgement!
- Help you to prioritise your own well-being as a parent.

WHEN? Find out more at our **Information Session** for parents at 7pm on Tues 21st Jan or 1pm on Wed 22nd Jan 2025.

WHERE? South Hams Family Hub | Daisy Play Centre | Pathfiends | Totnes | TQ9 5TZ

To attend register at <https://calendly.com/ymhf/information-session-fh>



To get more information contact:

Joel Sutton (YMHF) on 0300 302 0285

or email joel@Youthmentalhealthfoundation.org