



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

@Bidwell Brook

10th July 2020

Dear Families,

During the last couple of weeks of term, we have managed to increase the frequency of school provision to those pupils who have previously accessed our site in their “bubbles”. I hope this has provided some much needed respite for a number of our families before the summer break.

Walking sessions are still continuing for selected pupils and our Home Learning website is updated with new activities, learning and stories on a weekly basis. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers for their hard work since Easter in preparing resources and materials to support all our families, and also to our amazing IT team who have done a great job of uploading and updating the websites. Our staff love to see what the pupils are doing at home, so please keep your Evidence for Learning photos and videos coming in to us!

As you may be aware, the Hollow Lane Club has taken the difficult decision not to run this summer. I understand the Club will be offering virtual activities but in addition to this, we have also asked our teachers to provide some ideas for summer on our Home Learning sites which will hopefully give you some inspiration until we return in the Autumn Term. The school also has a list of Enablers who may be able to provide you with some support, particularly in the summer break (see attached). Please bear in mind enabling work is not covered by a school DBS check and suitable insurance should be in place when individuals carry out enabling work.

Until the end of term, your child’s teacher and/or member of staff from the class will continue to make contact with you once a week, so if you have any questions, please raise them during this phone call.

Consultation – The Local Authority is currently consulting on two SENTient Trust schools increasing their pupil numbers. One of the schools is Bidwell Brook which will increase its pupil numbers up to 140 from September 2021. This will coincide with the opening of our new extension at the school. The official consultation from Devon County Council is below along with the email for comments:

Devon County Council is consulting on changes to provision at the following schools, which are Foundation schools within the SENTient Co-operative Trust. The changes will meet demands for additional pupil places and are in line with our Educational Infrastructure Plan and the Strategic Review of Special Needs Places.

Bidwell Brook School

Proposal to increase capacity from 110 to 140 day places for boys and girls, aged 3-19 with severe learning difficulties and profound and multiple learning difficulties with effect from September 2021.

Pathfield School

Proposal to increase capacity from 137 to 186 day places with effect from mid December 2020 and change their designation to include profound and multiple learning difficulties for boys and girls, aged 3-19, with effect from mid December 2020.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/special-school-proposals-under-consultation-pathfield-school-bidwell-brook-school-and-plans-for-a-new-special-free-school/>

You can respond to both consultations by:

emailing: schoolconsultations@devon.gov.uk by 5pm on 18 September 2020.

Term Dates – Just a reminder the Summer Term ends on Wednesday 22nd July 2020 and pupils are due to return to school on Tuesday 8th September 2020 for the start of the Autumn Term.

Next week, I will be sending home letters giving more information about September along with a class list. We will also contact all families in September, before we are due to re-open, to confirm our plans. However, unless the Government advises otherwise during the summer holiday, Bidwell Brook School will re-open to all pupils in September 2020.

I hope you enjoy the forthcoming sunny weekend!

Kind regards,



Jacqui Warne
Executive Head