



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

@Bidwell Brook

22nd July 2020

Dear Families,

This is the last newsletter of what has been quite an extraordinary term. Thank you again for the support you have shown to both the children and staff over the last few months. The positivity of the pupils and their resilience to either returning to school, going out on walks with staff or accessing home learning materials online has been great. I'm sure you will join me in thanking the staff for their hard work during these difficult times.

September Classes - You will have received your new class letter this week and know which teacher will be teaching your child from September. If you haven't received your letter, please let us know.

Student Leavers – Today is the last day for our Year 14 leavers at Bidwell Brook. Usually, we hold events in the run up to the end of term to mark the occasion, for example our Summer Ball, but today's farewell will be a bit different. I am very proud of these students and all they have achieved, and wish them good luck for the future!

The Hex – Our new provision in Dartington opens in September. Katy Bradley, Assistant Head will be on site with teachers Georgie Benjafield from Bidwell Brook and Amber McMenamie from Ellen Tinkham.

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.

Bidwell Brook officially closes today, Wednesday 22nd July 2020 for the summer break. We look forward to welcoming pupils back on Tuesday 8th September 2020. Please check our website at the beginning of September, just in case there are any changes to our re-opening plans due to COVID-19.

Wishing everyone a lovely summer holiday.

Kind regards,

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

Jacqui Warne - Executive Head