



BIDWELL BROOK SCHOOL
SHINNER'S BRIDGE, DARTINGTON,
DEVON, TQ9 6JU
t: 01803 864120

e: admin@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk

ELLEN TINKHAM COLLEGE
BODLEY HOUSE, WAYSIDE CRESCENT, EXETER,
DEVON EX1 3LF
t: 01392 482533
e: college@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk

MRS JACQUI WARNE - EXECUTIVE HEAD

ELLEN TINKHAM SCHOOL

HOLLOW LANE, EXETER, DEVON, EX1 3RW t: 01392 467168 e: school@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk

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TO ALL FAMILIES ACROSS THE LEARN TO LIVE FEDERATION

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of the Spring 2021 half term, I am writing to thank you for your continued support of our schools. It has been fantastic to welcome so many of our students into school throughout the lockdown this term. Yet again, your children have been incredible in the way they have adapted to changes and to things looking a bit different.

Thank you for your trust in us and for your patience and understanding on the few occasions when we have had to send a 'bubble' home or adjust timings to make sure everything works as safely and smoothly as possible. Thank you too, to the families who have chosen to keep their children home and are therefore valiantly working on the online learning and the distance learning resources teachers are sending out. Please know that when we get back after half term, we are here and open if you find circumstances have changed and it would be better to send your child to school.

Our new Learn to Live Federation online learning platform, School Jotter, is up-and-running and new content is being added every week. We are continually working on ways to make it easier to access and to help us to maintain contact with each other so that we don't forget we are a close community even when we can't all be together. The new messaging facility will be going "live" soon, allowing you to communicate more easily with your child's class team.

There are wonderful examples of learning being gathered on our 'Evidence for Learning' system, both from children learning at home and at school. We will make sure some examples are shared with you via the newsletters so that we can celebrate some of the many successes of our pupils.

At the start of this term, we put weekly staff Covid-19 testing in place, using the Lateral Flow testing kits designed to pick up on people who are asymptomatic but carrying Covid-19. Thank you for your support in closing a little earlier on a Friday to help us to get this testing carried out, it really helped.

From this week, we are required to make sure our staff are tested twice a week. We have therefore ordered additional test kits and allocated tests to staff so that we can all test ourselves at home (we are doing this on Monday and Friday mornings). As we are no longer testing staff in school, we can finish at 3 pm on Fridays from after half term, the same as the rest of the week.

The other good news is that staff are being offered cancellation vaccine appointments, due to working very closely with children and young people who need high levels of personal care and who are vulnerable. I am hopeful that by the end of half term, all staff who are in direct contact with pupils and who want the vaccine, will have been offered it. This will help us to keep your children even safer as fewer staff will be in danger of becoming ill. I would urge you, if you haven't already, to speak to your GP about your caring role for your children and your own need to be prioritised for a vaccine. The more in our community who are vaccinated, the better it will be for our children and young people.

We will maintain all the safety precautions currently in place because the vaccine is not 100% guaranteed and there is still a question mark around vaccinated people potentially being able to transmit the disease, but it is bound to help. We will continue to make sure all staff coming into school test themselves with the Lateral Flow test kits twice a week too. We will do this until the Government tell us to stop – although we are all rather looking forward to not having to do it anymore one of these days. It's not the best start to a Monday morning!

With the lighter mornings and evenings heading our way and maybe some nicer weather (once the cold snap is over), things should start feeling a bit brighter and more optimistic for us all.

I hope you have a good half term and look forward to seeing our pupils back on Monday 22nd February.

Yours faithfully



Jacqui Warne
Executive Head

