



# FAMILY NEWSLETTER

24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## ***PUSHED FOR TIME? QUICK SUMMARY:***

- From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April, we will return to our normal opening times of 8.50 am until 3.10 pm. Transport Dept have been advised. The Hex will continue with its current opening times of 9 am until 3 pm until the end of the Summer Term.
- Lateral Flow Test Kits are now available for families of children at Bidwell Brook School – follow the Government link to find out more/order your kits.
- Info is attached about the Public Health Nursing Team and where your young person/your family can seek help, if needed.
- Learn to Live 19-25 are holding a raffle in aid of St Petrocks, an Exeter charity to help the homeless. If you would like to buy tickets, the draw will take place on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- For pregnant Mums/families with children aged 0-5 years – link below to a survey about how children learn to communicate and talk.
- Info available ref Free School Meals application process, Free School Meal vouchers over the Easter Holiday and Summer Term meal charges.
- Info about a new counselling service available to all.

Dear Parents & Carers,

**School Opening Times** – After Easter, from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021, providing the Government continues on its current pathway out of lockdown, we will revert to our original opening and closing times. At Bidwell Brook, this will be 8.50 am start and a 3.10 pm finish. The Transport Dept have been notified.

Until the end of this term, we will remain at our current opening times of 9 am to 3 pm.

At the Hex, we will continue to open between 9 am and 3 pm until the end of the academic year.


**Roadmap Out of Lockdown** – Attached is a really easy to understand visual which shows how the Government will come out of lockdown. We've edited it to make it relevant across our Federation, and hopefully this will be of help to everyone.

**Lateral Flow Test Kits for Families** – The Government has confirmed that families who have students at our school can also now take twice-weekly tests. You can obtain a test kit:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees;
- at a local test site;
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site;
- by ordering a home test kit online.

The link below provides further details:

[Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

**World Book Day** – Thank you SO much for supporting Bidwell Brook during World Book Day last week. The pupils had great fun sharing their books and fun facts. Here's one of our FE students rocking a dinosaur outfit! This student is a fan of the book 'Jurassic Park' by Michael Crichton which he enjoys as an audio book on his tablet. 



**Information about the Public Health Nursing Service** – Attached is a flier with contact details for the Public Health Nursing Team and Chat Health service which young people and parents/carers can access directly.



**Learn to Live 19-25** - Over the winter months, the young people at Learn to Live 19-25 have been supporting the local homeless community by recycling used crisp packets and turning them into survival blankets. This has led to them thinking about how difficult it must be for people who do not have a warm safe place to call home, especially during the pandemic when so much support has had to be withdrawn.

As a result, the L2L gang have decided they would like to raise much needed funds for the St Petrocks homeless charity in Exeter and have worked really hard to organise a raffle with all proceeds going towards funding the ongoing work of St Petrocks. There are some really fantastic prizes to be won (Exeter City FC signed shirt; Exeter Chiefs tickets for September; hampers;

Easter eggs etc) and it would be amazing if you are able to support our young people in supporting a really worthwhile local charity.

Raffle tickets are priced at £1 per strip and the raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. If you would like to purchase any tickets please send in the following to us via the school office.

- The correct money for the amount tickets being purchased;
- The name of your child and school;
- The name of your child's class.

Thank you so much in advance for your support and good luck, from all the staff and students of L2L.

**Antenatal-5 Survey** – The IACCS, 'Improving Access to Communication Services' workstream is looking to gather information from parents and carers with children aged 0-5 years, or from parents who are expecting a baby. This is a simple online survey ([link here](#)) with 4 quick questions.

**Let's Get Chatting!**  
**Do you have a child aged 0-5 years?**  
**Or**  
**Are you expecting a baby?**

If you answered 'yes' to one of the above and you also live in Devon, we would love you to answer 4 questions about how children learn to communicate and talk. You can find the questions at <http://bit.ly/2ZP3wme> or use the QR code



Your answers to these questions will form part of an ongoing project within Devon. The aim is to support parents in their knowledge and confidence to nurture their child's communication in the first five years of life.

For more information contact  
Verity Hyde  
[verity.hyde@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:verity.hyde@torbay.gov.uk)



### **MESSAGES FROM THE FINANCE DEPT**

**Free School Meals** - If you think you might be eligible for free school meals, please read the qualifying list and apply using the citizens portal link below.

Parents/carers in receipt of the following support payments will be entitled to receive free school meals:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support (IS)
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA)
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

School children living on their own (16-19 year olds) who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right can also get free school meals.

Please note that from 1 April 2018, all existing free school meals claimants will continue to receive free school meals whilst Universal Credit is rolled out. This will apply even if their earnings rise above the new threshold during that time. In addition, any child gaining eligibility for free school meals after 1 April 2018 will be protected against losing free school meals during the Universal Credit rollout period.

Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, any existing claimants that no longer meet the eligibility criteria at that point (because they are earning above the threshold or are no longer a recipient of Universal Credit) will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education (i.e. primary or secondary). The Universal Credit roll-out is currently expected to be completed in March 2023.

To check your eligibility for Free School Meals please go to the following link: [Devon Citizens Portal](#)

**Free School Meal Vouchers over the Easter Holiday** – Devon County Council has approved for families to receive free school meal vouchers over the upcoming holiday. Families will be given voucher codes worth £30 per eligible child (£15 per week x 2 weeks). We will be sending your voucher codes soon which will need to be redeemed via Black Hawk’s ‘Select’ website. You may remember Devon County Council used the Black Hawk website over the Christmas and February half term holidays – this is the same process. Until you receive your voucher codes, here’s some useful information:

[devon.cc/holidayvouchers](http://devon.cc/holidayvouchers) or [www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/free-school-meals-holiday-voucher-scheme/](http://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/free-school-meals-holiday-voucher-scheme/)

**Summer Term School Meals Charges** - Please find below the cost of school meals for the Summer Term 2021. You are able to pay either by cheque, online or \*cash.

	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Senior</b>
Daily	£2.40	£2.50
Weekly	£12.00	£12.50
1 <sup>st</sup> Half Term (29 Days)	£69.60	£72.50
2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Term (35 Days)	£84.00	£87.50
<b>Full Term</b>	<b>£153.60</b>	<b>£160.00</b>

All school meals are payable **in advance**, cheques payable to: **Devon County Council**. Alternatively, please pay online at [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com) or if you would rather pay by cash, you can request a \*PayPoint voucher from the school office. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Kershaw in the School Office on 01803 864120.

Also, a little reminder that Cookery contributions are £7.50 per half-term (£15.00 for the whole term), which can also be paid by cheque, online or cash (ie the same methods you would pay for school meals).

**New Counselling Service** - A new, low-cost counselling service for carers has launched, with three counsellors on the books so far. All sessions are run online, so your home location doesn’t matter. Once restrictions are relaxed, there will be face to face sessions on offer. Simply click here to find out more and contact them: [Counselling | Totnes Carers Counselling | England \(totnescc.co.uk\)](http://Counselling | Totnes Carers Counselling | England (totnescc.co.uk))

We are also aware of The Quiet Mind Centre who offer counselling for what you can afford, from £5 a session. They have counsellors offering sessions online and will have face-to-face rooms in Exmouth once restrictions lift. <https://www.quiet-mind.org/>

Kind regards,



**Jacqui Warne**  
**Executive Head**