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31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

## **TO ALL FAMILIES ACROSS THE LEARN TO LIVE FEDERATION**

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe that it was a year ago that we were all reeling from Boris Johnson's stark address to the nation that we were in the grip of a dangerous pandemic, and that life as we knew it would have to be put on hold. Luckily, we didn't know just how long that "on hold" would be and how much would change and be expected of us all. Along the way, we have learnt new things and ways of working together that have been better. We will work with you to make sure we keep the things worth keeping as we go forward through a period of rebuilding and recovery.

Although things are getting better, it isn't over yet and in schools, we still need to maintain our vigilance around the protection measures we have in place. Particularly, we need to keep up with the handwashing, distancing where we can, using PPE and face coverings. Staff will continue to do the twice-weekly tests and report the results to the NHS, until we are told we can stop. In this way, we will be able to safely ease our way back to a "new normal". Covid-19 still exists and may not be eradicated in the near future, but we know a great deal more about it now than we did a year ago and are better equipped to tackle outbreaks, should they happen.

Keeping the schools open and safe remains our absolute priority. So many of you have sent us wonderful messages of support in doing this which have meant so much to us all, thank you. Your trust in us has been a real boost for us all.

It is fantastic news that the Hollow Lane Club is able to offer their usual, wonderful face-to-face Summer Clubs this year. I'm sure they will be very well subscribed this year and I know the Play-workers are all looking forward to a packed programme of fun for your children and young people!

As you know, over the next few months there will be some changes to the structure of the Learn to Live Federation senior leadership team. I will be retiring at the end of the Summer Term in July and there are some changes to the leadership structure that will happen after the Easter break, designed to make the transition to a new leadership "line-up", seamless.

After Easter, the leadership team will shift slightly. Each school site will have a Head of Site who will be the operational lead person for that site. This largely mirrors the role of a “traditional” Headteacher, but the overall accountability and strategic decision-making still sits with the Executive Head. From April 19<sup>th</sup>, these leads will be:

- Stella Wood – Head of School for Bidwell Brook School;
- Nikki Burroughs – Head of School for Ellen Tinkham School (Hollow Lane);
- Monika Davis – Head of College for Ellen Tinkham College (Wayside Crescent).

In addition, Governors have appointed a new senior leader into a new role for the federation. My congratulations to Christine Walker on her appointment as Learn to Live Federation’s first Communications Manager. Christine will join the CBT (Core Business Team) and wider joint leadership team from 1<sup>st</sup> April.

The new PA to the Executive Head will be Lisa Newton. Congratulations to Lisa on securing this post.

Also after Easter, we will be joined by a new Assistant Head for Ellen Tinkham School, Kathryn (Kate) Preece. Kate was appointed to this role before Christmas and will be based at the Primary School site at Hollow Lane. Kate will also be involved at Bidwell Brook through her work with the CDMT teams, (Communication and Decision-Making teams). Having been a Speech & Language Therapist before becoming a teacher makes Kate the natural “fit” for this link role, and I am sure she will thoroughly enjoy working with our amazing staff.

Last week, the governors appointed the person who will take over from me as Executive Head from September 2021. Our governing body worked incredibly hard and put a great deal of thought and consideration into the recruitment and appointment process. This is one the most significant things a governing body is required to do and our governors, as ever, were not going to let us all down by not doing a great job.

After two days of interview process, I am delighted to tell you that Nikki Burroughs was selected to take over from me as Executive Head from September.

Nikki has my full support and that of the Senior Leadership Team who are looking forward to taking the federation forward with you, and making the Learn to Live Federation even better. Nikki will be based in the Federation office at Hollow Lane but will be making regular visits to all sites across the week.



Of course, now that Nikki has been appointed as the next Executive Head, we will need to replace her as Head of School at Hollow Lane from September and this will happen during the Summer Term.

With regards term dates, you may remember we moved one of our Training Days from April 2021 to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020. I confirm all our pupils and staff will break for the Easter Holiday from 3 pm this Thursday and return on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021, not Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April as advised much earlier in the year.

It is my sincere hope that you all have a lovely Easter and that there is plenty of spring sunshine to enjoy. Looking at the weather forecast it looks like I may be having a BBQ in the snow down on Dartmoor, but at least it will keep the salad cool!

We look forward to seeing all our children and young people on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 for the start of the Summer Term!

Yours faithfully



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

