



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

19th July 2021

PUSHED FOR TIME? QUICK SUMMARY:

- **Post 19th July 2021 and September Bubbles** – All our schools will remain in their existing bubbles until the end of this term, and also return in bubbles from September. We will review this arrangement again during the Autumn Term, depending on the latest Government advice.
- **Craft Lab** – Bidwell Brook will be getting a new Craft Lab from Easter 2022. It will be a new outdoor learning space for activities and courses such as woodwork, horticulture and BTEC in Land Based studies.
- **School Meals** – If your child is moving into Year 3 in September, you will not continue to receive Universal Instant Free School Meals and will need to pay for lunches. If you think you are entitled to Free School Meals, you can apply before September. Follow this link [School meals - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/school-meals)
- **Outstanding Balance for School Meals** – Please clear any outstanding balance for school meals before the end of term. You can pay by cheque (made payable to “Devon County Council”) or via School Gateway www.schoolgateway.com Thank you very much.
- **Free School Meals Vouchers** – Devon County Council will continue to provide eligible families with £15 per week during the summer holiday. More information about the free school meals holiday voucher scheme is available on their website. [School meals - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/school-meals)
- **Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)** – For activities available in the summer, which also provide food, please click here [Information for parents - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/haf)
- **Free Circus Tickets** – Want to go to the Circus this Summer? Contact Daisy Binnie at the school. Tickets will be offered on a first come, first served basis.
- **Head2Head Sensory Theatre** – If you would like to find out more about these virtual theatre shows, click here [what's on | Head 2 Head \(h2hsensorytheatre.com\)](https://www.h2hsensorytheatre.com)
- **Holidays Abroad** – If you are thinking of taking a holiday abroad this summer, please allow time for your family to quarantine upon your return. Updated travel details will be available on the Government website. Pupils return to school next year on Monday 13th September 2021.
- **Bidwell Brook Playground** – Phase One of the playground will now probably go ahead in the October half term. If you would like to raise money for our playground or know someone or an organisation that would be able to help, please pass on our GoFundMe link <https://gofund.me/61c91c14>
- **DCC SEND Local Offer website** – The new website has been launched [Your SEND Local Offer website](https://www.devon.gov.uk/your-send-local-offer)
- **KS3 Team Thank You** – The team would like to thank all parents that responded to their shout out for equipment for the Upper School.
- **Learning from across BB** – Below are some photos to share with you following Diversity Week and Arts Week.
- **Messages** – Please do not give Escorts messages to pass on to school. Please either email your Class Teacher, pop a note in the Home:School Diary or call the School Office.
- **Parent Governor Vacancy** – We have a vacancy on our Governing Body for a Parent Governor. If you are interested, drop a line to our friendly Clerk to Governors, Katy Young clerk@learntolivefederation.co.uk
- **Useful Contacts/Enabling List/Out of School Clubs** – See information below.
- **Last Newsletter of this Academic Year** – This is the last official Family newsletter before the end of term this Friday, 23rd July 2021. Jacqui Warne will be writing to all families and students again this week. Pupils return to school in September on Monday the 13th.

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we near the end of term, here are some messages for you:

Post 19th July 2021 and September 2021 – Although the Government has announced the current Covid-19 measures are being relaxed from today, Monday 19th July 2021, the Learn to Live Federation schools will still be operating within their current bubbles until the end of this term on Friday. We want to keep our pupils, families and staff as safe as possible to be able to enjoy the summer holiday plus allow the Hollow Lane Club to run. Our intention is also to return to school in September in bubbles. We will continue to review this arrangement during the Autumn Term depending on the latest Government advice.

New “Craft Lab” – I’m delighted to confirm that Bidwell Brook has successfully secured funding from the Wolfson Foundation to build a brand new Craft Lab on our site. This will become the hub from which we can offer an increased range of activities, therapies and accredited courses such as Woodwork, Horticulture and BTEC in Land Based studies. It will be a multi-purpose facility and a great new teaching and learning space. The Craft Lab will be built behind the playground fencing near to our new allotment bridge. We will also be putting in a gate to this area from the playground to improve access to both the Craft Lab and the allotment. We hope to have the Craft Lab up and running by Easter 2022 depending upon lead times of supplies and contractors.

School Meals – If you have a child currently in Year 2 moving into Year 3 in the next academic year, they will no longer be eligible for Universal Instant Free School Meals from September. You will need to pay for school lunches. Parents who think they may be eligible for Free School Meals can apply through the Devon Citizens Portal before September. Please follow this link for more details: [School meals - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/school-meals)

Message from the School Finance Office – Please ensure you clear any outstanding school dinner money balances before the end of term. Payment can be by cheque payable to “Devon County Council” which can be sent in to the school office or online at www.schoolgateway.com Thank you very much.

Multi-million pound drive to combat holiday hunger in Devon as number of children eligible for free school meals soars to highest on record - More families in Devon are eligible for free school meals for their children than ever before, with numbers soaring during the coronavirus pandemic to the highest levels on record.



Over the past year, Devon County Council has invested nearly £3.1 million on providing over 82,000 supermarket vouchers for families who qualify for free school meals so children don’t go hungry over the school holidays. That scheme is operating again over the summer, with vouchers worth £15 per child per week of the summer holiday being sent to families to help them buy food to

replace the meals their child would have received at school during term-time.

If you didn’t previously qualify for free school meals but your income has reduced or stopped, the quickest and easiest way for your eligibility to be assessed is through the DCC website and you will get an instant decision. Alternatively, contact the education helpline on 0345 155 1019. More information about the free school meals holiday voucher scheme is available on our website. [School meals - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/school-meals)

Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) – With the holiday around the corner, there are plenty of activities available in your area for you and your family. Places are primarily for children on Free School Meals aged 4-16, with extra funding in place for children with EHCPs. Some are for the whole family to attend; some your child can be accompanied by a parent or carer if they need one. All events are expected to be fully inclusive and will include a lunch for all attending. Click on the link below to find a provider in your area, contact them directly to see what they have planned and to book your places. [Information for parents - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/haf)

Free Circus Tickets – Please see the attached form if you would like free tickets to visit the Circus this summer. Tickets are available on a first come first served basis, so please return the form to Daisy Binnie by Thursday 22nd July.



Head2Head Sensory Theatre – If you would like to find out more about this volunteer-led charity that makes theatre fully accessible and inclusive for all, please see the web link below.

Actors use Makaton signing and their films are captioned.

All events can be booked on their website [what's on | Head 2 Head \(h2hsensorytheatre.com\)](https://www.h2hsensorytheatre.com)

Holidays Abroad – If you are considering taking a holiday abroad this summer, please factor in and allow time to quarantine upon your return to the UK. Check the Government website for the latest travel restrictions. The Autumn term for pupils starts on Monday 13th September 2021.

Bidwell Brook School Playground – Specialist playground installation companies have visited Bidwell Brook and provided quotes for Phase One of our new playground. Unfortunately, due to lead times for equipment supplies, it is very unlikely we will be able to complete Phase One works before the pupils return in September. However, we are aiming for this section of the playground to be open after the October half term. We've received a few more grants from charitable trusts but still need another £8,000 to fund Phase One. We'll keep you posted.

If you would like to put on a fundraising event, or share this in your community, please do share our GoFundMe link. We are happy to provide you with posters and more information to share as part of your fundraising activity <https://gofund.me/61c91c14>

Devon County Council's new website for children and young people with SEND – DCC has launched a brand new SEND website, designed for children and young people with SEND and their families to help them find the right information about education, health and care support available in the local area to help them achieve their goals in life.

The new website has been developed alongside parents and carers, those working with children and young people and young people themselves to make sure families can easily find the information that matters most.

In Devon, the vision is for all children and young people with SEND to dream, believe, and achieve, and fulfil their potential. This new SEND Local Offer website will play a vital role in helping families to understand what help and support is available in their area and will also help make sure Devon's SEND provision is more responsive to local needs. The site has been initially launched as a 'Beta' site. This means Devon County Council will continue to work on it behind the scenes to make sure it has all the information you need and you can easily find what you're looking for. [Your SEND Local Offer website](#)

Message from Key Stage 3 at Bidwell Brook - Key Stage Three would like to thank all parents that responded to our shout out for equipment for the Upper School. We have been overwhelmed with your generosity and would like to extend a big thank you to you all.

Learning from across BB – Here's some fabulous work which was produced as part of Diversity Week and Arts Week. We had a visit from a local artist visit who worked with the pupils to create a wonderful mosaic.





Messages – Please do not give Escorts any messages to be passed on to school staff or your Class Teacher. If you need to get a message to us, please email your teacher direct or pop a note in the Home:School Diary. If the message needs to get to the class that day, please call the School Office and speak to one of our Administrators who will pass the message on. Thank you.

Parent Governor Vacancy – We are currently seeking a new Parent Governor to join our Learn to Live Federation Governing Body. Volunteering as a Governor is extremely rewarding work, allowing you to be part of a very dedicated team and utilising your skills and experience to make a positive difference to all our children. If you are looking to get back into the workplace, being a Governor can help you to build new relationships and acquire new confidence. The Full Governing Body meets once every half term, with each Governor also serving on one of the two sub committees, also meeting once every half term.

Governors play a vital role in setting the Federation's aims and objectives and promoting high standards of education and achievement. If you are interested but would really like to know more, please email Katy Young, our friendly Clerk to Governors clerk@learntolivefederation.co.uk

Useful Therapy Contacts - Please see the list below of contact details for the teams that visit school or assess your children. Parents can contact these services directly:

Castle Circus Torbay Orthotics Clinic:	01803 217761
For students living in Plymouth or with a TQ7/TQ8 postcode, contact Plymouth CDC on 01752 439400	
Exeter Mobility Centre:	01393 547400
Plymouth Mobility Centre:	01753 546222
Invacare for wheelchair repairs and maintenance service:	0800 069 6216
Devon Single Point of Access team (SPA):	0330 024 5321
For referrals to OT, Learning Disability Nurses, CAMHS, ROVIC and SIGNPOST Plus. www.childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk	

Enabling List – Daisy Binnie holds the Enablers List for Bidwell Brook. Staff who choose to enable offer this respite service in their own time. All school-based staff undertake Disclosure Barring Service checks (DBS) specifically linked to their eligibility to work in a structured, supervised and monitored day school setting. Their DBS's **do not** cover any work undertaken outside of the school. You will also need to check that enablers have appropriate insurance and risk assessments in place. If you would like the list of Enablers to keep to hand over the summer holiday, please email dbinnie@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk before this Friday, 23rd July.

Every Local Authority has a website listing all services available in their county. Please use these links to find services near you, including personal assistants, SEND services and local activities.

DEVON Local Services:	https://services.pinpointdevon.co.uk/kb5/dev
PLYMOUTH Local Services:	https://www.plymouthonlinedirectory.com/SEND
TORBAY Local Services:	http://fis.torbay.gov.uk/kb5/torbay/fsd/home.page

Hollow Lane Club – Please find attached the Hollow Lane Club's latest newsletter.

Out of School Clubs accessed by some of our students - This is not an exclusive list, but these are the main clubs we are aware of our students accessing. To find more clubs, enablers, Personal Assistants in your area, use the Pinpoint websites above.

HOLLOW LANE CLUB = After School/Saturdays/Holidays/Siblings Club
www.Hollowlane.org.uk
Exeter and Dartington

CEDA = Offering a range of services
www.cedaonline.org.uk
Exeter

LIFEWORKS = Range of services for teenagers and young adults
www.lifeworks-uk.org
Totnes and S Devon

ORCHARD CLUB = Saturdays/Holidays/Orchard Saturday Club

www.orchardsaturdayclub.co.uk/

Newton Abbot

SPLASH CLUB = Holidays

www.splashdevon.org.uk

S Devon

THE BECKLEY CENTRE = Weekends/evenings/holidays

www.routeways.org.uk/index.php/component/k2/item/50-the-beckly-centre

Plymouth

Enablers used by other parents in school - We do not know these people and list them here on recommendation from parents who use their services.

LS Enabling = <https://www.facebook.com/LSEnabling/>

Sunshine Respite = <https://www.facebook.com/sunshinerespice>

I hope you managed to avoid the crowds this weekend and enjoyed the sunshine.

This is the last official Family newsletter of this academic year but I will write to all families and pupils again before the end of term this Friday, 23rd July 2021.

As a reminder, our pupils return to school in September on Monday the 13th of September.

Kind regards,



Jacqui Warne
Executive Head