



FAMILY NEWSLETTER



20th September 2021

SHORT OF TIME? HERE'S A SUMMARY

Parents' Evening - Have you booked your slot this week?

Welcome Message from Nikki Burroughs, Executive Head - See below. If you have any questions that your teacher is unable to answer, please contact Stella Wood, Head of School at Bidwell Brook.

Useful Therapy Contacts - Listed on page 2.

School Jotter and Evidence for Learning - If you need to reset your Evidence of Learning login or can't remember your Jotter password and login, please pop a note in the Home:School Diary.

School Lunches - Costs and information on how to pay for lunches this term are on page 2.

Transport Dept - A gentle reminder to be kind and respectful to Transport Drivers and Escort. They do a great job getting our children into school and home each day.

Hollow Lane Club - Dates are available on page 3 for this term's sessions.

Reporting your Child's Absence - Please call the school, email us or send a message via SchoolsComms by 8.30 am on each day of absence.

Flu Vaccinations - Any questions etc, call the Nursing Team. Please do not leave messages in the Diary or contact the Class Teacher.

DATES 2021

w/c 20th September:
Parents' Evening (except Early Years)

19th / 20th October:
Early Years Parents' Evening

w/c 25th October:
half term holiday



Monday 1st November:
Pupils return to school

Wednesday 17th November:
Tempest Photography *provisional* visiting

Monday 29th November:
Occasional Day - school is closed

Friday 17th December:
Term end

MESSAGE FROM NIKKI BURROUGHS, EXECUTIVE HEAD



A very warm welcome back to school to all our students and families who are returning after the summer and a very special welcome to all our new students and families. I am so impressed with how well the students have transitioned back into their settings and it has been lovely to see so many smiley faces and hear happy noises wherever I have been.

September brings with it lots of 'new beginnings'; new teachers, new classrooms, new friends and new challenges. Despite all of this, I have been particularly impressed with how well our new students have settled. I would like to thank you for the positive comments that we have received, we are truly grateful for your support.

Working in partnership with you all is very important to us. There no such thing as a 'silly question' and we would much rather hear from you as soon as you have a question or concern so please do get in touch with us. Our teachers are looking forward to catching up with you at Parents' Evening this week.

Across our Federation, we are continuing to monitor our Covid-19 practices, following similar structures and routines that have been in place over the previous year. Our staff will continue to test twice weekly using lateral flow tests and will continue to follow DfE guidance whilst ensuring the safety of your children as best we can. Everyone's safety is paramount and we will keep you informed of any changes.

Stella Wood is Head of School at Bidwell Brook as well as being the Federation Safeguarding Lead and also in charge of Admissions. Should you have any queries or questions that your teacher is unable to help you with, please contact Stella.



I truly look forward to working with you all at the start of a very new and exciting Academic Year.

EVERYONE WILL BE THE BEST THAT THEY CAN BE; EVERYONE HAS A VOICE; NO-ONE IS EXCLUDED



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USEFUL THERAPY CONTACTS

Please see the list below of contact details for the teams that visit school or assess your children. You can contact these services directly and do not have to come through the School therapy team:



Castle Circus Torbay Orthotics Clinic: 01803 217761

For pupils living in Plymouth or with a TQ7 or TQ8 postcode, please contact Plymouth CDC on 01752 439400

Exeter Mobility Centre: 01393 547400

Plymouth Mobility centre: 01753 546222

Invacare repairs and maintenance service: 0800 069 6216

Devon Single Point of Access team (SPA): 0330 024 5321

www.childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk This is for referrals to OT, Learning Disability Nurses, CAMHS, ROVIC and SIGNPOST Plus.

Direct number for the Nurses' office at Bidwell Brook: 01803 415011

JOTTER AND EVIDENCE FOR LEARNING

Can't remember your login details for Jotter or Evidence for Learning?

Write a message for your Class Teacher who will be able to help. We can provide your Jotter password and login details, and be able to re-set Evidence for Learning.



New learning material is always being added to Jotter, so please keep checking the site.

And as always, we encourage our families to read with our pupils at home! Sharing a picture book together or reading a story to your child helps develop their communication skills.

For our older students, take time to share their interests with magazines and online articles.

FLU VACCINATIONS AT SCHOOL THIS WEEK

If you have any questions or wish to change information already provided, you MUST make contact with the Nursing Team direct, not via the Home:School Diary or your Class Teacher. Thank you.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please find below the cost of school meals for the Autumn Term 2021. You are able to pay either by cheque, online or by Cash with a PayPoint voucher.

	Junior	Senior
Daily	£2.40	£2.50
Weekly	£12.00	£12.50
1 st Half Term (30 Days)	£72.00	£75.00
2 nd Half Term (34 Days)	£81.60	£85.00
Full Term	£153.60	£160.00

For info:

All school meals are payable in advance.



Please pay online at www.schoolgateway.com or send a cheque into the school office. Please make cheques payable to 'Devon County Council'.

If you would like to pay by cash please contact the school office and we can arrange for a paypoint voucher to be sent home.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Kershaw on 01803 864120.

TRANSPORT

Devon County Council's Transport Dept work with ourselves and families to arrange Transport to and from school each day. Sometimes, especially at the beginning of an Academic Year, their plans do not always run smoothly. This could be due to changes in routes and drivers/escorts, or having to collect new pupils who have only just found out they are joining our school. If an error is made or plans have to change, we all need to be kind, respectful and work together to resolve the matter.

On behalf of the school and families, we'd like to say a sincere "thank you" to all our drivers and escorts who manage to safely transport our pupils to and from school each day. Good job!





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MESSAGE FROM THE HOLLOW LANE CLUB

It's been great to see our young people back to school!

Clubs are starting again shortly and will be running within the same Key Stage 'bubbles' as school.

If you've been offered a place, here's the list of dates:

Saturday Club Exeter

9th October, 27th November, 11th December,
22nd January, 12th February, 12th March, 7th May,
11th June & 9th July

Social Club (for 16 years+)

16th October, 13th November, 11th December

After School Club Exeter

Early Years - Tuesday evening (starting 28th September)
Key Stage 1 - Tuesday evening (starting 28th September)
Key Stage 2 - Monday evening (starting 27th September)
Key Stage 3 - Wednesday evening (starting 29th September)
Key Stage 4 - Thursday evening (starting 30th September)
Key Stage 5 - Thursday evening (starting 30th September)

Saturday Club Dartington

9th October, 13th November, 11th December, 15th January,
12th February, 12th March, 7th May, 11th June, 2nd July

After School Club Dartington

This will be held on a Monday and will start on 27th September.

If your child does attend the Hollow Lane Club and you would like to give feedback, please request a form by emailing

admin@hollowlane.org.uk

PUPIL ABSENCE

If your child will be absent from school due to feeling unwell or if your child will be late into school, you must notify us as soon as possible.

- You can call us on 01803 864120;
- Or email us on admin@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk;
- Or contact us through SchoolComms.

Please give as much detail as possible regarding the absence/late arrival.

All absences should be reported to us as close to 8.30 am as possible on the day of the absence and you will need to continue to contact us each day that your child is not in school.

The above also applies if you need to report your child's absence due to Covid-19.

The school has a statutory duty to report all absences to the Local Authority, so thank you very much for your co-operation.

There's always lots of info
about our school on our
website:

[Bidwell Brook School](http://www.bidwellbrook.sch.uk)

FAMILY INFO

- See the attached fliers for Family Support information.
- You might like to check out this useful website too from Devon Children and Families Partnership: [SEND Archives - Devon Childrens' and Families Partnership \(dcpf.org.uk\)](http://SEND Archives - Devon Childrens' and Families Partnership (dcpf.org.uk))
- Worried about Social Media scams? Read the attached.
- Would you like to attend some online courses about "mythbusting" around SEND and EHCPs? See the attached from DIAS.

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