



# FAMILY NEWSLETTER

23rd June 2022



## MESSAGE FROM NIKKI BURROUGHS, EXECUTIVE HEAD



We seem to be heading towards the end of term at a rate of knots! At the beginning of this half term, we had 7½ weeks remaining and here we are, with just over 5 weeks until we break for the Summer Holiday. I am worried we won't have enough time to fit everything in!

We have already enjoyed a fun packed few weeks with some great events that students across the Federation have really enjoyed. And there is more to come! We have Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and plenty of trips scheduled: Respect and Diversity Week including Art, as well as the Summer Fetes to plan and look forward to. It looks like it is going to be another busy end to the Summer Term!

This time of year, our main focus is on Transitions and preparing our children and young people for the next academic year, or their next steps if they are leaving us this July. We do have some staff vacancies left to fill and we are busy recruiting for these. In the meantime, Heads of Sites continue to work closely with our HR (Human Resources) Teams to finalise class lists for September. We appreciate how unsettling this time of year can be for our children and young people, as well as families trying to support them. Our aim is to share finalised class information including teaching staff with you as soon as we can.

Across our sites, we are holding Transition Events in anticipation of our September classes. We hope this will help you support your child or young person over the summer.

Enjoy the rest of your week.

## SHORT OF TIME?

**School Lunches** - Costs are rising as from September 2022. The new cost will now be £2.60 for Lower School and £2.70 for Upper School.

**Co-opted Governor Vacancy** - Do you have skills and experience which might be useful to our Governing Body? Please contact Katy Young, Clerk to Governors.

**Water Play** - Particularly in hot weather, students will have access to a Water Tray on the playground. It might be worth sending in a spare set of clothes, in case a change is needed in the afternoon!

**Transition Event** - Visit the new classroom/meet the September Teacher on Wednesday 20th July from 10.30 am - 11.30 am.

**Latest Makaton Sign** - Page 2.

**Term Dates** - Attached.

**Out and About Photos** - Page 3.

**Youth Award** - One of BB's Student Council and Champions for Change reps, Imogen, has won a Youth Voice Award! Details on page 4. Well done.

**E-Safety** - Info on how to create a safe password on page 4.

**Suncream, Water Bottle and Hat** - Needed every day in school for your child/young person! Thanks.

**HAF Programme** - Running this summer. Check the link on page 4 to find out more details/check if you are eligible for support.

## DATES 2022

20th - 24th June ..... School's Respect and Diversity Week incl Art

Friday 1st July ..... BB Sports Day

6th - 12th July ..... Jessie's Fund visiting BB to work with students and staff

Friday 8th July ..... BB Summer Fete, **NOW** 1.30 pm - 2.45 pm

Wednesday 20th July ..... Transition Visit for all families, 10.30 am - 11.30 am

Wednesday 20th July ..... BB's Got Talent (pm)

Thursday 21st July ..... BB Prom

Tuesday 26th July ..... Leavers' Assembly

Wednesday 27th July ..... Last day of term for pupils and staff



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## COST OF LUNCHES

With rising energy and food costs, the Federation needs to increase the cost of a school lunch **from September 2022**.

The cost of a Junior School meal will increase to £2.60 per day, and a Senior School meal will rise to £2.70 per day (an increase of 20p per meal).

Payment needs to remain upfront but you can choose whether to pay daily, weekly or half termly. The cost of cookery contributions will not change.

Thank you.



## CO-OPTED GOVERNOR

A vacancy has arisen on the Governing Body for a 'Co-opted' Governor. This category means the position is available to any interested party.

If you would be interested in applying, please contact Katy Young, Clerk to the Governors via email [clerk@learntolivefederation.co.uk](mailto:clerk@learntolivefederation.co.uk)



Please have a think about what skills or knowledge you have that would benefit the Governing Body. Katy will also be happy to talk through the role of a Governor if you require further information. Thank you.

## BREAKS ON THE PLAYGROUND

As it is increasingly likely we will see the odd day of REALLY HOT weather until we break for the holiday, the Playleading Team have been looking at various ways of keeping the children cool at lunchtimes. We do have plenty of shade in the playground, but our team will also be making the Water Tray available. Water play is a great sensory play for many of our students and will be a regular part of lunchtime play during the coming weeks.

Students will always be supported whilst using the Water Tray but it may be advisable for all families to provide a spare set of clothes (ie T-shirt, shorts/similar, underwear) just in case it is necessary for your child to change their clothing in the afternoon. Thank you!



## TRANSITION EVENT

On Wednesday 20th July between 10.30 am - 11.30 am, we are opening our doors at Bidwell Brook School and inviting families to visit. During this hour, you will be able to visit your child/young person's classroom where they will be based from September and have a chat with the Class Teacher. For some of you, there may not be a change of teacher. For others, you will be in a new classroom or Key Stage and have a new Class Teacher to meet.

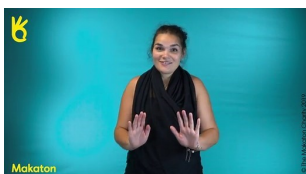
Letters informing families of classes for next year are very nearly ready to be sent home.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 20th of July from 10.30 am.



## MAKATON SIGN

This week's sign is "To Wait".



[To Wait - Makaton Sign of the Week](#)

## TERM DATES 2022-2023

Term dates are attached to this newsletter.

The last day of term this Summer is Wednesday 27th July 2022. We look forward to welcoming all the children and young people back on Tuesday 6th September 2022.

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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

### Jubilee Party @ Bidwell Brook

Everyone was very excited to attend our special Platinum Jubilee Party in the Playground!



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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

### Residential at Freshwater Bay Holiday Park

Recently, some of our Key Stage 2 pupils teamed up with Ellen Tinkham's Key Stage 2 pupils and spent a week at Freshwater Holiday Park in Dorset. Lots of fun!



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## YOUTH VOICE AWARD

We are very proud to share that one of our Student Council representatives, Imogen, has been awarded a very special Youth Voice Award. This award was presented by John Hart, Leader of Devon County Council and Melissa Caslake, Chief Officer of Devon's Children's Services in recognition of Imogen's significant contribution to youth voice and the difference being made in the community through her "Champions for Change" work.

Unfortunately, Imogen was unable to attend the awards evening, so Dawn Lewis, our Advocacy Lead, travelled to County Hall to collect the certificate on her behalf. Imogen is, quite rightly so, very proud to receive this special award. Excellent news - congratulations!



## E-SAFETY - HOW TO CREATE A STRONG PASSWORD

There are two main factors in creating a full-proof password that will help stop cyberattacks. Keep your data safe by following these two simple rules:

- 1) Size - it is estimated that a password with 7 characters could take **0.29 milliseconds** to crack. So making sure to have over 12 characters would give you an estimated safety of two centuries! Of course, if your password is "123456789101112" then it will be relatively easy to hack, which leads us to rule two!
- 2) Combine letters and numbers. Within your 12 characters, add symbols, numbers and letters. If you have a password more similar to "Fishing4Pen%Secure9Moose\*\*", it will be far more difficult for hackers and cyber attackers to gain access.

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME (HAF)

The HAF Programme will once again be available during the Summer holiday. The programme provides holiday activities and a meal for children aged 5-16 (and 4 year olds if in Reception) who are eligible for and receiving benefit-related Free School Meals. The programme also covers their families and their friends if this encourages the children to attend.

The aim of the HAF programme is to support children to eat more healthily, be more active over the school holidays and have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition as well as be more engaged with local services.

To access the programme, you should book a place direct with one of the providers that are facilitating the HAF programme.



Please note that booking details differ depending on each provider and full information can be found on the DCC website (click [here](#)).

## AND FINALLY ....



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## TERM DATES 2022-2023

	Sep-2022					Oct-2022					Nov-2022				
Monday		T	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Tuesday		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
Wednesday		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Thursday	T	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	
Friday	T	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
Saturday	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	
Sunday	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	
	Dec-2022					Jan-2023					Feb-2023				
Monday		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Tuesday		6	13	20	27	T	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Wednesday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	
Thursday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	
Friday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	
Saturday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
Sunday	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	33	5	12	19	26	
	Mar-2023					Apr-2023					May-2023				
Monday		6	13	20	27		3	10	T	24	1	8	15	22	29
Tuesday		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30
Wednesday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31
Thursday	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	
Friday	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	
Saturday	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	
Sunday	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	
	Jun-2023					Jul-2023					Aug-2023				
Monday		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	O	31		7	14	21	28
Tuesday		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	O		1	8	15	22	29
Wednesday		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Thursday	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31
Friday	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
Saturday	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	
Sunday	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	
key:	pupils in school			school holidays (school closed)			staff training days (non pupil days)			occasional days (school closed)			Bank Holidays and weekends		



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CROSS-PLATFORM SHARING OF INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Creepy characters like Slender Man or Huggy Wuggy. Dangerous online challenges. Songs or videos that aren't suitable for youngsters. When things like these begin trending online, it can be difficult to prevent children accidentally stumbling across them – especially if they use a range of platforms, like online games, social media, streaming sites or messaging apps. A trend can originate in one online space and rapidly spread to other platforms or via chat apps. The frightening Huggy Wuggy character, for instance, first emerged as part of a game on Steam; now there are parody songs on TikTok, videos on YouTube and more than 45,000 results for #huggywuggy on Instagram.

## UNSUITABLE VIDEOS AND IMAGES

Anyone can upload footage to a video-sharing platform, which has resulted in clips that *appear* age-appropriate but actually aren't so innocent. The audience for Peppa Pig, for instance, is very young – but there have been reports of Peppa cartoons with extreme violence spliced into them. Likewise, footage of the razor-toothed game character Huggy Wuggy has been inserted into numerous child-friendly videos (even on YouTube kids), scaring many young viewers.

## INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

On a similar theme, there is always the possibility that user-uploaded video content could include language which really isn't suitable for children. The on-screen imagery may *look* child friendly, but if your child is wearing headphones, then you'll remain unaware of what is being said: some videos have featured songs containing explicit language or characters graphically describing violence.

## COPIES OF LIVE STREAMS

Social media and messaging apps can inadvertently spread extremely harmful content very quickly. Footage of violent attacks (such as the recent Buffalo supermarket shootings) can often be viewed on multiple platforms as people start to share the video. Moderators try to react swiftly to remove upsetting content, but the rate at which it goes viral makes it difficult to prevent the spread completely.

## ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE

Even if your child doesn't have access to social media platforms or video-streaming platforms (where the majority of issues arise), they might still use messaging apps to communicate with family and friends. There is always going to be a risk, therefore, of them seeing something which isn't child friendly: either shared by one of their peers or sent accidentally by a relative.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### USE SAFETY FEATURES

Enable safety settings like Google SafeSearch and the optional restrictions on video-sharing platforms like YouTube. Whenever possible, stick to YouTube Kids for young children, as the software will help to filter out unsuitable content. Remember that filters aren't always enough to block all inappropriate material – especially when child-friendly videos have been edited maliciously.

### LESS IS BEST

Manage the number of online platforms your child has access to, based on their age and maturity. Just because their friends use a certain game or app, it doesn't mean your child must have it too. Follow the age guidelines for games and apps, and check regularly that privacy settings are in place.

### KEEP IT COMMUNAL

Encourage your child to stay in a communal family space when they're watching videos or playing online games on their devices – without headphones, if possible. This will make it far easier for you to keep one eye (and ear) on what they are seeing and hearing while they're online.

### AVOID FAN-MADE CONTENT

If your child watches cartoons and shows on YouTube, spend time with them making a playlist of videos that you're comfortable with them watching. Always source videos from official channels, as opposed to fan-made content: you can never be completely confident about material that another user has created or uploaded.

### REACT CALMLY

If you hear or see anything unsuitable on your child's device, calmly ask them to turn off the game or video in question. Explain that they haven't done anything wrong, but that you didn't like what you saw or heard and you would much rather they watched or played something else instead.

### SUPPORT AND REASSURE

Remind your child regularly that *anyone* can post *anything* online – and that not everything online is real. If your child is sent something that scares or worries them, ask them to show you. Watch it alone (to avoid unnerving them further), then praise them for coming to you and talk about what upset them. Recommend a break from their device to do something which helps them feel calm and happy.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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Sources: <https://www.kidspot.com.au/parenting/youtube-fail-makes-peppa-swear-like-a-sailor/news-story/38c040b8a26c926dd2d00309ac16a4d7>