

# FAMILY NEWSLETTER

10TH JANUARY 2023



A very Happy New Year to you all!

I hope that you and your families were able to enjoy time together over the Christmas break and I wish you all the very best for 2023.

We were delighted to welcome back our children and young people last week. Everyone seems to be settling back into the education routine well and many have enjoyed sharing news of their festive break.

We had some great Christmas events running in the lead up to the festive break. The Winter Celebration afternoons and Festive Craft Sessions for families were a great success and we hope those of you who were able to attend enjoyed them.

We also had Christmas Grottos for our younger children, many of whom were delighted to receive gifts from Father Christmas himself.



The Christmas Fayres held at all sites were a huge success and it was wonderful to see all the class enterprise ideas. There were some amazing handmade decorations, scented orange and spice garlands, packaged treats, glowing bottles and some fantastic Christmas cards designed by our children on sale. A huge well done to all students and staff involved. Sales were bountiful and lots of money was raised to support our schools. As always, we are so grateful for your support and it was great to see so many of you at these events.

On the 4th of December, one of our ET students, Katy, attended the South West Schools Trampoline competition representing Ellen Tinkham School. Katy achieved Gold in her competition and is now South West School Champion.



HUGE congratulations to Katy - I am sure you will agree that Gold is an incredible achievement. We are so proud and honoured that she attended representing our school. Katy will be attending the next round later this month in Gillingham and we wish her lots of luck.

January is the month for new beginnings and I know that there are lots of exciting and challenging activities happening this term. I look forward to sharing these with you as the term progresses.

## WHAT'S COMING UP

Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th January:  
Parents' Evening

Thursday 19th January:  
PTFA AGM at Bidwell Brook School, 11 am start

Tuesday 7th February:  
Safer Internet Day

week commencing 13th February:  
Half term holiday

Thursday 2nd March:  
World Book Day

Wednesday 8th March:  
National Careers Day

Wednesday 29th March:  
British Science Day

## SUMMARY

Bags 2 School - Thank you for your contributions. We raised £84!

E-Safety - Safer Internet Day is coming up in February. The pupils will be talking about their experiences of "life online". We are also running more info sessions for families around social media settings, online games and managing screen time. Dates to follow.

British Values - Please see page 2 and also our website for information about how we teach and discuss British Values with our students.

Christmas Fayre - We raised over £1,800!

Thank you to everyone who made, bought and contributed to this amazing fundraising amount.

School Lunches - Our online system is set up to expect school lunches to be paid in advance. If you would like to have a chat to our Finance Office at any time about school lunch payments, please give them a call.

Makaton Signs - See the links on page 3.

TikTok - There's a new trend on TikTok which we're addressing in our PSHE lessons. See page 3 for details.

Family Support - Email addresses for staff in this department are listed on page 3.

Asda Green Tokens - We won! Thank you for all your votes. £500 will be coming soon to BB for the playground fund.

## BAGS 2 SCHOOL

Thank you very much for all your kind donations last term. We raised £84! Our next collection is booked for early June 2023.

## E-SAFETY



We are celebrating Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 7th February. The theme for this year is 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'.

We will be running a competition across classes based on this theme, as part of our E-Safety focus.

Later in the term, we will also be running some more family information sessions on the best way to support your child or young person when they are online. Topics will include social media settings, information about games and conversations you may wish to have with your child or young person around their amount of "screen time" .

Look out for future dates - we'll advertise them here.

## BRITISH VALUES



All schools are required to provide for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. As part of this requirement, we are expected to actively promote fundamental British values. The Government defines these as:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Our efforts to promote fundamental British values are designed to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. Ultimately, we aim to help pupils understand:

- The importance of combatting discrimination
- How we can influence decision-making by taking part in democratic processes like voting
- Our freedom under British law to choose different faiths and beliefs
- That the law is there to keep us safe

These values are reflected throughout our school, including in our ethos, policies and classroom discussions. Our duty to actively promote fundamental British values means that we always present political views to pupils in a balanced way. We are also responsible for challenging prejudiced or extreme opinions and behaviour. If you would like to know more about this important subject, please contact your Class Teacher. [British Values – Bidwell Brook School](#)

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thank you very much to all our families for supporting our Fayre this year. Also a huge thanks to our wonderful PTFA for organising the raffle and running the Tombola and Water/Wine Stall. Much appreciated.

The Christmas Fayre raised just over £1,800! Wowzer! Thank you very much.

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

## SCHOOL LUNCHES



Our SchoolComms lunch payment system is automatically set up to expect lunch monies to be paid in advance of the lunch being taken. If your child has a school lunch and there are insufficient funds in your child's account to cover these, you will start receiving text messages and requests for payment quite quickly.

We appreciate these are difficult financial times. If you would like to have a conversation about lunch monies, please contact our Finance Office. We will be able to discuss options with you in confidence. Thank you.

## MAKATON SIGNS

Here's some Makaton signs for you to use at home:

[MONDAY'S MAKATON | TO STAND | TO GET UP | TO SIT | TO WASH | TO BATH | TO SHOWER - YOUTUBE](#)

[MONDAY'S MAKATON | TO GO | TO COME | TO GIVE | MORE - YOUTUBE](#)

## TIKTOK

There seems to be a growing trend on TikTok involving the prank of pulling down another person's trousers. As part of our PSHE lessons, we will be addressing this and reminding pupils of the importance of respecting others and their privacy.

## FAMILY SUPPORT

In our Family Support department, we have a number of staff whom you may have spoken with - Danielle Prowse, our Early Help Lead and Ellie Coomber-Moore, our Pupil & Family Support Services Lead. Another member of the team to have recently joined Family Support is Liza Moore, our Progress Chaser. Their contact details are below:

Danielle Prowse [dprowse@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk](mailto:dprowse@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk)  
Ellie Coomber-Moore [ecoomber@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk](mailto:ecoomber@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk)  
Liza Moore [lmoore@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk](mailto:lmoore@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk)



## PARENTS' EVENING

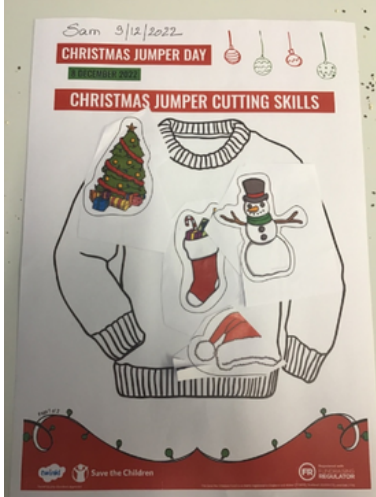
This term, we are offering parents & carers the opportunity to come into school to meet the Class Teacher on Wednesday 18th January 2023. Online and over the phone meetings will take place on Tuesday 17th January 2023. A letter is coming home shortly for you to choose a day and time to meet with your Class Teacher. Please complete this and send it back into school as soon as you can. Thank you! See you soon.

## ASDA GREEN TOKENS



**WE DID IT! The votes have been counted and Bidwell Brook were the winners of the Autumn Green Token scheme from Asda at Newton Abbot. £500 will be coming to us soon! Thank you very much for voting for us. Whoop! Whoop!**







# Happy Families

## Happy Futures Devon



### We can help if YOU are:

- Constantly arguing about the same things with your partner or ex-partner
- Struggling to communicate with your partner or ex-partner
- Disagreeing with your partner or ex-partner on ways to raise your children

We can offer you **FREE** support to help build a positive parenting relationship.

The programmes are aimed at supporting parents, both together and separated, to reduce parental conflict, develop positive communication and problem-solving skills, to manage emotions and create more positive environments for their children.

Please scan the QR code to complete the referral form, or visit [www.dcfp.org.uk](http://www.dcfp.org.uk) and search for "Parental Relationships"





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

## TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at [videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games](http://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games).

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## 'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

## DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

## APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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## CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

## IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

HELLO  
OSCAR

## WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

TOK TAK

## STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

100% COMPLETE

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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