

Family NewsBites



A little roundup to keep you updated until the next newsletter

Update from the Governing Body - Attached from our new Chair of Governors, Steven Finnemore.

"Autism and Us" Training Programme - Session details are attached. Attending the 'Autism & Us' parent programme gives you an opportunity to develop your understanding of autism and look at practical solutions to managing and supporting your child's presenting needs. If you would like to book a place, email educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk

Rehab Recovery - We've heard of an organisation that provides [addiction treatment](#) and healthcare advice for a wide range of different addiction and dependency problems. Please do seek advice from your GP if you need support, but you may also wish to look through this website too www.rehab-recovery.co.uk

BB PTFA Plant Sale - This is happening on Friday 28th April in the morning. If you have any spare bedding plants, herbs, flowers or anything garden-related you could donate to us to sell, we would be extremely grateful. Thank you.

Parents' Evening - Date for your diary - Tuesday 2nd May (online), Wednesday 3rd May in person. Invite letters will be sent in April.

Red Nose Day - Thank you for your donations. We contributed over £100. Purple class made a fab Joke & Tongue Twister book which raised over £27 on its own!

Easter Visits - It was great to see so many of you at the "meet and greet" with Kate Bromage, our new Head of School. If you made it into class, we hope you enjoyed your time with the pupils. Our Easter raffle raised £611!

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 18th April 2023 - Pupils return to school

Friday 28th April 2023 - BB Plant Sale in Totnes

Monday 1st May 2023 - Bank Holiday Monday

Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd May - Parents' Evenings



New swing area



**Boogie wonderland
with Kate and Marie**



Red Nose Day fun



**Teddy -
Therapy Dog
(a big hit
already)**

**HAPPY
Easter**

Over the last few months there have been a number of changes to the Governing Body, with several Governors retiring and Steve Cleverly, who was the Chair for a number of years and I swapping roles from the 1st of January 2023.

I've spent the Spring Term meeting staff and students across the Federation, listening to both the positives and negatives, and seeing if there is anything we can do in the short and long terms. Staffing levels, capacity/premises, and budget remain the key concerns and Governors want to sincerely thank staff for their commitment and flexibility.

Governors have been busy over the last term working with Nikki Burroughs, Anne Davies and the remaining Senior Leadership Team to make sure the Federation is on a sound footing as we go into the next financial year.

We were shortlisted in our application to have the Ellen Tinkham School Hollow Lane site rebuilt as part of the DfE Rebuilding Schools Programme; sadly, our bid was unsuccessful on this occasion, but we will try again when we can.

Congratulations to Kate Bromage on being the successful candidate for the role of Head of School at Bidwell Brook, in what was a strong field of candidates. Kate was previously Deputy Head working across the Federation, and has already moved to her new role at Bidwell Brook.

Governors have undertaken a number of Monitoring Walks throughout the term, allowing us to monitor and appraise the teaching and learning that goes on in the schools. They are also an opportunity to meet with staff and pupils, and look at any premises issues. We have also attended the careers day at Ellen Tinkham College and Student Councils across the Federation.

The careers day was very well attended and had a real buzz to it. It was great to see the students and parents engaging with the people manning the stands. We would like to thank both Monika Davis and Ed Rice for all the work that they put into organising and hosting the event.

I attended two of the Student Councils and as usual the meetings were fun and constructive. It was great to see the students discussing things that have an impact on them. I gave my commitment that I and other Governors will regularly attend their meetings and will feedback to them should they raise anything during the meeting.

The retirement of several long serving Governors means we have a number of vacancies which we are actively working to fill. We are allowed two Parent Governors and both posts are currently filled, but if you have friends or colleagues who would like to join the Governing Body, please ask them to email Katy Young clerk@learntolivefederation.co.uk. You don't need to have a background in education or SEND to be a Governor, and support and training will be provided.

More info about the Governors can be found on our website; <http://learntolivefederation.co.uk/governors/>

I hope you all have a happy Easter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Finnemore'.

Steven Finnemore, Chair of Governors

Autism and Us' Parent Programme (Summer Term 2023)

Support for parents/carers of Devon primary and secondary children who are either on the autism assessment waiting list or who have received a diagnosis of autism.

Our 'Autism & Us' programme delivered this academic year will once again be offered during the forthcoming Summer and Autumns term for parents/carers of Devon primary and secondary school children, pre or post diagnosis.

We are delighted to announce that we are offering access for families of CYP (Children & Young People) who are currently on the autism assessment pathway, in addition to families of CYP who have received an autism diagnosis.

Attending the 'Autism & Us' parent programme gives you an opportunity to develop your understanding of autism and look at practical solutions to managing and supporting your child's presenting needs.

Full programme details and application process below:

Autism & Us programmes

- 4 weekly 'live online' sessions (approx. 2hrs each) related to the following topic/themes.

No.	Topic	Programme 1	Programme 2	Trainer
1	Autism overview	Thurs 4 May - 10 – 12	Wed 14 Jun - 4.30 – 6.30	Paul Lamanna
2	Communication	Thurs 11 May - 10 – 12	Wed 21 Jun - 4.30 – 6.30	Laura O'Shea
3	Understanding and supporting behaviour	Thurs 18 May - 10 – 12	Wed 5 Jul - 4.30 – 6.30	Laura Matthews
4	Sensory	Thurs 25 May - 10 – 12 <i>Laura O</i>	Wed 12 Jul - 4.30 – 6.30 <i>Kevin</i>	Laura O'Shea Kevin Jones

Apply direct by email to: educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk

To secure a place on any of the above programmes, or express your interest for forthcoming programmes. We will confirm your booking request, and provide you with a direct link to the event. They will be delivered on line 'live' via the Microsoft TEAMS platform.

During the Autumn term 2023, this Autism and Us programme will again be offered (Dates/times tbc).

Additionally we will also be offering the very popular themed/topic based workshops (Dates/times tbc):

Topic
Autism – Sensory processing + integration
Autism and Girls
Autism – Demand avoidance + PDA
Autism – Communication (verbal – support strategies)
Autism – Managing stress + anxiety
Autism – Vulnerability + online safety
Autism – Communication (pre/non verbal – support strategies)


Kind regards

Paul

Paul Lamanna
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www.devon.gov.uk/support-schools-settings (advice & guidance)

<https://devoneducationservices.co.uk> (training & traded services)

Devon County Council – Room L60 – County Hall – Topsham Road – Exeter – EX2 4QD