

# Family NewsBites



*A round-up to keep you updated (2.6.23)*

**Art Exhibition** - Plans are underway for the Art Exhibition being held from Monday 3rd July until Friday 7th July at the Ariel Centre @ KEVICC, Totnes.

Selected students are producing artwork to showcase, this includes claywork. Week commencing Monday 26th June, we will have a few more pieces to add to the collection as it is Arts Week at Bidwell Brook. We have Hazel from Slinky Sloth coming to visit to work with the students to produce some fantastic hanging designs!

<https://www.facebook.com/SlinkySloths/>

**Bags2School** - We sent home a Bags2School bag which hopefully you will have been able to fill during the half term holiday if you've had a bit of a tidy out of your wardrobes and cupboards! Please send the bag back to us on Monday 5th June, the first day back after the half term holiday. Our collection day is Tuesday 6th June. Following all your donations, we raised nearly £90 last time - can we tip over the £100 mark for this collection? Who knows! Thank you for your support. If you have filled the bag sent home and have additional donations to send in, please use a black bin liner or spare carrier bag. Thank you everyone.

**Social Media** - Online safety is very important to us and we have measures in place to ensure any devices used for learning in our schools are appropriately "locked down".

Please can families also check what their child/young person is viewing at home, who they are communicating with on social media and if possible, check in now and again on conversations / what is currently 'trending? WhatsApp is one of the favourite social media platforms that is widely used but recently, we have heard from a few students across the Federation whose peers have been a little unkind online. Attached is a WhatsApp guide which might help you open those potentially difficult conversations with your child around online messaging, as well as screen time at home.

Keeping everyone safe online is important for all of us. If you ever need any advice or are worried about your child's use of social media, please drop a line in the first instance to your Class Teacher.

# Family NewsBites



*A round-up to keep you updated (2.6.23)*

**Illness** - Even though the weather has finally improved over the last couple of weeks, we are still seeing cases of sore throats, coughs and colds in our classrooms. If your child or young person is ill, please keep them at home until they are fit and well enough to return to school *and* complete a full day of learning and activities. Mild illnesses such as sore throats and colds pass around a class quite quickly, affecting both pupils and staff alike. If we can keep everyone as healthy as we possibly can, this will improve overall pupil attendance and we would see less staff absence. Thank you for your support.

**BB Facebook Page** - We like to post on our BB Facebook page quite regularly. <https://www.facebook.com/bidwellbrookschoo>

As well as general updates and news, we also share photos of our students and their wonderful achievements. Click on the link above to follow us, if you wish.

**Fundraising** - A friend of Bidwell Brook School, Ben Tabb and his buddies, are supporting our playground fundraising by undertaking the Ultra Challenge South West Coast 50km in August. This trek is over difficult terrain so if you can, please click on the link and donate a few pounds: [Crowdfunding to help fundraise for the third stage of our Playground Project. Ultra Challenge South West Coast 50km for Bidwell Brook School, Devon. on JustGiving](#)

If you have a birthday coming up, you could also consider asking friends and families to donate to our playground appeal instead of buying a birthday present maybe?!! Just a thought. Every pound really makes a difference. Thank you.

**Dress Code - Sixth Form Students** - With the warmer weather upon us, please ensure your young person wears appropriate clothing into school each day. No crop tops and no spaghetti straps please, and shorts should reach just above the knee as a minimum. Our young people are still out and about regularly both on site and off site, so footwear should also provide good support and coverage of toes.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

# Family NewsBites



*A round-up to keep you updated (2.6.23)*

**BB PTFA** - Hullo from the PTFA! We are starting to prepare for the Summer Fete which is taking place on Thursday 6th July, running from 10.15 am - 11.45 am.

Raffle tickets have been ordered and once again, we will shortly be sending these out and asking all our families and our lovely local community to generously donate wine, prizes, luxury gifts and food items for our hampers.

The very popular PTFA Tombola will be back in action and the Wine / Water stall will no doubt sell out of bottles very quickly! Please could you spare just 30 minutes on the day to help out? We rely on just a few of us to continually support events and when additional parents and carers are able to spare a little time, it is very much appreciated. It's also a great way to meet and chat to other families who visit the stalls. You get to have some great conversations!

If you would like to help us, let the School Office know and we'll be in touch.

Thank you very much. We do have a "pre-Fete" meeting happening on Monday 26th June at 9.45 am. We'll be making up the hampers, ticketing the Tombola prizes and wrapping lots of bottles in tinfoil. If you fancy a cuppa and joining us, you would be most welcome!

**Transitions & New Classes for September** - We will share the new September class lists in the next few weeks. We have also booked in four class transition sessions where students will have the opportunity to join their new classes.

These sessions are happening on Monday 19th June, Tuesday 27th June, Wednesday 5th July and Thursday 13th July. Over the next half term, class meeting time will be prioritised for Teacher and TA information handovers to ensure all important knowledge is shared. At the end of term, a social story will be produced in readiness for the summer holiday. The social story will detail your child's new class, team and students.

Families also have the opportunity to visit Bidwell Brook in June to meet the new teacher and see the new classroom. Please check the dates on the calendar below to see when your key stage is invited into school.

**Useful Dates** - There have been a couple of date changes and a few new dates added to the Summer Term calendar. It's busy busy busy! Have a look on the next page for the latest updates.

**We hope you're enjoying the beautiful weather and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th June.**

# Family NewsBites



*A round-up to keep you updated (2.6.23)*

## Upcoming Dates

*w/c 29th May - May half term holiday for one week*

**Monday 5th June** - Pupils return to school

**Tuesday 6th June** - Bags2School Collection Day

**Monday 12th June** - September classroom visits for EYFS and KS1 families, 2 pm

**Tuesday 13th June** - Online Teams meeting at 5.30 pm regarding Earwig

**Wednesday 14th June** - September classroom visits for KS3 families, 2 pm

**Thursday 15th June** - September classroom visits for KS2 families, 2 pm

**Tuesday 20th June** - Online Teams event at 5.30 pm ref the PSHE curriculum

**Wednesday 21st June** - September classroom visits for KS5 families, 2 pm

**Wednesday 21st June** - SENTient Swimming Gala (BB hope to attend) (fyi)

**Wednesday 21st June** - Drop-in session regarding Earwig, 9.45-10.45 am

**Thursday 22nd June** - September classroom visits for KS4 families, 2 pm

**Monday 26th June** - Arts Week at BB

**Monday 26th June** - Next BB PTFA pre-Fete mini meeting at 9.45 am

**Wednesday 28th June** - Anti-Bullying & Diversity Day (fyi)

**Friday 30th June** - Sports Day (timings tbc)

**from Monday 3rd July - Friday 7th July** - Art Exhibition at Ariel Centre, KEVICCS

**Thursday 6th July** - BB Summer Fete, 10.15 am - 11.45 am

**WAS Friday 14th July NOW Thursday 13th July** - BB Prom 6.30 pm - 9 pm

**WAS Wed 19th July NOW Thursday 13th July** - BB Leavers' Assembly 10 am

**Friday 21st July** - Last Day of Term (for pupils and staff)

-----

**Monday 4th - Wednesday 6th September** - Staff Training Days

**Thursday 7th September** - Pupils return to BB

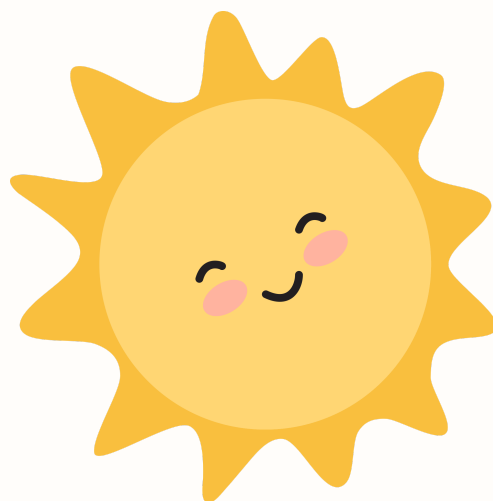
*w/c 23rd October - October half term holiday*

**Monday 30th October** - Pupils return to BB

**Monday 27th November** - Occasional Day - BB closed for one day

**Friday 15th December** - Last day of term

As the warm weather has finally arrived, please send your child / young person in with:



- A named water bottle
- A named cap / hat

Please also ensure you / they have applied a layer of suncream before leaving home and provide a named bottle of suncream to keep in their bag so it can be re-applied during the day.

Staff will help with this, if needed.



**ABSENCE LINE** - if your child or young person is absent, you must phone us on 01803 864120 and tell us why. It is our statutory duty to account for all our pupils on each school day so if we don't hear from you, or cannot reach you, we have to inform the Social Care team or carry out a welfare check to your home. Thank you for your co-operation.

Global instant messaging app



Inside WhatsApp

800 million

average monthly active users

Minimum age for users is

16

## Getting started

How does it work?

WhatsApp allows your child to send instant messages **only** to contacts that they have added to their WhatsApp account.

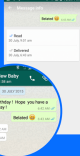


Only people who have a WhatsApp account can send and receive messages through the app.



Messages can be sent one to one...

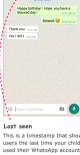
...or within a group conversation



**Remember -** For all messages sent, WhatsApp sends "read receipts" to tell sender if the message was delivered, read, seen or played (if a recipient had played video).

## Keeping things private

What information can be shared?



### Last seen

This is a timestamp that shows users the last time your child used their WhatsApp account.



### Status message

This can be customised to show what the person wants to share with his/her contacts.



### Online

This tells your contacts if you are online.



**Remember -** by default, WhatsApp will automatically set privacy settings to allow any WhatsApp user to view read, last seen messages and profile photo and status. If you don't share your last seen info, you won't be able to see other people's last seen info.

1

2

3

4



Tap the dotted icon



Tap 'Settings'



Hit 'Account'



Select 'Privacy'



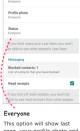
**Note** there is no way to hide online status from all users.

There are **three** settings to manage what information is shared

1

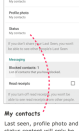
2

3



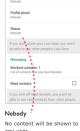
### Everyone

This option will show last seen, your profile photo and status to all users.



### My contacts

Last seen, profile photo and status content will only be available to your child's contacts from their address book.



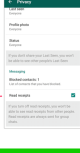
### Nobody

No content will be shown to any user.



**Please advise your child to change this setting to "My contacts" so that only their contacts are able to see this information.**

If you would like to stop sending "read receipts" you can untick this option in the App.



**Remember -** if you uncheck Read receipts, you will also not be able to see other users' read receipts.

## Location tagging

If this setting is switched on, any images and videos shared will also show the location of where they were taken on a map.

Talk to your children about the importance of keeping this function switched off.



Turn off 'Location services'

## Managing what content they can see

To make sure your child only receives messages from people they trust they can block, delete or report users.

### Delete or blocking a user



Blocked users will not be able to contact you. Any updates to your status, profile image and last seen timestamps will not be shown. If you have blocked someone they will not be notified but may still be able to work it out as your status message will no longer be displayed.

### Reporting spam



If you receive a message from an unknown contact you can Report spam and Block. This will report the user and add the user to your Blocked list.





**TORBAY COUNCIL**

Gifted to Torbay children and young people,  
with SEND, by Anderton & Rowland's Fun Fair



# FAIR PLAY DAY BACK FOR 2023!

Thursday 17th August 2023  
10:30am to 12:30pm

TORRE ABBEY MEADOWS

**FREE ENTRY**

FREE PARKING AT TORRE  
ABBAY MEADOWS (FIRST  
COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS)

HOW DO I SIGN UP? IF YOU ARE A TORBAY CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON WITH  
SEND/CARED FOR/YOUNG CARER OR CARE EXPERIENCED, USE THE QR CODE WHICH  
WILL LINK YOU TO AN EVENTBRITE PAGE.



Torbay Children's services SEND service and SEND Family Voice Torbay are bringing people together for a safe and fun day for families; increasing awareness and providing support. The fair will be a calmer environment with sensory awareness (reduced lights/speed)

A day where the fair is accessible for all invited!

For children who cannot mobilise there will be a sensory tent with activities. (Let's hope for sunshine)



FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, IN TORBAY, WITH SEND, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THAT ARE CARED FOR AND YOUNG CARERS/SIBLINGS OF THAT GROUP AND THEIR FAMILIES.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising: this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

### THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

### PRIVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

### UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

### SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

### SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them – including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

### PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.

## Meet Our Expert

A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DSL, Brendan O'Keeffe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experience of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.



National  
Online  
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



# Looking After Your WELLBEING ONLINE

We all know that taking care of our minds and bodies is essential to keep us feeling happy and healthy. The thing is, we spend so much of our time online these days that it's also important that we remember to look after ourselves in the digital world, too. Our poster has got some simple but useful tips for supporting your wellbeing while you're gaming, on social media or just using the internet.



## LOOK FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITIES