

# FAMILY NEWSLETTER

20TH OCTOBER 2023



I cannot believe that it is October already and that we are about to head into the half-term holiday!

This term, children have settled well into new routines, are working hard and learning lots. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for another tremendous half-term's work.

I was particularly impressed with some of our older students who have worked hard to raise money during their Enterprise sessions. It had been decided that the money raised would go towards some leisure activities for their Common Room. As part of their functional maths work, they measured the space, worked out how much money they needed, looked at purchasing options and have raised enough to purchase a pool table - which is being enjoyed by students and staff alike! The students have recognised that not all students will like/benefit from the pool table and as a result are continuing with their Enterprise work to raise money for some sensory equipment. The motivation and engagement in this piece of learning has been phenomenal and a joy to see. I was particularly impressed with the peer to peer interactions and the thoughtfulness of the students.

Students across all the sites have also enjoyed trips and visits out. We have had visiting musicians into school including the fabulous Raz Lee who has been working with some of the students at Bidwell Brook. At Ellen Tinkham School, pupils have taken part in both the Dartmouth Sports Festival and Forest Festival. Ellen Tinkham College students have attended internal and external work interviews, represented ourselves at an Employment Fair and also contributed to a Science Exhibition in Exeter. They have also started walking trips as part of their preparation for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

As we move towards the second half of the term, we have lots of exciting things planned so do keep an eye on the calendar dates!

As always, we are so grateful to our families for all your continued support.

Wishing you a fabulous half-term break and we look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 30th October 2023.



## CONTENTS INCLUDE ...

**New Menus** - Will be in place after half term. A copy of the menu and allergen info can be found on our website

**Halloween** - Students can wear Halloween costumes or bring them in BUT no face masks or scary face painting please!

**Class Coffee Mornings** - Dates set for each class, check the list in the newsletter

**“How to Support Your Child’s Reading”** - Click on the link to book your place (Wed 8th Nov at 1.30 pm)

**Term Dates** - Available on our website (link in newsletter)

**Connect Me Newsletter** - Useful advice which will help everyone in today’s cost of living crisis

**The Big Ambition Survey** - Please complete (link in newsletter)

**The Hollow Lane Club** - Are looking for Trustees.

**Careers Events** - Two events for pupils in Years 10/11+

**Dept for Health & Social Care** - There is a supply disruption for ADHD medications. Please contact your GP if you are concerned

**Update from the Governing Body** - News from Steven Finnemore, Chair of Governors. There’s still time to apply to be a Parent Governor!

**Rags2Riches** - Collection taking place on Wed 8th Nov

**School Nursing Services** - Available for 11-19 year olds and families. See newsletter for details/websites etc

**Autism Central** - Link to their website in the newsletter

**Breast Cancer Awareness** - Today, we raised £365.69! Thank you for your support with this special “Pink” Day

**Data Collection Sheets and Dietary Requirements Form** - If you haven’t yet done so, please check the pack sent home and return this to us after half term. It is really important we receive this back from you

## WHAT'S COMING UP

**BB Class Coffee Mornings** - please see the list of dates for individual classes later in this newsletter

**October half term** - week commencing 23rd October 2023

**Multi-Faith Day** - Wednesday 8th November

**“How to Support Your Child’s Reading” Family Session** - Wednesday 8th November

**Children In Need Day** - Friday 17th November

**Next BB PTFA Meeting** - Thursday 23rd November, 10 am

**Occasional Day (school closed)** - Monday 27th November 2023

**Christmas Performance Lower School** - Tuesday 5th December, 2 pm

**Christmas Performance Upper School** - Wednesday 6th December, 2 pm

**Christmas Jumper Day** - Thursday 7th December

**Christmas Bazaar** - Friday 8th December, 10.15 am, 12 noon raffle draw

**Christmas Lunch** - Wednesday 13th December

**Term Ends** - Friday 15th December



**New Menus** - Don't forget that we switch to our new menu after the half term break.

The menu and allergen information can be found on our website:

[Bidwell Brook Menu and Allergen Info](#)

**Halloween** - This year, Halloween falls during term time on Tuesday 31st October.

Students may wear or bring in Halloween costumes if they wish, BUT they must not wear or bring with them any face masks or have applied scary face paint! Thank you.



### **EVENT FOR FAMILIES!!!**

**It is our absolute pleasure to invite parents, carers and grandparents to class-based family events.**

Across the school year, we will be inviting families to join either their Class Teacher or a key member of staff to a Class Coffee Morning at Pizzalogica at Meadowbrook. Classes will be invited on an individual basis, so families can meet, get to know each other and have a chat.

The list of dates for each class is overleaf. If you didn't know, Pizzalogica is located in Meadowbrook which is the large building within the school car park. As part of their work experience, we are hoping for our older students to prep and serve the drinks so bring your pennies along! The Class Coffee Morning will run from 10.30 am. We hope you can join us at Meadowbrook!

**DATES FOR CLASS COFFEE MORNINGS**  
**AT MEADOWBROOK**  
**FROM 10.30 AM**

**Yellow - Wednesday 1st November**

**Purple - Wednesday 8th November**

**Orange - Wednesday 15th November**

**Pink - Wednesday 22nd November**

**Green - Wednesday 29th November**

**LS1 - Wednesday 10th January**

**LS2 - Wednesday 17th January**

**LS3 - Wednesday 24th January**

**S1 - Wednesday 31st January**

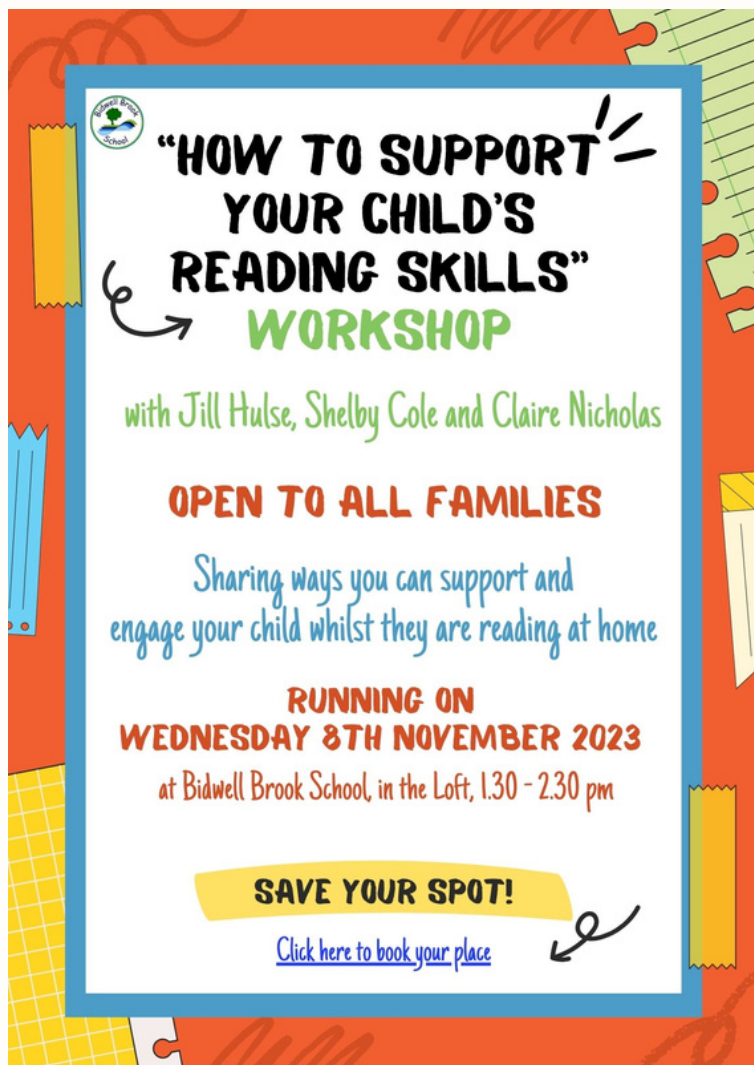
**S2 - Wednesday 7th February**

**S3 - Wednesday 21st February**

**S4 - Wednesday 28th February**

**Sixth Form 1 - Wednesday 6th March**

**Sixth Form 2 - Wednesday 13th March**



**“How to Support Your Child’s Reading Skills” Family Session** - Jill Hulse, Shelby Main and Claire Nicholas will be running this session for all BB families. It is open to anyone who would like to support a child’s reading at home.

If you are interested in attending, please [click on this link](#) and book your place.

We really hope you can join us!



Current Term Dates for this year and the next academic year can be found on our website [Bidwell Brook](#)

Term dates for the academic year 2025-2026 have yet to be finalised.



The rise in the cost of living means that we're all having to dig a little deeper to pay for household essentials such as food and energy. Many people in Devon are being forced to make difficult decisions, especially those on the lowest incomes.

If you don't have enough money coming into your household to live on, it's important to make sure you know what support is available.

[Connect Me](#) has put together a newsletter which might help.



**The Big Ambition** - The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ambition, a national survey of children and young people across England.

The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England. The survey is open until Friday 15th December.

Although the survey is not specifically aimed at children with SEND, it does include an option to indicate if you have special educational needs. It is very quick to complete, the questions are 'tick box' and pretty straightforward. The link is [here](#).



**The Hollow Lane Club**

**The Hollow Lane Club is calling for prospective Trustees!**

The charity, which has been running for more than 20 years, provides weekend, after school and summer holiday clubs for disabled children. It creates tailored play-based activities with support from specialist workers. It also provides families with vital respite. The charity is recruiting for volunteer Trustees and a Chair of Trustees.

Sharon Foxwell, Hollow Lane Club Trustee and parent said:

“The Hollow Lane Club has been life changing. It provides incredible experiences for our child, as well as essential respite for us. I don't know what we would do without it. A [report](#) by the disabled's children charity Contact this summer highlighted the severe lack of out-of-school provision for disabled children. This club is a lifeline for so many families. Its impact is huge, not just for the young people who are getting amazing experiences, but for families who are provided with respite. We'd love to hear from anyone who has an interest in our work and skills to share, and who may consider becoming a Trustee.”

Anyone interested in becoming a Trustee should visit the Hollow Lane Club [website](#) or email [admin@hollowlane.org.uk](mailto:admin@hollowlane.org.uk)

**Careers Events** - Devon County Council (in partnership with others) is putting on two identical events promoting routes into employment for young people with SEND. The emphasis will be on supported internships and supported employment.

## Aspirations for Employment: exploring options



<p><b>Tuesday 21 November 2023</b> 10am - 2pm <b>Grosvenor Church</b> Old Station Road, Barnstaple EX32 8PB</p> <p>Sign up: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/687904820837?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/687904820837?aff=oddtcreator</a></p>	<p><b>Thursday 29 February 2024</b> 10am - 2pm <b>The Courtenay Centre</b> Kingsteignton Road, Newton Abbot TQ12 2QA</p> <p>Sign up: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/687943667027?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/687943667027?aff=oddtcreator</a></p>
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Doubling supported internship provision in England.



Funded by





These events are mainly aimed at parent carers and young people (Year 10/Year 11 upwards). You can book your place using these Eventbrite links:

Book [Barnstaple](#).

Book [Newton Abbot](#).

Email Alison Newcombe for more [info](#).

## Learn more about Supported Employment and the options available

### Hear from:

- Young people and adults who have benefited from Supported Employment

### Representatives from:

- Parent Carer Forum Devon
- Job Centre Plus
- Careers South West
- Devon County Council
- Education providers
- Supported Employment providers

For more information, email [alison.newcombe@devon.gov.uk](mailto:alison.newcombe@devon.gov.uk)

In case you haven't heard, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a [National Patient Safety Alert](#) on supply disruptions affecting various strengths of the following medications for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD):

- Methylphenidate\*
- Lisdexamfetamine
- Guanfacine

A full list of products affected is available at [CAS-ViewAlert](#).



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

The supply disruption is caused by a combination of manufacturing issues and an increased global demand. Other ADHD products remain available but cannot meet excessive increases in demand.

At present, the supply disruptions are expected to resolve at various dates between October and December 2023.

The Dept has advised there may therefore be children and young people who have had to change their medication, may be missing doses, or where treatment breaks are planned or enforced as a result of the current situation. Please contact your GP if you are concerned.

### **UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNING BODY - MESSAGE FROM STEVEN FINNEMORE, CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**

The last academic year finished on a high, with both Ellen Tinkham and Bidwell Brook both rated as 'Good' by Ofsted. These were great results under Ofsted's new parameters and Governors were delighted with the outcome.

Following the Ofsted visits, we are aware of our strengths and what we need to do to improve in some areas, and we will be supporting the schools to this end.

Over the summer, Su Aves and Deb Norman decided to step down as Governors after several years of service. Steve Cleverly, longstanding Governor at the Federation and the Chair for several years, has just retired from the Board. Jordan Conibere has joined the Governing Body, following a vote by staff and Tom Bates has chosen to stay on as a Governor to continue supporting the school strategically. We have a couple of vacancies in the Governing Body, one of which is a Parent Governor vacancy. Please consider apply for this position (a copy of the paperwork previously distributed is attached).

I hope you all have an enjoyable half term break. The Governors look forward to seeing you at Christmas Fayres and seasonal performances next half term.



**Rags2Riches** - We have booked in another Bag Collection to raise much needed funds for the school. Bags have been sent home so if you are planning a tidy of wardrobes and cupboards over the half term holiday, please consider sending your clothing and accessories into school. Our collection date is **Wednesday 8th November**. Please see the flyer below on what can be collected. It would be great if you could keep your bags at home and send them into school from Monday 6th November otherwise we'll be struggling to store it all! You can use black bin liners if you have lots to send in. Thanks very much!



Please help us by donating your unwanted reusable clothes and accessories.  
Donated items become affordable clothing and accessories.

**WE ACCEPT CLEAN,  
GOOD QUALITY, DRY,  
REUSABLE CLOTHING**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adults, Childrens & Babies Clothing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jewellery and Accessories |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paired Shoes and Footwear           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Belts and Handbags        |

A full list of reusable items is listed on our website  
[www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk](http://www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk)

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT**

**POOR QUALITY ITEMS SUCH AS  
DIRTY, WET, RIPPED OR SOILED  
CLOTHES.  
PILLOWS, DUVETS, CURTAINS,  
BOOKS CDs OR ANY UNIFORM**

Please use the clothing bag provided.  
You can also use any additional bag if required.

Collection Date:

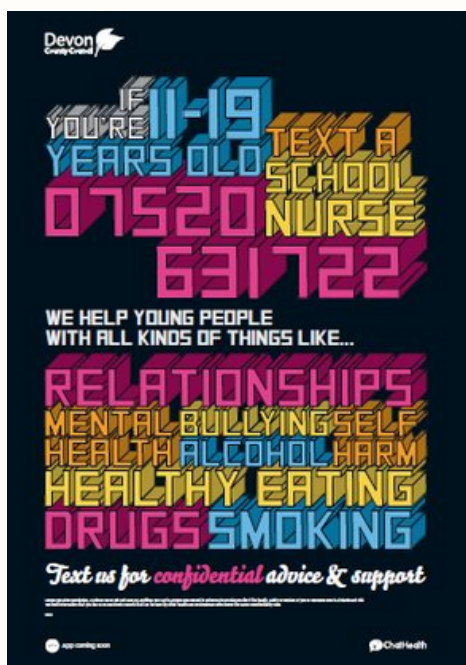
**WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER**

**Please remember - NO UNIFORM**



**School Nursing Service for 11-19's** - If you have a young person aged 11-19 and live in Devon, they can contact a school nurse for confidential [advice and support](#) via text on 07520 631722. It's quick and easy, anonymous, and non-judgemental and a school nurse will respond within 24 hours (between the hours of Mon-Fr 9-5, excluding bank holidays).

You can also find lots of information about different subjects and health needs and where they can get support if they need it via this [website](#).



**School Nursing service for parents/carers and primary aged children** - Parents/carers can contact the public health nursing team (health visitors and school nurses) for [information and advice](#) on 07520631721. There is also a [website](#) that's split into a kids zone and a parent's zone with information about a range of health and wellbeing needs and sources of support if you need it.





Another useful resource for our families.



This [website](#) contains information regarding online education, events, parent advice and guidance as well as being a peer forum and giving access to 1:1 hubs.

Thank you very much for supporting our “Pink” event today in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness. From the raffle and fundraising activities, we raised an amazing **£365.69!**



**Data Collection Sheets and Dietary Requirements Forms** - Thank you if you have returned your Data Collection and Dietary Requirement form. However, we are still missing quite a few returns from families. It is really important we have the correct contact details and other information from you for our school database and for our communications with you.

South West Norse also need a copy of the Dietary Requirements Form for their Kitchens, in case a member of staff is absent and a dietary requirement needs double-checking. We look forward to receiving all completed packs after half term. Thank you.



Extra session added due to demand from parents and teachers

**“Every parent and teacher should see this...”  
Mr Mead, Headteacher at Lytchett Minster school, Dorset.**

Do you sometimes find your teens behaviour confusing?  
challenging? worrying?



## UNDERSTANDING THE TEENAGE BRAIN

30th October 2023. 6:30-8:30pm

Jane Keyworth, Lead Facilitator at FACE  
giving a two hour talk to parents (and teachers!), explaining why teens,  
think, feel, and behave very differently from adults.

Book online now £24 [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](https://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)



**BIDWELL BROOK SCHOOL**  
SHINNERS BRIDGE, DARTINGTON,  
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e: [admin@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk)



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t: 01392 482533  
e: [college@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk](mailto:college@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk)

**MRS NIKKI BURROUGHS – EXECUTIVE HEAD**

**ELLEN TINKHAM SCHOOL**  
HOLLOW LANE, EXETER, DEVON, EX1 3RW t: 01392 467168 e: [school@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk](mailto:school@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk)

13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parent or Carer

## **PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY**

There is a vacancy for a parent governor on our Federation's governing body and I am writing to invite applications to fill this vacancy. Please think about becoming a governor, or encouraging others to volunteer.

Parent governors are welcomed as valued members of the governor team. Governors play an important role; working together as a group, responsible for the strategic direction of the Federation, promoting high standards of educational achievement, and ensuring our resources are used to maximum impact.

Governors must govern in the best interest of all pupils and the whole Federation; it is not their role to represent a particular group. Stakeholder engagement is an important, but distinct, activity with appropriate structures and arrangements in place.

Life as a governor is interesting and varied and we feel sure that there are parents prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the Federation's performance.

Training and support will be available to help you develop into the role. The standard term of office for parent governors is 4 years (although you can step down before that if required) and Governors meet at least twice every half term (6 weeks) for meetings, as well as carrying out occasional Monitoring Walks at the schools, and attending events like sports days, careers meetings etc.

If you would like more information or to stand for election, **please complete and sign the enclosed nomination form** and email it to Katy Young [clerk@learntolivefederation.co.uk](mailto:clerk@learntolivefederation.co.uk) no later than 12 noon on Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October. If you wish, you can include a few details about yourself and why you would like to become a governor (up to 100 words).

An election, by secret ballot, will be held if more nominations are received than the number of vacancies, and your nomination form would be circulated to all parents to help them decide who to vote for. You do not have to complete this section, but if you don't you may put yourself at a disadvantage if there is an election. If an election is needed details of the full process will be sent out to all families.

Nominations must be from parents or carers with children at the Federation on the date that nominations close.

The enclosed sheet summarises the disqualification criteria to serve as a governor. Anyone standing for election must certify that they are not disqualified for any reason. Parents/carers who have paid employment in the Federation for 500 hours per academic year or more, or who are elected members of the Local Authority are not eligible to stand in these elections.

Yours sincerely,

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

Steven Finnemore  
Chair of Governors

## **Disqualification criteria**

A person is disqualified from holding or from continuing to hold office as a governor or associate member if he or she:

- fails to attend the governing body meetings – without the consent of the governing body – for a continuous period of six months, beginning with the date of the first meeting missed (not applicable to ex officio governors);
- is subject to a bankruptcy restriction order, an interim bankruptcy restriction order, a debt relief order or an interim debt relief order;
- has had his or her estate sequestered and the sequestration order has not been discharged, annulled or reduced;
- is subject to:
  - I. a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986
  - II. a disqualification order under Part 2 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1989
  - III. a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002
  - IV. an order made under Section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under a County Court administration order);
- has been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by the Charity Commissioners or High Court on grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement, or under Section 34 of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 from participating in the management or control of any body;
- is included in the list of people considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children;
- is disqualified from working with children or subject to a direction under Section 142 of the Education Act 2002;
- is disqualified from registration for childminding or providing day care;
- is disqualified from registration under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006;
- has received a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months (without the option of a fine) in the five years before becoming a governor or since becoming a governor;
- has received a prison sentence of two-and-a-half years or more in the 20 years before becoming a governor;
- has at any time received a prison sentence of five years or more;
- has been fined for causing a nuisance or disturbance on school premises during the five years prior to or since appointment or election as a governor;
- refuses to allow an application to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for a DBS check.



## NOMINATION FORM

Election for a parent governor at Learn to Live Federation

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children in year(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Pen Portrait (maximum 100 words) \*

I wish to serve as a Parent Governor and to be a candidate if an election is necessary. I have read the rules regarding the eligibility to become a governor which I received with the nomination form and I confirm that I am eligible to serve as a School Governor.

Signed:

Date:

**Please return this form to Katy Young, via email to [clerk@learntolivefederation.co.uk](mailto:clerk@learntolivefederation.co.uk) by 12noon on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.**

\* If you wish you can include a few details about yourself and why you would like to become a governor (not exceeding 100 words). This will then be circulated to all parents to help them decided who to vote for if an election is required. You do not have to complete this section, but if you don't you may put yourself at a disadvantage if there is an election.