

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

2ND MAY 2024



Welcome to the Summer Term!

CONTENTS INCLUDE ...

What's Coming Up - Overleaf are dates of events happening this term.

0-25 SEND Team - Although the 0-25 contact phone number hasn't changed, the Customer Service Centre will now be taking your call and either answering your query, or leaving a message for the relevant contact for you.

Key Stage Coffee Mornings - Don't forget to put the date in your diary. Key Stage families, friends, grandparents, neighbours are invited along to these coffee mornings at Pizzalogica. Sessions are booked on Wednesday's from 10.30 am. Our students on Work Experience are in the cafe making and serving drinks, so it is always great to support them! Thank you.

Enabling - We appreciate it is difficult for families to secure Enabling services and the Enabling List we hold in school is as up to date as it can be. Staff have the choice whether they wish to enable for a family outside of school hours - they may choose to support pupils in their class or take the opportunity to have separation time from those they spend the week with. Please be advised school is unable to influence or get involved with any enabling services. Thank you.

BB Plant Sale - Thank you so much everyone for your very kind donations of plants and seedlings. We raised over £200 at the Plant Sale last Friday - money which the PTFA will use to support our children. Thank you.

Transitions Adult Social Care (TASC) Service - It is possible for families to complete a referral form for students who are due to move to Adult Services. The link is in the newsletter, along with DCC information about TASC.

Communication with Families - There are various ways we keep in touch with families including the Home:School Diary, emails, text messages, newsletters and info on our website plus messages and photos of our pupils on the BB Facebook page. If you are not receiving messages, please contact Dawn Martin in the School Office who will check to see if we have the correct email/mobile number for you. Thank you.

BB Main Playground - We are waiting for designs and ideas to come in from playground providers before moving forward with the last couple of phases of this project.

Dress Code - Details in the newsletter for Sixth Form students but no flip flops to be worn in school this summer please. Thanks very much.

Safeguarding - Contact details listed.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday, no school

Wednesday 8th May - Ladybirds and Dragonflies families invited to their Key Stage Coffee Morning at Pizzalogica at 10.30 am

Saturday 11th / Sunday 12th May - Ten Tors and Jubilee Challenge on Dartmoor (Good Luck Team BB!)

Wednesday 15th May - Key Stage 2 (Purple, Yellow, Orange, Green, Pink) families invited to their Key Stage Coffee Morning at Pizzalogica at 10.30 am

Wednesday 22nd May - Key Stage 3 (Lower Seniors) families invited to their Key Stage Coffee Morning at Pizzalogica at 10.30 am

Thursday 23rd May - Ladybirds and Dragonflies family visits into BB, from 1.45 pm (details to follow)

w/c 27th May - Half Term holiday

Monday 3rd June - Pupils return to school

Wednesday 5th June - Key Stage 4 (Seniors) families invited to their Key Stage Coffee Morning at Pizzalogica at 10.30 am

Wednesday 12th June - Sixth Form families invited to their Key Stage Coffee Morning at Pizzalogica at 10.30 am

Tuesday 18th June - E-Safety Session for parents/carers AND GRANDPARENTS! 12.30 pm until 1.30 pm (details to follow)

Tuesday 18th June - Key Stage 2 family visits into BB for some Art Fun, from 1.45 pm (details to follow)

Thursday 20th June - Sixth Form family visit into BB, from 1.45 pm (details to follow)

Thursday 4th July - Key Stage 3 family visit into BB, from 1.45 pm (details to follow)

Friday 5th July - Key Stage 4 family assembly at BB, from 1.45 pm (details to follow)

Friday 12th July - School Fete, 10.15 am - 11.45 am, 12 noon raffle

0-25 SEND Team - There is a new system for contacting Devon County Council's 0-25 SEND team.

The phone number has stayed the same - **01392 380434** - but dedicated phone lines will be open on weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm. This should make it easier for families to call the Team at times suited to you.

Your call will be answered by the Customer Service Centre team who have received training about SEND. This new system should free people up within the SEND Statutory Team to be able to better focus on their casework. At present, almost all the calls received to the dedicated phone line result in a message being left with a request for a call back. The 0-25 Team are hoping the Customer Service Centre will be better placed to help answer your call and pass the message on promptly.

Join us for a morning of chat and coffee!

WEDNESDAY'S

1st May
Sixth Form

8th May
Early Years & Key Stage 1

15th May
Key Stage 2

22nd May
Key Stage 3

May Half Term

5th June
Key Stage 4

12th June
Sixth Form



Key Stage Coffee Mornings - Don't forget we are still running our Key Stage Family/Friends/Neighbours coffee mornings at Pizzalogica on Wednesday's at 10.30 am.

Drinks are served by our Work Experience students so please support them!

Catch up with old friends and make new ones over a cup of coffee served by BB's own work experience students



@ Pizzalogica @ Meadowbrook, 10.30 am

Enabling - Recently, we've received a marked increase in the number of requests from families asking for a copy of the Enabling List.



As a school, we are aware that some families do need additional support at home on weekday evenings, weekends and especially over the school holidays. Bidwell Brook holds an Enabling List so that our staff, if they wish, can choose to add their contact details and provide an enabling service to families. It is also the staff's responsibility to remove their details from the list should they no longer wish to offer an enabling service. We have no involvement or say on which members of staff are added to the list, we do not get involved in any arrangement between a family and a member of staff, and we cannot put pressure on either party to work together or settle any disagreements.

Staff members can be selective with families they wish to work for and with outside of school hours. Some staff may wish to support pupils who are very well known to them, as they find this arrangement easier. Other staff may offer an enabling service but choose to enable for pupils not in their classroom, so that they have a little separation time from the children they support across the week.

We understand it can be frustrating for families if they know that staff within their classroom offer an enabling service, have added their details to the Enabling List but decline to offer support when asked. Please bear in mind there may be many reasons if this happens and whilst it can be frustrating and upsetting, the school cannot become involved in what is a private decision and arrangement between an enabler and a family.

To help assist our families as much as possible, we continue to advertise sign-up to the Enabling List we hold and request staff update their details if they change. We will continue to send out the List to families who request a copy and implore those involved in any enabling arrangement to ensure there is adequate insurance and relevant Enabling DBS checks in place. Thank you for your understanding.

thank
you

Last Friday's Plant Sale - Your support in sending in donations of seedlings and plants last week was amazing! It was a little damp as parents and staff set up the tables on Totnes High Street, but coffee and cake kept us cheerful as well as the steady stream of folk from Totnes who bought from us. The PTFA has raised over £200! Fantastic news!! **Thank you so much!**



Transitions Adult Social Care (TASC) service - Did you know that parents and carers can self refer young people to the [TASC service](#)? The link to complete the form is [here](#). By completing the form, you can take a positive step towards the transition of students to adult services.

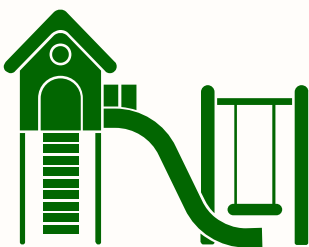
Communications from School - There are various ways we keep in touch with our families. The Home:School Diary is available for messages back and forth from your Class Teacher and class. Another way to contact your teacher is via email. If you need a reminder of what that is, please pop a request in the diary.



Class letters and information is usually sent out via email on SchoolComms. If the information is urgent, we do send hard copies home but we try to save paper as much as possible. You may also get text messages from us too. Newsletters, term dates, menus can all be found on our [website](#). And we also publicise upcoming events and show photos of our wonderful pupils on the BB Facebook page.

If you are not receiving information regularly from us, please ensure your up to date email address and/or mobile number is registered with the School Office. Dawn Martin will be able to update our database to ensure messages are getting through to you. We'd hate you to miss out!

BB Main Playground - Plans continue to finish the last couple of phases of our main playground. We are still fundraising and have met with playground designers who are submitting their designs and ideas to us now.



Once the designs have been agreed, we will put in a firm timeline of works to be carried out. Exciting times!



Dress Code - With warmer weather around the corner (ever hopeful), this is a gentle reminder that students should not wear flip flops to school. Ideally footwear should cover the toes and back of the foot/ankle. For Sixth Form students, shorts, dresses, skirts should be knee length, and tops should not be revealing (spaghetti straps) or low cut. Thank you.

Safeguarding - Across our Federation, we take safeguarding very seriously and have robust policies and procedures in place. If you ever have a safeguarding or wellbeing concern, please contact your **Designated Safeguarding Lead - Kate Bromage**.

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

Kate Bromage



If Kate is unavailable to speak to or meet with, please contact one of our **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads**.

DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS

Marie Barrett

Tom Cook

Danielle Prowse

Nikki Burroughs



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TEKKEN 8



Thirty years after its debut on the original PlayStation, the Tekken franchise is back with its eighth mainstream instalment. A one-on-one fighting game series in the same vein as Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, Tekken 8 can be commended for its relative lack of in-game purchases – but there's still plenty to consider in keeping young players safe from potential hazards.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FUTURE SPENDING?

Tekken 8 carries a PEGI 16 rating, with the assessors noting its violence, occasional profanity and in-game purchase options. The latter issue, however, is a little different to what you may expect from a modern game: unlike many high-profile releases, Tekken 8's content is all accessible without spending any extra money. The exceptions are new characters, which will become available to purchase separately in the future.

FAMILY CONFLICT

Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Awakens', focuses on two of the series' most important characters – Kazuya and Jin, a father and son who have been warring for years. The sight of two family members physically fighting each other may be hard to understand (and difficult to deal with) for some children – causing confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt one another.

COPYCAT RISK

With characters flying across the screen using a mixture of authentic and fantastical fighting styles, younger children and impressionable teens may find themselves tempted to copy their favourite characters or act out their epic fights in real life. This could simply amount to harmless fun – but could also easily lead to accidents, injury and distress if young gamers start actually landing blows.

RANKED ONLINE PLAY

Tekken 8 features an array of online modes – most notably its 'Ranked' section, where players battle to reach the top spot of a worldwide leaderboard. Many players will dedicate significant amounts of time to practising and – while the challenge can be fun – some of these matches can get extremely competitive. Children could become obsessed with climbing the rankings and dedicate an unhealthy amount of time to the game or grow angry if they wind up on a losing streak.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

As a fighting game, Tekken 8's gameplay is heavily based on punching, kicking and throwing opponents around – while some characters' attacks occasionally involve weapons. Most of the violence is comparatively cartoonish in its execution and lacking in gore, but the fact remains that the action still revolves entirely around intense combat and inflicting damage on an opponent.

ONLINE CONTACT

Tekken 8 doesn't offer voice chat by default, but a player's platform ID is visible (such as their PlayStation Network ID, Steam account or Xbox gamertag). Rival players can, therefore, reach out via messages if they wish. Given the game's fiercely competitive nature, these communications can potentially put children at risk of online abuse if their opponent is a particularly sore loser.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TRY IT OUT YOURSELF

As with many popular games, we'd recommend checking it out for yourself in advance if you have any concerns. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo version available (for all platforms) which lets you experience fights with a handful of the characters: a useful way of establishing first-hand whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT

While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'spray' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that most observers would describe as gory (unlike, for instance, the Mortal Kombat franchise). Of course, any fighting game worthy of the name will include a significant degree of violence – but the level at which the battles in Tekken are pitched may not be an issue for some children.

MARTIAL ARTS MOTIVATION?

With characters utilising real-world fighting styles such as jiu-jitsu, boxing and kickboxing, Tekken could represent an opportunity to channel a child's fondness for the game into a beneficial interest in real-world martial arts. Classes can help to build young people's confidence and physical fitness, as well as providing avenues for making new friends.

CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS

If a child plays Tekken online with anyone apart from their friends, then parents and carers could consider restricting communications – such as shutting off the facility to be messaged by other players (although the child's profile name will still be displayed) – to reduce the chance of contact from strangers. This can be done via the console's account settings or through the child's Steam account (if playing on PC).

Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



DARTINGTON RECREATION
ASSOCIATION
@DARTINGTONRA



EXTRAVAGANZA

A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING
DAY
CELEBRATING EVERYTHING AT
MEADOWBROOK

MUSIC OUTSIDE AND LOTS OF
ACTIVITIES

RAFFLE
BOOGIE WOOGIE DISCO
BASKETBALL*FOOTBALL
BIKING*YOGA*DRAMA

SUNDAY 12TH MAY 12-6PM

Suggested donation
Upwards of £5 per household
All funds raised will go to the swimming pool
refurbishment!



FRAZOO

