

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

18TH JUNE 2024



A short newsletter with dates (some are new!).

CONTENTS INCLUDE ...

What's Coming Up - Overleaf are dates of events happening this term. If you are coming in for an afternoon, you can take your child/young person home at the end of the session - just remember to tell Transport and the Teacher! Thanks.

PTFA Meeting Thursday 27th June - Please come along! 9.30 am at the school. We are finalising plans for the Summer Fete!

September Classes - Letters are coming home before the end of June detailing your child's Class Teacher for September and the forenames of other pupils in the class. Families have the opportunity to meet with the new Class Teacher in person, online or via a phone call on the evening of Wednesday 17th July. Additional Transition documents will be with you by the end of term, for you and your child to look over during the summer.

September Parents' Evening - Dates for the Diary - Tuesday 24th or Wednesday 25th September to meet your Class Teacher in school and see the new classroom, or meet them online or have your 15 minute appointment via a phone call.

Communications Survey - Thanks for your feedback, especially the comments about the Home:School diaries. We are working on these and looking to include some of your ideas into the final version.

Sickness Policy - A few of our families were unaware of the content, so a copy is attached.

Family Fund - Details in the newsletter of an organisation offering links to support services for our families.

Dress Code - A gentle reminder for students to wear suitable clothing and footwear into school. Thanks.

Sports Day - HELP NEEDED by families to run a family refreshment stall. Are you free for the morning or afternoon session to help out?

Family Hubs - News on how to have YOUR say on local Children's Centres becoming Family Hubs. There's also a survey to complete from Devon County Council.

Safeguarding - Contact details listed.

WHAT'S COMING UP

JUNE

w/c 17th June - Arts Week. Gaby Lovatt, local Artist, will be coming into school to facilitate workshop sessions focused on creating portraits

Thursday 20th June - Sixth Form family picnic! Sixth Form think it would be fun to have a picnic out on the playing field behind Meadowbrook (opposite Dartington Post Office TQ9 6JD). Students will prepare picnic snacks in the morning as part of their life skills and will head out around 12.45 pm - 1 pm. Come and join them! Bring a chair and a picnic blanket! (SF1, SF2)

Thursday 27th June - PTFA meeting at 9.30 am in person at BB. We are finalising our Summer Fete plans!

JULY

w/c 1st July - Parents' Survey being sent out

Thursday 4th July - Key Stage 3 family visits into BB for some Summer Fun Activities, from 1.45 pm. Families to make their way to their young person's classroom (Lower Seniors 1, 2 and 3)

Friday 5th July - Key Stage 4 family assembly at BB, from 1.45 pm (Seniors 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Thursday 11th July - Year 6 overnight camping at BB (selected pupils, invites and paperwork already sent home)

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

*** DATES ADDED ***

Wednesday 17th July - Opportunity for Parents & Carers to meet their new September Teacher. Either in person in the Hall or online or a telephone call

Thursday 18th July - BB Prom for selected older students and Year 14 leavers

Wednesday 24th July - Sports Day on the DRA field (behind Meadowbrook, over the bridge). Lower school incl Early Years - 9.30 am arrival, 12 noon finish. Upper School (Lower Seniors, Seniors, Sixth Form) - 12.45 pm arrival, 2.45 pm finish

Thursday 25th July - BB Leavers' Assembly, 10 am, families welcome

Thursday 25th July - Last day of the Summer Term for pupils and staff

SEPTEMBER

Monday 9th September - First day of the Autumn Term for pupils

Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th September - Parents' Evening incl opportunity to see the new Classroom (if you wish)

PTFA Meeting - Our next meeting is **Thursday 27th June at 9.30 am in person at BB**. We are finalising plans for the stalls at the Summer Fete so if you can help, please come along to the meeting or give the Office a call.

Raffle tickets are heading your way. Please send your money, stubs and any unused tickets back to the office. And if you have any spare school uniform, raffle and tombola prizes, hamper items, we would love to receive these.

All funds raised come back to the school!

The poster features a blue sky background with a bright yellow sun on the left and a string of colorful triangular bunting flags (green, red, white with polka dots, red, white with polka dots, green, yellow with polka dots) on the right. The text is centered and uses a mix of white and red colors. At the bottom, there are illustrations of a pink cupcake, three lollipops (one swirl, one purple, one blue and white striped), and a pink ice cream cone.

Bidwell Brook School

Summer Fayre

Friday 12th July 2024
10:15 – 11:45 am

Stalls and Games
Raffle, Tombola, Bric a Brac,
Water & Wine
Pre-loved School Uniform Stall
&
Refreshments

All proceeds go to Bidwell Brook School & the PTFA



September Classes

Transitions - Class lists for September are being finalised for pupils, Class Teachers and support staff, and we'll be able to provide you with the name of your September Class Teacher and the forenames of other pupils in the class shortly. Letters will be out to you in the next couple of weeks.

Additional Transition documents will be sent to our families by the end of term, ready for you/your child to look at over the summer holiday.

Pupils - September Teachers and other key staff will be visiting the pupils in their existing classrooms, introducing themselves and spending time with the pupils in their familiar environment. We will also have Transition Social Stories available for everyone too.

“Meet the September Teacher“ Family Evening - Wednesday 17th July - Families have the opportunity to spend 15 minutes either in person, online or over the phone, chatting with your new September Class Teacher. A letter similar to our Parents' Evening letter will be sent to you before the end of June so you can book your time slot.

If you choose to meet your September Class Teacher in person, the meeting will take place in the School Hall as our classrooms are still being used by the existing classes up until the end of term.

September Parents' Evening - Families will have the opportunity to meet again with their new Class Teacher to set targets for the year and visit the new Classroom. As usual, appointments can be made in person, online or via a phone call. The majority of our appointments will happen on Tuesday 24th or Wednesday 25th September 2024.



Communication Survey - Thank you for completing this survey. Your comments around the Home:School Diaries were particularly useful and we hope to make some changes to next year's diaries based on your feedback.



The annual Parents' Survey based on Ofsted questions, will be circulated at the beginning of July.

Sickness Policy - A few parents are not aware of the specifics in this policy. A copy is attached.



Circus Starr - Wednesday 18th September - Circus Starr have been in contact to advise they're coming to Torquay!

We've asked for 20 tickets for the 4.45 pm show and 60 tickets for the 7 pm show. As soon as we receive the tickets, we'll let you know and they will be distributed on a "first come first served basis".

Family Fund - The National Charity, Family Fund, has launched a new 'Discover more support' search tool on their website. It can help you more easily find services best suited to you and your family.



Family Fund
Helping disabled children

Featuring topics like money and benefits, mental health and wellbeing, education and learning and disability, you can now browse through 130 trusted organisations listed on the new search tool - to find available support services in your local area, or nationally.

To use the tool and find out more, [head to Family Fund's website.](#)



Dress Code - This is a gentle reminder that students should not wear flip flops to school. 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!

HELP NEEDED

Wednesday 24th July at Sports Day

The PTFA would like to serve refreshments on the DRA field for families coming to cheer on/participate in Sports Day! If you are free for the morning or afternoon session, please could you help sell refreshments? This will be a family run refreshment stall so if we don't have enough volunteers, it won't happen. Please email

admin@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk

Timetable

Lower School incl Early Years =

9.30 am arrival, 12 noon finish

Upper School from Lower Seniors upwards incl Sixth Form =

12.45 pm arrival, 2.45 pm finish

Children's Centre Consultation - As part of the development of Family Hubs, Devon CC are reviewing their Children's Centre buildings and where they are.

The model of providing support to families is changing. There will be a universal offer for 0-19 year olds, and to 25 years old for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and care experienced young people.

Devon CC need to hear how you have used Children's Centres and what you value most. They are proposing to create Family Hubs centres in each district council area, and outreach hubs in local communities.

There are 27 children's centres across Devon. This proposal suggests that:

- five are maintained to use as Family Hubs
- up to eighteen could potentially be used in an outreach capacity, if partners are open to this arrangement
- three will be completely passed to partners for alternative use such as childcare
- one will close



Please follow **[THIS LINK](#)** to Devon CC's [site and voice your opinion.](#)

The survey closes at midnight on
Wednesday 3rd July 2024.

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**.



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





SICKNESS POLICY

We recognise our responsibility to promote a learning environment that is safe and healthy for all. In order to maintain a clean and healthy environment this policy provides guidance for staff and parents as to when students should or should not be in school if showing signs of sickness. The health and well-being of all students is of paramount importance to enable them to be successful learners in everything they do.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- To ensure that sick children are appropriately and correctly identified.
- To ensure sick children are cared for appropriately.
- To protect children and adults from preventable infection.
- To enable staff and parents to be clear about the requirements and procedures when children are unwell.

The school has not got any facilities to look after students who are sick.

It is the responsibility of the parent / carer to collect their student promptly, if they are unwell during the school day. Parents are asked to ensure the school has a contact number where they can be reached in emergencies.

Students should not be brought to school if they are displaying signs of illness. If students do come into school and staff feel that they are unfit for school, parents/carers/emergency contacts will be contacted and requested to come and collect their child and requested not to return their child to school until symptom free.

If a student is thought to be unwell while at school they will be seen by the school nurse, nursing assistant or in their absence by a member of SLT, as the condition of the child needs to be assessed. This will be done in a kind and caring manner. The child may be distressed, so it is important to be calm and reassuring. The Head of School will be informed of any sick students.

Reasons students will be asked to be collected from school due to illness/medical condition or why students should be kept at home:

- Following a hospital admission for surgery or illness, please check with the therapy / Medical team for advice, as some operations will need longer recovery periods than others.
- If a student has a temperature of 38° C and above.
- A student who is needing regular paracetamol throughout the day should be kept at home until well.

- Coughs and colds do not normally require the student to be absent from school but this depends on the severity and how the student is able to cope with the school routine. Students who have colds which are obviously 'streaming' and they look unwell and are unable to participate in lessons.
- Students who have diarrhoea and vomiting. Parents must keep their child home for 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea and can only return to school providing they are well enough. Students will not be able to swim for the 2 weeks following this episode. We understand that some children/young people may take medication for constipation. Please ensure that staff are made aware if this is the case. If your child/young person requires medication as part of a disimpaction plan, this should be carried out at home.
- During the first 48 hours of antibiotic treatment. A form will be sent home for parents to sign before antibiotics can be given in school and will only be given if stated 4 times a day.
- If a student has an infection which can spread easily – refer to following: [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/health-protection-in-children-and-young-people-settings-including-education) Students with infectious or contagious diseases will not be permitted to attend for certain periods(see appendix) If staff suspect that a student has an infectious or contagious disease they will request that parents/carers consult a doctor before returning their child to school and the school may seek advice from the Health Protection Agency
- Post op anaesthetic or sedation e.g. dental extraction, day case; your child needs to stay at home for 24 hours.
- If a student's asthma is flaring up and they are not responding to their inhalers.
- Following a seizure when rescue medicine has been given or it is known that a prolonged recovery period will be needed – If pupils are going to be unable to access education following a seizure and recovery they will need to be collected.

We understand the needs of working parents and do not aim to exclude students from school unnecessarily. In the event of a student having a condition where some of the above might be considered 'routine' or a side effect of their condition an agreement will be put in place in consultation with medical professionals to allow a pupil to remain in school when they would otherwise be collected.

The final decision on whether a pupil may remain at school rests with the Head of School/College who will consider not only the impact on the individual student but also on the welfare and education of other students.

Any medicines given in school, including paracetamol and ibuprofen will be given in accordance with the schools supporting students with medical conditions policy.



**YOUR VOICE
MATTERS**

Family & Community Sessions

Teignbridge & South Hams Family Hubs

Pop along for a cuppa and speak to Devon County Council about the new Family Hub offer and the buildings proposals - have your voice heard!

Just pop in!

TUESDAY
25TH JUNE
9AM - 11.30AM
*Newton Abbot Hub,
Coronation Road,
TQ12 1TX*

TUESDAY
25TH JUNE
2PM - 3.30PM
*South Hams Family
Hub, Pathfields
TQ9 5TZ*



Scan the QR code to read the full consultation document



SOUTH & WEST DEVON CHILDREN'S CENTRE BUILDINGS



As part of the development of **Family HUBS**, Devon County Council are currently reviewing the Children's Centre buildings and where they are.

In the future **Family HUBS** will run from a variety of different **Community Venues**.

Have your say



You can read the proposals for South & West Devon Children's Centre buildings by scanning the QR code below:



YOUR OPINION MATTERS

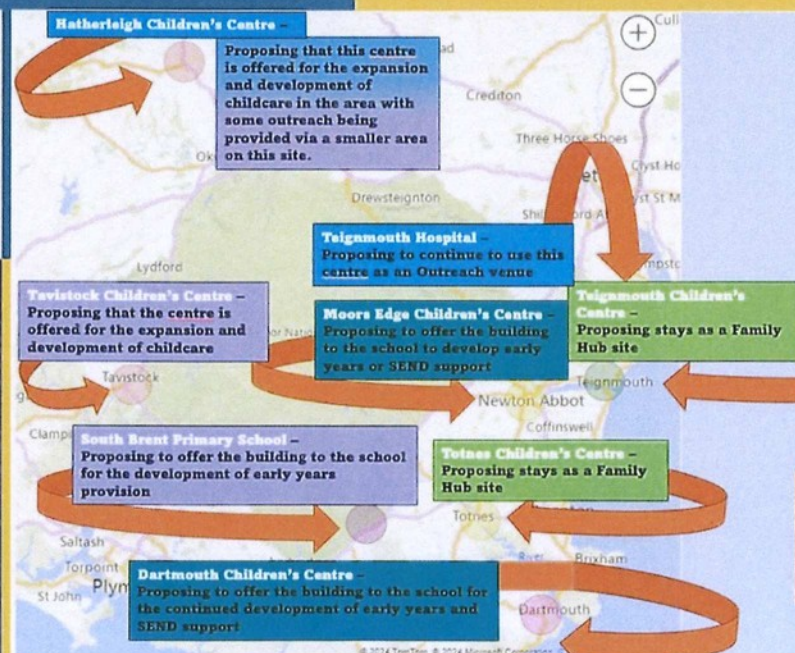
You are invited to let DCC know what you think of their proposals by scanning the QR code below and completing their Consultation survey:

SCAN ME!



Consultation closes at midnight on 3rd July 2024

DEVON FAMILY HUBS



South & West Devon Locality Family Hub Proposal

You can read the full proposals for Devon Children's Centre buildings by visiting: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/childrens-centre-consultation>

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?



RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tended to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable innovation for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and is now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to recruit better footballers for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock that coveted star midfielder.

ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to coax players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that fans find absolutely engrossing. Among younger players in particular, this could lead to identifiers of a gaming disorder as they plead for "just one more game" before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundles of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspected spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites: it could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-oriented gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs that things may be about to boil over. This goes double when playing online with strangers: voice contact with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This new version of the game includes even more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

