



Headteacher's Newsletter - June 2017

Dear Parent and Carers

Welcome to the June newsletter. It was good to meet and speak to those parents and carers who were able to come to the cream tea before we broke up for half term. We have a very busy term ahead, not least with the Freshwater residential currently underway, but with development planning across the school following our Ofsted visit; we will of course keep you posted with plans as they are developed.

School Bat Week

We have been working with the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project (DGHBP) to raise awareness of the importance of Devon to the international population of Greater Horseshoe Bats. The DGHBP are doing some amazing work with schools and have been very supportive at Mill Water. During the week of the 8th May the whole school got involved in making bat boxes, learning about these amazing creatures through sensory stories, creative projects and online games, activities and footage.

We are using a 'Anabat' bat detector, courtesy of the DGHBP, to find out exactly what species of bat we have at Mill Water and encouraging them through appropriate planting and orchard management. During the week of 15th of May, the whole school visited Beer Quarry Caves to see where these animals spend their winters and experience the cave environment. The children learnt not only about bats but about conserving the wildlife around us, that endangered animals are worth saving and why and that lesser known species in Britain can be under just as much pressure and as important as the rhinos and tigers we hear so much about.

The event gave our children the opportunity to engage in curriculum enriching activities that relate directly to our local environment.



New Governor Recruitment

Are you interested in becoming a school governor? The Mill Water School Governing Body is currently looking to recruit co-opted governors. Being a governor is an important and rewarding role. The Governing Body works as a team and decisions are made collectively. Governors play a central role in providing support and challenge to the School's leadership team and are responsible for making decisions which are in the best interests of children at the school.

When recruiting new Governors we are looking for people with existing skills that can be transferred into an educational setting. You do not have to be an expert in education; we will provide you with that training. You might be a parent, an expert in the needs of your child with a passion for them and their peers to achieve the best they possibly can. If you have experience in business, financial skills, or a background in HR, we are particularly interested in hearing from you or others that can give the commitment that this role needs.

If you think that being a Governor might be for you please either telephone the school on 01395 568890 or contact Philippa Charlton who is Clerk to the Governing Body via email - pcharlton@millwater.devon.sch.uk

Cream Tea at Mill Water School 26th May

To mark our recent successful 'Good' with 'Outstanding' Ofsted report, we held a cream tea to celebrate this recent achievement. We recognised that this outcome was the result of the help and support of a great number of people. Invited to the cream tea were parents, carers, teachers, representatives from Bicton College and our partner schools, past members of staff and of course, the pupils themselves.

The afternoon was great fun, with Class 10 pupils serving tea and preparing the scones, jams and cream. It was lovely to see some familiar faces again and say thank you to the people who have helped us over the last few years.

Many thanks to all of the people who have shown their support for our school on its journey out of special measures. Every contribution has been very much appreciated and has enabled us to continue working hard for the pupils of Mill Water School. Thank you so much to Simon Winward and the team who worked so hard to make this such a successful event.



Safeguarding news – Sarah Pickering – Designated Senior Leader

I am sure you will all be aware of the bleak news about the bombing in Manchester after the Ariane Grande concert and the following attack on London this weekend. Many of the victims are children.

The initial findings from Manchester are that it was a lone suicide bomber from a family who fled Libya many years ago. He had been born and schooled in the UK and his family had been in Manchester for at least ten years.

Behaviour tracking and monitoring online use will be key in plotting the lead up to the bombing. Something we do so well here at Mill Water. The "it could happen here" mentality remains central to our preventative measures as school staff.

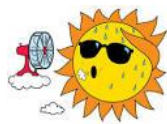
We feel very safe in our Devon haven but must remain vigilant as anyone can be affected. One of our colleagues has been; their close family members were injured in the bombing so our thoughts go out to them.

Prevent is part of safeguarding so we must remain professionally curious and report any concerns to the DSLs or straight to the police.

I attended a Prevent Partnership meeting with representatives from the police, counter terrorist units and the prison service. The case of Damon Smith was discussed in great detail as this was a young man from a special school in Devon who went on to plant a bomb on a London tube. From the age of 10 he had been fascinated with knives, bombs and extreme violence. The question to the group was "could we have done more to prevent this incident".

- A high number of acts of lone terrorism/extremist acts are conducted by those with ASC.
- 80% are male.
- The primary factor in people being radicalised is through the internet.
- 27% of extremist acts are from right wing groups which is on the rise.

As a school we will always continue to be vigilant in our monitoring of internet use and pupils' behaviour and ideologies.



Sun cream

Now that the hot weather is here, please can you make sure that you have returned your child's permission slip for sun cream – staff cannot apply cream for children without this permission from you – many thanks.

Dates for your diary:

Mill Water Summer Fair

Saturday 24th June ... 2-4.30pm

Temple Methodist Church in Budleigh Salterton

Come along for an afternoon of fun & games, craft stalls & refreshments. Climb aboard a fire engine, sit in a police car & bounce around on the bouncy castle, we will also have a visit from the school choir. Come and visit Lucy, our school therapy dog. Please can we have donations of new pocket money toys for our children's tombola? Please send in any items into school clearly labeled PTFA Summer Fair. Thank you! We would also appreciate some volunteers to help for an hour on the stalls. If you are interested phone Lynsey on 01404 850831

'STEAM AND TEAS'

Saturday 1st July ... 2.00 – 5.00pm

Overton and East Budleigh Railway

Full details can be found on the news section of the school website...

'The Wizard of Oz'

Thursday 13th and Friday 14th July

School Production

More details to follow...

INSET days for 2017-18:

Non-pupil Day: Staff Training **Monday 4th September 2017**

Non-pupil Day: Staff Training **Tuesday 5th September 2017**

Non-pupil Day: Staff Training **Monday 30th October 2017**

Non-pupil Day: Staff Training **Wednesday 3rd January 2018**

Non-pupil Day: Staff Training **Monday 16th April 2018**