



Headteacher's Newsletter – July 2017

Dear Parent and Carers,

The end of term seems to be approaching fast and we have lots to update you on in this newsletter, but also lots to look forward to in the next few weeks, not least sports day and 'The Wizard of Oz' production.

You will all by now have received a letter from Maggie Carter our chair of Governors outlining next steps for leadership at Mill Water School. We are now in the process of advertising and interviewing for a second Deputy Head post to support the leadership and ensure that school has capacity to continue its rapid pace of progress in all areas. We will also be contacting parents shortly with information on new class groups and teaching staff so that we can organise a smooth transition into learning for September. We look forward to welcoming Jacob Peasley to the teaching staff team.

In other staff news, we are sad to be losing our Speech and Language Therapist Ashleigh Paddon for a period of time. As many of you are now aware she will be taking a year sabbatical during the academic year 2017/2018. There will be another Speech and Language Therapist covering the school so please do not worry as you will continue to have access to the Speech and Language Therapy service. At the moment we do not have a confirmed name of the therapist who will be covering this leave. You can contact Ashleigh at school if you have any concerns or from August onwards you can contact Rebecca Eastburn (SALT Special School team lead) at Bull Meadow Clinic on 01392 208545. Ashleigh will be back in school from September 2018.

In the meantime feedback is very important for improving services; please can we have your feedback on the Speech and Language Therapy service Ashleigh provided. There is a very short (6 questions) survey on www.virgincare.co.uk/feedback. The unique code is C8021.

New classes for September

Due to the very complex nature of our children, we always put a great deal of time into creating the right leaning environment for your children. We are looking forward to writing to you all very shortly with information on your child's new class group and teacher. Whilst we will do this as early as we can, it can be difficult as special schools always receive late referrals even up to the last day of term which affects our pupils groups and staffing. Please be patient and we will get this information to you as soon as we can and then organize information for the new class team

East Budleigh Scarecrow Festival

Mill Water pupils were lucky enough to take part in the East Budleigh Scarecrow Festival on the 10th and 11th June. Class 10 spent the week making life-size scarecrows which were displayed on the main street in East Budleigh. The pupils chose to base their scarecrows on the Wizard of Oz as they are preparing for their forthcoming production in July and so they made a tin man, Dorothy and of course, a scarecrow. Early years also made a scarecrow which was also displayed in the centre of East Budleigh. There were lots of fantastic scarecrows and we were very glad to have taken part – many thanks to Simon and all the team who organised our participation in this great event



Lions Club Donation

We were very pleased to welcome the Lions club to Mill Water School. The Lions have been very generous and have donated us £1300 to spend on improving outcomes for children at the school. We would all like to say a huge thanks for a very kind gift.



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 Bobbie Potter who is Clerk to the Governing Body via email – bpotter@millwater.devon.sch.uk

Mill Water Cricket Success



The Mill Water School Cricket team had a brilliant day out at Bovey Tracey Cricket Club organised by Andrew. Our children all took part in skills training, participated in a tournament and won the school a free cricket set –well done everyone who took part and came back with a medal! We look forward to hosting our own cricket day very shortly

Mill Water PTFA news

More hard work from the PTFA resulted in a great parents coffee morning at Mill Water – many thanks to Lynsey and the team who created a great buzz at this event – more dates coming soon, do come and join us for information. The team have had another success in securing grant funding for a second new trike for the outdoor spaces, ready to arrive in September.



Don't forget: The PTFA have set up a Facebook page to publicise all of their valuable events which do so much to support the work of the school. Please search 'Mill Water School PTFA' and follow for events information, including more coffee mornings and parents events.



Mill Water School Summer Fair 2017

On Saturday 24th June, the PTFA held a Summer Fair, with all proceeds going towards supporting the school. Held for the first time at temple Methodist Church in Budleigh Salterton, the event was well attended and there were lots of exciting things to do.



There was a bouncy castle, face painting and traditional games made by some Mill Water pupils. There were also stalls selling books, bug houses, beautiful photographs, cakes, jewellery and much more. Some members of the school choir also came to perform some well-known classics and a song from our forthcoming production of the Wizard of Oz.



It was a huge success and thanks to the hard work of the PTFA and some Mill Water staff, the event was raised around £450. Thank you to everyone who supported our Summer Fair.

Freshwater Residential

Huge thanks to Andrew, Andy, Rowan, Kirsty, Ben and Charlotte who gave up their whole week to support our older learners at the Freshwater Park residential trip. They all had a brilliant, but very tiring week. Sadly it will be the last year of Freshwater, but the team are already busy planning new experiences for next year.



STOP PRESS – ‘STEAM AND TEAS’ – Overton and East Budleigh Railway

News just in this morning, we have heard this event has raised £1000 to support the work of the school. Many thanks to everyone involved, it is much appreciated – more details and pictures to follow!



Dates for your diary:

Mill Water Sports Day

Tuesday 4th July

We look forward to the students showcasing their athleticism and sporting prowess through a series of events and competitions. To add to the competitive element students will be winning points through their participation for the newly created inter house teams The Ducks (Blue), The Tigers (Red), The Peacocks (Green), and The Hawks (Yellow). Each student will be wearing clothing colour attire linked to their respective house they are in- so feel free to join in the cheer for your team!



Leavers Assembly

Friday 21st July 2017 - 10am

'The Wizard of Oz'

Thursday 13th July - 1pm

Friday 14th July - 10am

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