



# Mill Water School

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Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I'm sure we're all relieved that we're moving closer to May 17<sup>th</sup> when we'll reach Step 3 of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown and will be able to enjoy greater freedoms, especially meeting up with friends and family indoors. At school, we are continuing to see the very few children who have continued to shield returning to school as they receive their second vaccine. This is excellent news and makes school feel more normal, with everyone here who should be.

We have continued to keep Covid at bay, with no positive cases reported within the school community. Devon County Council advise that there has been a slight rise in COVID-19 case numbers in Devon over the latest recorded week, although overall rates are still well below the national average. Case numbers are currently highest in the Exeter area, and case rates highest within the school age and working age population, with some household transmission. There have been very few outbreaks across the county, but where they have happened, case numbers have been small. This obviously bodes well for us as we move into summer term activities.

We are now beginning to look forward to September, finalising destinations for our leavers, waiting to hear which new children will be joining us, and tentatively working out class groups, class spaces and staffing. This is always a busy time, with iterations and reiterations before numbers and groups are finally sorted and shared with you. We hope to be able to share arrangements for September after the half term break.

Our anonymous parent survey is drawing to a close. Please check your texts/emails if you haven't returned yours yet – it would be great to get as many responses as possible. We will be analysing the data from the survey in the coming weeks to see how we can improve our offer to our children and to their families.

We are delighted to be able to share that further school upgrade plans are coming to fruition, thanks to the success of several grant applications and our ongoing focus on how best to meet pupils' needs.

British Cycling's Places to Ride programme has approved £8,920 towards our fundraising campaign for new specialist bike equipment for Mill Water. This is part of our long-term vision to create more opportunities for SEN pupils of all abilities in our region to develop their love of cycling and engage in inclusive bike activities. Watch this space for more exciting news about this project!

Our core learning lead Gemma Moore and new literacy tutor Vicky Woolsey have short-listed a bespoke new library design, with the help of pupils, which will turn a bare and cluttered classroom into an inviting and practical space that will enable pupils to access and enjoy books more easily. We have just received £5,000 towards this from the Foyle Foundation and £2,000 from the Norman Family Charitable Trust.

We are also getting quotes for our ongoing playground redevelopment plans, including new canopy cover, outdoor classroom areas and shades. A grant of £12,000 from the Baily Thomas Charitable Trust will help fund this.

So there are lots of exciting things happening and we envisage having equipment purchased and installation work completed by the start of the new academic year.

With particular thanks to:



S A Pickering  
Headteacher