



Mill Water School

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17th September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

We have had a busy week in school and already it feels like summer didn't happen.

A couple of reminders:

- Please send medication in named, labelled and in its original packaging. We need consent for all medications and prescribed meds need the dosage, name and expiry date to be visible.
- We have an increase in vehicles coming into school so we are being extra vigilant in the grounds at drop off and collection time. If you are a parent who transports your own child, please join the queue and wait for the first available space: we believe this will reduce the congestion outside school.
- Please remember to wait in your car when dropping off your child. If nobody comes to assist you, please ring the doorbell to alert Dee who will call for a member of staff from your child's class.

Outdoor instruments on loan from Devon Music Hubs

Pupils are loving their acoustic sessions, thanks to a weather-proof 'Music Station' set of xylophones, drums and chimes on loan to the school for free from Devon and Torbay Music Education Hubs. Classes are enjoying sensory play through music and we are planning percussion workshops from visiting musicians. The set is on loan until Christmas, so there will be lots of jingle bells!



Stay and play summer holiday activity days a great success!

Mill Water organised two very successful cycle and play activity days during the summer holidays. This was made possible by staff volunteering to come in and help and through grants from Devon County Council, Active Devon and British Cycling. Dozens of pupils and their parents and siblings had the chance to use our bikes in our enclosed cycle track, to get advice from a visiting expert in specialist bikes, to explore our apple orchard, and to enjoy outdoor learning activities. Here are just a few photos from the fun events, plus feedback from parents who attended with their families.



Jitka (Lucy's mum): "We attended both cycle and play activity days at Mill Water School. We were planning to attend only one day, but our daughter Lucy enjoyed riding a trike so much that we started thinking of getting her a trike for home. It was very useful to meet Kevin from Tomcat at our second session. He brought different trikes with him and recommended one for Lucy. We have been very grateful for this opportunity because Kevin could see Lucy riding trikes and suggested a suitable one based on her height and abilities. We really enjoyed these days because Lucy felt very content and happy while cycling on the track and playing in the orchard. It was very special to see Lucy cycling on her own, smiling and looking so relaxed. The school's new enclosed track and trikes enable Lucy to cycle on her own in a safe environment, improve her physical health, independence and well-being. Also it was very uplifting to visit school and see the school community after the lockdowns and Covid restrictions. There was a great atmosphere, the staff looked after us well and we all enjoyed spending time in a safe and comfortable environment. Thank you for everything. It means the world to us that we have found another possibly major interest for Lucy."

“Cycle and play activity days are a great and safe opportunity to meet the school community. The track and trikes enable people with different abilities to cycle in a safe environment, work on their physical health, independency and well-being. All the families can enjoy time together and celebrate achievements.”

Heather (Isabella’s mum): “Thank you for organising an amazing afternoon, it was brilliant be able to come into school for a such a fun activity, and try out the fabulous equipment.”

Maria (Aidan’s mum): “It was great as a parent to see Aidan in his school environment - something that I'd love to be able to do more of. It made me feel more involved and connected to school, something that as a parent to a child with special needs, can be difficult. We don't get to do the school drop off, or bump into other parents and our children often don't have the ability to tell us about their day. So to have the opportunity to step into Aidan's world for an hour or so was brilliant! Also for Aidan, seeing his family at school reinforces that it's a good place to be, and gives him the ability to share it with us. It was particularly helpful just ahead of term restarting, as he's always very anxious in the lead up. It was great to have physios Janet and Gill there, as again I rarely see them. It was also nice to see them interacting with Aidan and how comfortable he was with them. We send our children to school and trust that they are respected / loved - it is always so nice to see it in action! I loved that we could bring Erin and actually have something for her to do - she likes to come to these things but it's much better if she can feel involved. Life as a Young Carer / sibling can be quite demanding and it's really important for their relationship to have positive experiences together. It was lovely to hear Erin tell her friends about what she was able to do "at my brother's school".

Laura (Lexi’s mum): “Thank you so much organising today we had a lovely and was amazing seeing how well Lexi is doing learning to ride a bike.”

DIY SOS project helps transform our apple orchard areas

A Bicton organisation called Fusion that is led by ex-military personnel brought a workforce in to transform the apple orchard area with new wooden shelters, seating, an ‘insect hotel’ and raised planters. This will enable Mill Water to extend its delivery of art, music and drama workshops in the outdoors. It will also provide protection from the elements and the raised planters will enable those of all abilities to participate in the school’s popular gardening projects.



Mill Water features on BBC Spotlight!



We featured on BBC Spotlight last week! About the impact of COVID on SEND schools and their families, and returning to school for the new term.

See link to the bulletin:

https://www.millwater.devon.sch.uk/web/bbc_spotlight

Dates for your diary

What	When	Notes
Shumb Arts African Drumming workshop	Wednesday 29 th September 2021	Kindly funded by the PTFA
Flu Nasal Spray Vaccinations	Thursday 7 th October 2021	Details to follow
Last day of Half Term	Friday 22 nd October 2021	2.15pm Finish
Half Term Holiday	Monday 25 th to Friday 29 th October 2021	
Non-pupil Day	Friday 26 th November 2021	School Closed
Non-pupil Day	Monday 29 th November 2021	School Closed
Last day of Autumn Term	Friday 17 th December 2021	2.15pm Finish