



Headteacher's Newsletter – December 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

Our final newsletter of December 2018 brings us some exciting changes to current staffing and chance to welcome new staff to Mill Water.

Following a recruitment process in October, Kayleigh Price has been appointed as our new Assistant Head Teacher from January 2019. Kayleigh will lead on teaching & learning and oversee the post 16 curriculum and provision.

Sarah Clarke is pleased to have accepted a deputy head position at Rosewood Free School in Southampton, a school specifically for pupils with profound and multiple learning disabilities. She is looking forward to taking up her new role there in January 2019.

However, it will be a huge wrench for her to leave Mill Water after seven years. Sarah has been involved with many families over the years and would love to remember you all. **If anyone would like to give Sarah a photograph of their child/family, or a message/picture for her memories she would be very grateful. Please send these in, clearly marked, over the next couple of days.**

Sarah wishes you all a very Happy Christmas and will look forward to staying in touch with Mill Water in the future.

We are recruiting for a new SEND assistant to fulfil a lot of her non-teaching role. This role will start in January 2019.

Sally Cregan is returning to Mill Water in January 2019 to work with us for the next two terms. We are very pleased to be regaining her expertise in VI.

Please see below, pen portraits from two of our more recent starters. You will come across Vicky in her role as Senior Reviews administrator.

New Staff for 2018/19

Vicky Eul-Barker, Senior Reviews Administrator

I am passionate about Special Needs Education being the best it can be and supporting parents to support their children with SEN and so am really excited to be joining the team at Mill Water School as reviews coordinator.

I have previously been Chair of a community pre-school, a primary school TA, and trained with Devon Parent Partnerships (now DIAS). I have been a governor of Orchard Manor Special School since 2014, originally as a parent governor, and now as a co-opted Governor leading on Residential Care. I have a particular interest in Autism and have attended many training courses and conferences.

I am married with three children, one of which has complex SEN. I live in Farway on a small holding with two dogs, two cats, chickens, ducks, sheep and cattle. I love the outdoors and spend as much time as possible gardening and running.





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Jules Graham-Hill, Class 6 Teacher

I am so thrilled to be joining Mill Water as the new Class 6 teacher this term! Having spent most of my life in Devon after moving to England from Germany at an early age, I am truly excited to be working in a school surrounded by so much natural beauty and opportunities to get outside. My main aims and ethos as a teacher are ensuring that every child feels safe, listened to, respected and celebrated. I have experience working in mainstream primary schools, alternative provision for secondary school aged children and in SEND schools, and am looking forward to bringing everything I have learned so far to Mill Water. I



look forward to working with you all and building a strong partnership to support and nurture your children.

Tempest photograph feedback

One parent has mentioned in previous years and again last week, that the tempest school photo does not catch the character of her son. As this can be a stressful day for many of our pupils and in particular now we live in an age of technology where photos can be taken any second of the day, I'd like to gather your opinion on this topic.

If you are not happy to continue with the tempest school photos, please send a message to Dee Knill on reception.

East Devon Ability Counts Festival

On Friday, some of the Mill Water KS 2 children were invited to take part in the East Devon Ability Counts Festival. The festival was aimed at children from mainstream and special schools who are registered on their school's SEND register and have not already competed in mainstream inter-school sport.

There were several sports on offer either as a taster competition or taster session. The competitions included; Seated Volley ball, New age Curling, Indoor Rowing and Boccia. The taster sessions were archery, crazy catch and multi skills.

There were seven schools that took part in the festival. The children from Mill Water took part in all the competitions and more than held their own finishing in the top three in every event. The pick of the teams was Mill Water A Curling team, finishing second. They have been invited to take part in the North Devon festival in the new year where the top two teams from all the regions compete again.

The festival was a complete success. All the students that attended did Mill Water proud. For some of them it was a completely new experience, but you would never have known. Their behaviour, patience, competitive spirit and sportsmanship was exemplary. Well done to all involved we are very proud of you.

Andy Pratt (Teacher)



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Annual Review Improvements

We are making some improvements to the Annual Review process at Mill Water School.

We want the Annual Review process to be more user friendly, for the child and their family, whilst meeting our obligations to the 0-25 team in full.

From the spring term we will be capturing the pupil voice prior to the Annual Review meeting which will now be held around the table.

From the summer term we will be taking the responsibility of inviting any key workers/ professionals working with your child. To enable us to deliver this, a letter will be coming home asking for an update on any professionals working with your child.

All parents with parental responsibility will be invited to attend the Annual Review meeting.

Post 16 open day

Post 16 open day will be on 24th Jan from 1pm - 2.30pm. Invites will be sent out soon.

Fundraising

We have benefitted from some generous fundraising: receiving recently £1400 from Budleigh Rotary and Food & Drink festival management. This was a complete surprise to the school and has been ring-fenced for an exciting training project in September 2019.

PTFA

We would like to thank the PTFA and all those who have helped with the Christmas Fayre which was a thoroughly successful fundraising and enjoyable event. The grand total raised was £1158.54 - the highest amount ever! The Christmas raffle will be drawn on Friday 14th and these ticket sales have raised another £1176.00 so far - fantastic!

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE AND WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE FESTIVE PERIOD.

Dates for your diary

What	When	Time	Where
EY & KS1 - Christmas Show (Classes 1,2,3,4)	Tuesday 18 th December 2018	1.30-2.30pm	In School
Lower School - Christmas Show (Classes 5,6,7,8)	Wednesday 19 th December 2018	1.30-2.30pm	In School
Upper School - Carol Concert	Friday 21 st December 2018	10.30am	St Peters Church, Budleigh Salterton
Last day of Autumn term	Friday 21 st December 2018	3.15pm	In School
First day of Spring term	Wednesday 09 th January 2019	9.00am	In School
February Half Term	Monday 18 th – Friday 22 nd February		



For Parents

Welcome to the September 2018 edition of the Scomis Online Safety Newsletter.

A recent review of Ofcom's 'Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2017' identifies:

- 53% 3-4s go online for nearly 8hrs per week
- 66% 4-7s plays games for more than 7hrs per week
- 23% 8-11s have a social media profile
- 83% 12-15s have their own smartphone
- 90% 12-15s use YouTube
- Boys in each age group 5-15 spend more time playing games compared to girls

Read more: [children-parents-media-use-attitudes-2017.pdf](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/consult/condocs/childrenparents/childrenparents17/children-parents-media-use-attitudes-2017.pdf)

Have you considered implementing any of the following strategies at home?

- Setting Parental Control Tools
- Using YouTube Kids
- Applying age-based settings for Netflix
- Activating Safe Search for Google, Chrome
- Using browsers such as: Swiggle <http://www.swiggle.org.uk/>
- or Kidzsearch <https://www.kidzsearch.com/>
- Setting Parental controls for BT, TalkTalk, Virgin, Sky
- Establishing screen time limits
- Considered removing technology from the bedroom
- Blocking 'in-app' purchases

Review Internet Matters interactive videos and access age specific advice about what your children might be doing online and read their practical guides including:

Digital Resilience toolkit - checklists for parents that give you top tips on how to help them stay safe.

Navigating Secondary School – how to support children's digital development.

Parental Controls - step by step guides to help you set up the right controls and privacy settings <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Need to talk to someone about Online Safety?

- Setting up parental controls
- Adjusting privacy settings
- Advice on social networks

Expert advice available (FREE)

O2 and NSPCC Helpline – 0800 800 5002

Young Children and Screen Time

Download South West Grid for Learning's guide for parents and carers:



<https://swgfi.org.uk/Uploads/57/579fcc5b-80e4-4dde-89a8-71a3c69cc1ed.pdf>

Visit PEGI's new website and find out more about:

- The PEGI age ratings
- How to limit and monitor children's online spending
- How to control access to internet browsing
- How to control access to online chat
- How to set the amount of time children can spend playing games
- Review age ratings for games



<https://pegi.info/>

Do you know what Livestreaming is?

Research published by Childnet finds:

Facebook Live, Instagram Live and YouTube Live are the most popular livestreaming services among 8-17 year olds.



Childnet's Digital Leaders have created top tips to help other children use live streaming services safely and responsibly.

Find out more and view the Infographic:

<http://www.childnet.com/downloads/Young-peoples-top-tips-about-livestreaming.pdf>

Is your child playing Fortnite?

Recommended age 13+

'Played on PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Windows, and Mac. Mobile version available.

Read Commonsense Media's [full review](#):

Review Wayne Denner's short video: [5 Fortnite Online Safety Tips for parents](#)

Keep up to date with the latest Social Media Apps:

NSPCC's Net Aware:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Don't forget:

Childline (0800 1111)

www.scomis.org

E: scomis@devon.gov.uk T: 01392 385300