



Mill Water School

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Thursday 23rd July 2020

Update for Families

Dear Parents and Carers

We begin this final update of the academic year with an enormous thank you to the staff and governor team for their collective hard work and efforts during this challenging time. We would also like to thank you as parents and carers, and our amazing pupils, for your ongoing resilience and continued support. This has not only kept the school functioning, but has been a critical factor in allowing us to respond to the pandemic crisis in as safe and proportionate way as possible.

As all schools close for the summer and the holiday season gets fully underway, the South West is calling on residents and visitors to do the right thing and follow the rules in order to play their part in keeping the region COVID-safe this summer.

Please can we recommend, if you have not already done so, signing up for the Devon County Council update newsletter [using this link](#)

It provides a really useful roundup of how Devon residents can help to keep Devon safe and tackle the COVID 19 pandemic together.

Staff team updates

We say goodbye to Fiona J from 6th form who leaves us to pursue her teacher training, Katy L from class 5 who returns to university to finish her course and, of course, Zoe B from class 2 who starts her maternity leave. We wish all of them good luck in their adventures.

Leavers

Thank you to those who helped us say good bye to our 2020 leavers. The celebration was perfect; all be it very different to usual. It is always sad to say good bye but it is a privilege to have been part of the lives of our wonderful pupils. Good luck in your next steps.



PTFA

We say a huge thank you and sad farewell to some key members of our PTFA after years of successful fundraising and support to the school. Maria Scholey, Sarah Steggles and Linda Taylor-Cantrill leave us after raising thousands for our pupils and giving up so much of their time to host and support school events. Being such a small school in numbers and spread out across Devon means their achievements are even more impressive. Thank you all of you.

Plans for the Summer holiday

To reiterate, and in line with Government guidance and that of Devon County Council, we will have no on site school provision available to any pupils during the summer break.

For those families who are entitled to Free School Meals, the vouchers have now all been sent out for the summer break period and you will have received them.

To remind you, Devon County Council have put a list together of those holiday schemes that are intending to open over the summer holidays. There is also up to date information on Pinpoint, <https://www.pinpointdevon.co.uk> which includes Early Years group settings, Childminders and Holiday Clubs.

Please see Gill Scott's (Physiotherapist) email address for parents to have a contact if needed through the holidays: gscott7@nhs.net

Useful dates for your diaries

- **School closes:**
Thursday 23rd July
- **Covid Committee meet to make final decision on September plan:**
Tuesday 1st September
- **Staff training days and phone lines open:**
Thursday 3rd September/Friday 4th September
- **Pupils return to school:**
Monday 7th September
- **October Half Term:**
Monday 26th October

Safeguarding our children throughout the school holidays

The staff team will not be making telephone calls or welfare checks throughout the summer break, as it is vitally important they have the opportunity to relax and recharge. We would politely request that you do not email staff, nor expect replies to any emails, during the summer break.

Safeguarding our children is everyone's responsibility and during this coronavirus pandemic we know that some families will be facing new or increasing pressures and challenges. Devon County Council's Early Help System is there for you. Their message to families is simple: in Devon there is no wrong door. If you need some help, or if you are concerned for the wellbeing of a child or young person, talk to a professional about it.

Whilst the school is closed, you can get help in a number of ways:

- Talk to someone you are already in contact with, for example, a health visitor or your GP.
- Search on Pinpoint Devon. It has details of thousands of community services and groups available in Devon.
- Call DCC Customer Service Centre on 0345 1551071. They are open Monday to Friday 8am–8pm and Saturdays 9am–1pm

There are Early Help Hubs in each of the four localities – Northern, Exeter, East and Mid, and Southern. You can contact the Early Help Hubs via the following email addresses: -

Northern Devon: Earlyhelpnorthsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Southern Devon: Earlyhelpsouthsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Mid and East Devon: Earlyhelpmideastsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Exeter: Earlyhelpexetersecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Once again thank you for your continued support of the Mill Water community. We wish you a safe and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized capital 'A' followed by a horizontal line.

S A Pickering
Head teacher