



Mill Water School

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Headteacher's Newsletter – April 2018

Dear Parent & Carers,

It seems ridiculous to be talking about snow days when half the school are slapping on the sun cream but thank you for your patience and understanding in the management of our school closures. Making the decision to close the school weighs heavily on any head teacher and is only done in exceptional circumstances but, looking back now, it seems obvious to have closed when we did. I hope you were able to enjoy some of the fun that snow days bring.

Of course now, in typical British fashion, we are dealing with a few days of warm weather so please send in hats and sun-cream (labelled) for your child.

Kitchen Update

I have taken the decision to move to Norse catering to provide us with our school meals from April 2018 onwards. This means our meals are cooked on the premises and we can have a better say in what goes on our pupils' plates. There is no change in cost to families and taster meals will continue to be available. Please let us know if your child makes any comments about the new system and/or food. The two members of staff joining us from Norse are Lisa, Kitchen Manager and Laura, Catering Assistant.

Staffing updates

Kathryn Edmonds successfully interviewed for a class teacher position so we welcome her onto the permanent staff. Laura Bowden joins the admin team as Admin Assistant.

Alicia Curtis, Charlene Rhodes, Clare Sulch, Holli Macmillan, Jade Zarczynski (apprentice TA), Jake Chafer, Kayley Shepherd, Kieran McGarry (apprentice TA), Miranda Killen, Sarah Gilbody, Selina Laws & Victoria Bourne have all been appointed as TAs since Christmas.

Attendance

If you are thinking about requesting time off for your child during the summer term, please be aware that I manage and respond to each request on an individual basis. In reaching my decision as to whether a term time absence request should be authorised, I have to work within the guidelines laid down by Ofsted and the Local Authority, as well as taking your family circumstances into account. Because Ofsted consider maximising attendance to be part of the school's safeguarding role and make judgements about us based on this, I have to respond to you in a formal manner. This means that the letter you receive includes a statement about the importance of good attendance, even if your child's attendance is very good. By including a formal statement, we are able to demonstrate to Ofsted that we take this aspect of our safeguarding role seriously. Please be assured that I will always reach my decision based on an assessment of your individual needs as a family.

Home School Books

You may remember a questionnaire recently asking questions regarding regularity and content of communication regarding your child. In response to the questionnaire and in conjunction with our Parent Working party, a new home / school book is being produced for this term and will be coming home next week.



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Online Safety

Live streaming is becoming one of the most popular online activities for children and young people. Apps such as Musical.ly, Live.me, Periscope and YouNow are all soaring in popularity. In response to this, other well established apps such as Facebook have added live streaming functions. I know that some of our pupils are already using apps such as Musical.ly and like to talk about them in school. With this in mind, it's important that parents and carers, as well as school, are able to stay up to date with how children can stay safe when using these types of platforms.

We all need to be aware of the specific risks children and young people face whilst live streaming, such as the immediacy of 'live contact' and the large numbers of users communicating with a young person at any one time, and the affirmation gained via views and gifts. Where appropriate, we will be working with our pupils in school to make sure they are aware of the type of tactics offenders use on live streaming platforms and know how to respond safely to possible pressure and manipulation from adult offenders. We will be using resources made available by CEOP (The Child Exploitation and Online Protection).

If you have concerns about your child's use of live streaming apps at home, please do get in touch.

Friends of Mill Water PTFA

Please take some time to watch the video of the outdoor skills work delivered by Tom on the PTFA Facebook page. The next PTFA meeting will take place on Tuesday 24th April 2018, 9.30am at Mill Water.

Tea Dance

On Saturday 28th April 2018, 2.00-5.00pm, there will be a Tea Dance in Budleigh Public Hall to raise money for the Mill Water School residential fund. Tickets are on sale now! **Anyone able to make or bring in some cakes for the dance, please can you arrange for them to be passed to the office on the Friday 27th April.** The PTFA will be running a prize draw at the event; if you have a draw prize to donate please can you pass to the office.

African evening

Come and join us for an African style simple meal, hear more about the Wanjawulo project in Uganda, and take part in a fabulous African drumming workshop with Shumba Arts. Tickets are available from Sarah Clarke at school, £5 per person or £15 for a family (up to 4 people). Flier attached.

Dippy on Tour

On Saturday 26th May Artist Darrell Wakelam will be running an Interactive Art Day at Mill Water, as part of the Dippy on Tour project from the National History Museum. This is open to the public; please see attached flier.

Mill Water Summer Fayre

Following the success of last year's event we have booked the Temple Methodist Hall Budleigh Salterton for our summer fayre on Saturday 30th June. Further details to follow but there will certainly be entertainment, cakes, gifts, games and demonstrations.



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Dates for your diary 2018

PTFA Meeting

Tea Dance

African evening

Dippy on tour

Summer fayre

Parent's Evening

Last day of Summer term

Tuesday 24th April

Saturday 28th April

Thursday 10th May

Saturday 26th May

Saturday 30th June

Wednesday 11th July

Thursday 26th July



African Evening

Raising funds in aid of Wanjawulo

Thursday, 10th May 2018

6pm—8.30pm at Mill Water School

Come and join us for an African style simple meal,
hear more about the Wanjawulo project in Uganda,
and take part in a fabulous African drumming
workshop with Shumba Arts!

Tickets: £5 per person or £15 for a family (up to 4 people)



Tickets available from Sarah Clarke at Mill Water School



Dippy on Tour

A Natural History Adventure



In partnership with



Supported by

DELL EMC



Interactive Art Day



**Mill Water Special School,
East Budleigh**

Saturday 26 May

10:00am – 4:00pm



Help artist Darrell Wakelam make incredible natural creations from papier-mache! Free drop-in event suitable for all ages. Organised by the Jurassic Coast Trust and Clinton Devon Estates.

Find out more on the Jurassic Coast Trust website:
jurassiccoast.org/dippy



nhm.ac.uk/dippyontour