



Headteacher's Newsletter – September 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

A warm welcome back to you all and welcome in particular to our new families. We started the term with two full INSET days where staff were trained in Health and Safety, Passive Intervention Preventions Strategies (PIPS), Dysphagia, Administration of Medicines, Gastrostomy, Epilepsy and Making Meetings Work (DIAS). New staff were inducted in Safeguarding, Online Safety, GDPR, Health and Safety, using the Hydrotherapy Pool, Moving and Handling, Autism and Behaviour.

We were very pleased that Gina Davies from Gina Davies Autism Centre, who I had the good fortune to work with for four years and is an expert in communication, was able to deliver our second day of training. The staff had a brilliant day learning about Attention Autism which '...explores the ways in which communication development can be targeted and nurtured within sessions ensuring the needs of the children can be sensitively met whether preverbal, non-verbal able to speak...' You can follow Gina on her Facebook page Gina Davies Autism.

The first Friday afternoon training session this term was on Working Memory and how children's learning could be affected by deficits in this area, particularly the implications for learning to read. We considered the strategies we can use in school to support children in improving their working memory.

We welcome Emma Whittock back to our staff. She will be supporting the communication team Weds-Friday each week.

Training Reminder

Mill Water have organised training to support parents with '**Managing Violent and Challenging Behaviour**', which is being delivered by Sam Harris from BisNet.

Training will take place at Mill Water School on Tuesday 10th September 10-2.30pm and will cover proactive/alternative approaches for how to avoid behaviour, de-escalation techniques, when to intervene with self injury and what to do, when and how to protect siblings and self, how to manage behaviour when out and about. If you would like to attend please either ring the school or email veulbarker@millwater.devon.sch.uk to confirm your place.

Evidence for Learning (EFL)

You will be receiving an email from Evidence for Learning with joining instructions for the 'parent portal'. Once you have received this, please email Kayleigh Price kprice@millwater.devon.sch.uk with your child's name and you will receive your password.

Toileting Survey for Children and Young People with SEND

The PenCRU & Family Faculty team are conducting an online survey with parents and carers about toileting for children and young people with special educational needs or disability. The NHS wants to improve toileting services for children and young people with SEND aged up to 25 years. They need your views and experiences of trying ways to improve and manage toileting. The results of the survey will help inform health and care services for children in the future. Please click on the link below to find out more.

<http://sites.exeter.ac.uk/iconstudy/taking-part/>



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Annual Review Update

Our reviews team are constantly striving to improve the reviews process at Mill Water, taking on board parent and professional feedback, benchmarking with other schools and working in consultation with DIAS and the 0-25 team.

This year we will be aiming to email parents two weeks prior to their review with a list of attendees, the agenda for the review meeting, outcomes and targets, and any professional's reports supplied.

It is important to note that notes from the meeting are not recorded verbatim and therefore we will also supply the parent contribution form so that parents can provide their views in a written format ahead of the meeting.

Open Door - Haven support groups in Exmouth

Haven offer a variety of support groups, in Exmouth, that you and your family may find useful, including mental health support groups for children, a monthly young carers support group, a monthly parent support group and a parent support drop-in.

If you would like further information see their website <http://www.opendoorexmouth.org.uk/our-projects/haven/> or Facebook page Haven Parent Support or telephone 01395 224218

Counselling for Carers

Counselling for Carers is a local charity offering a low cost, non-profit counselling service which provides emotional support for carers.

Carers who wish to apply to receive the counselling service must be:

- Aged 18 or over
- Living in Devon
- Caring for a family member, friend or neighbour

Carers are asked to pay £15 or £10 per session if they receive their income entirely from benefits.

Further information is available on their website or leaflets will be available at school.

<https://www.actioneastdevon.org.uk/about-us/projects-and-services/counselling-for-carers>

The Friends of Mill Water School PTFA

The first meeting of the year will be on Tuesday 24th September at school, 9.45-11.30am. There will also be a PTFA Coffee morning taking place on Thursday 10th October at school, 10.00am-12.00noon.

The Friends of Mill Water School also now have a Wonderful.org page. This is an online fundraising platform for anyone wanting to run their own event/race to raise money for The Friends of Mill Water.



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Dates for your diary			
What	When	Time	Where
Violent and Challenging Behaviour Training for Parents by Sam Harris, Bis-net, CEDA.	Tuesday 10 th September 2019	10.00am-2.30pm	School
Evidence for Learning – Drop-in (Trouble Shooting Session)	Tuesday 17 th September 2019	Between 9.30-11.30am	School
PTFA Meeting	Tuesday 24 th September 2019	9.45-11.30am	School
Parent Forum – Pre Literacy Skills	Wednesday 25 th September 2019	1.00-2.30pm	School
PTFA Coffee Morning	Thursday 10 th October 2019	10.00am-12.00noon	School
Half Term	Monday 21 st – Friday 25 th 2019		
PTFA Meeting	Tuesday 29 th October 2019	9.45-11.30am	School
Halloween Fancy Dress (Optional)	Thursday 31 st October 2019	All day	School
Parent Forum – Quids 4 Kids (Information Session with Caroline Harris)	Wednesday 13 th November 2019	1.00-2.30pm	School
School Closed (Occasional Day)	Friday 22 nd November 2019		
School Closed (Occasional Day)	Monday 25 th November 2019		