



# Mill Water School

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## Headteacher's Newsletter – October 2018

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome to the Autumn term newsletter. We are always looking at new ways to save money and protect the environment, which is why we have decided not to print our newsletter out for parents. It is now available for download in PDF format. Our new pupils have all settled in really well and some of our existing pupils have been excellent role models to them. I have given out headteacher awards for kindness, politeness and independent working. Let me know if achievements happen at home which deserve a headteacher's award. It is great to celebrate these too!

### Home/School Communication

Thank you to everyone that has given feedback to us about the new home/school books. There are three different styles to choose from, as well as just the lined notebooks which some of you have said you prefer. Some of you have assumed that the weekly phone call or email will stop now the new home/school books are on offer, but please be assured if that is your preferred method it will carry on. You will be receiving more information on Evidence for Learning, our new assessment system, after the half term break.

### Reviewing your child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

As you will be aware there is a legal requirement to review your child's EHCP, which takes place during a meeting here at Mill Water. It is very important that parents/carers attend these meetings. You will be informed of a date and time by letter in due course. We do appreciate everyone's busy home/work lives and thank you in advance for making every effort to attend these meetings at the given day/time, as it is extremely difficult for us to rearrange. We very much look forward to seeing you at the upcoming review meetings and if you have any questions regarding this process please get in touch.

### Devon Link Up

There is a free card for pupils over 11 years of age who have a diagnosis of autism. The card can be useful in emergency situations. The holder's name & unique reference number are embossed on it. For more info please contact Devon Link Up on Tel:07808 053992, Email:[autismalertdlup@gmail.com](mailto:autismalertdlup@gmail.com) or have a look at their website [HTTP://www.devonlink-up.org/autism-alert-card/](http://www.devonlink-up.org/autism-alert-card/)

### Bat Buddies – Gold Award

Mill Water has achieved its Bat Buddy Gold Award with Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project (DGHBP). We are incredibly proud to be receiving this award and a big thanks goes to Tom Neusinger our Outdoor Skills lead, for his work with the children on this project. Mill Water is the first school in Devon to be awarded their Bat Buddy Gold award and this follows last year's award of Silver after the bat week event. We now have bat boxes up around school and monitor their presence. The children have learnt many skills and widened their knowledge of the local environment.

### Apple Week 2018

This has been a great success as usual with children getting thoroughly involved with the usual activities, pressing, cooking and celebrating the orchard and its crop. There have been apple themed activities across the school. This year we developed a sensory session for our PMLD and multisensory pupils in which we broke down the pressing process into its component parts in a sensory and more accessible format. This year we are sharing the Apple Week experience with the local schools Otterton and Drakes in association with the Clinton Devon Estates. This will take place at the Bicton Arena in the first week back after half term. Children from Mill Water will show their mainstream peers how to press apples for juice, sharing their expertise with the local school community.



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### Dates for your diary

What	When	Time	Where
Last day of half term	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	3.15pm	In School
October Half Term	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2018		
First day of term	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2018		
Friends of Mill Water PTFA	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	9.45am-12.00pm	In School
School Photos	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	9.15am-12.00pm	In School
School Closed (Occasional Days)	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2018 Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2018		
Friends of Mill Water PTFA - Christmas Fayre	Friday 07 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	10.00am-12.00pm	In School
EY & KS1 - Christmas Show (Classes 1,2,3,4)	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	1.30-2.30pm	In School
Lower School - Christmas Show (Classes 5,6,7,8)	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	1.30-2.30pm	In School
Upper School - Carol Concert	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2018	10.00am	To be confirmed
Last day of Autumn term	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2018	3.15pm	In School

## Local Events, Clubs & Support

### AAC and Literacy - by Millwater PTFA

Cost: FREE

DATE AND TIME

Mon 12 November 2018 / 11:00 – 15:00hrs

### LOCATION

The Public Hall

Station Road

Budleigh Salterton

EX9 6RJ

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/aac-and-literacy-tickets-51377324962?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-source=strongmail&utm-term=listing>

### Description

A unique opportunity to learn about AAC and Literacy for students with complex communication needs. Our speaker is Marion Stanton, Lead Trainer and Assessor for Communication and Learning Enterprises Ltd.

The day will include the following:

- An introduction to the AAC City and Guilds qualification.
- A talk on tools and techniques for AAC Literacy development.
- A question and answer session.

This information day is suitable for parents, carers, therapists, teachers, TAs and anyone with an interest in Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Literacy.

This is a free event. Lunch is not provided, however tea, coffee, drinks and cakes will be on sale to cover the cost of hiring the hall and raise funds for the PTFA.