



Tel: 01392 206585 / email: admin@bowhill.devon.sch.uk

NEWSLETTER 1

11 September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year and to new pupils who have joined us. Everyone at Bowhill would also like to wish a very warm welcome to the families of all our reception children, whether you are new to the school, or old friends! We hope you have had a wonderful break and are as ready as we are for another busy year! A very long newsletter follows - please take the time to read through it all!

School Gates

Our automated school gates make our site safe and secure for our children. The pedestrian gate will be unlocked at 8.35 a.m. in the morning and locked again at 9.25 a.m. and then unlocked at 3.05 p.m. in the afternoon. The gate on Dunsford Hill is unlocked at 8.35 a.m. and locked again at 9.15 a.m. and unlocked at 3.00 p.m. in the afternoon and locked again at 4.00 p.m.

Free School Lunches

A reminder that ALL children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 are offered a school meal at no cost to parents. There is no need to come to the main office for tickets and the meal does not need to be booked in advance. The menu was sent home at the end of last term, but extra copies can be provided by the school office or can be seen on our school website.

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 pay for school lunches, unless your family are entitled to free school meals, the cost of which remains at £2.20 per day. **Your child will still be entitled to Free School Meals if you receive any of the following:**

➤ Income Support (IS)	➤ Guaranteed element of the State Pension Credit
➤ Income based and contribution based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) on an equal basis	➤ Child Tax Credit without Working Tax Credit (WTC) and annual income below £16,190 a year
➤ Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (IBJSA)	➤ Entitled to Working Tax Credit run-on (for a further four weeks after no longer qualifying for WTC)
➤ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA)	➤ Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

A proportion of the funding we receive from Government is based on the number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (as opposed to Universal Free School Meals which is available to all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2). If you think your family may be eligible please register at the office - your child will continue to receive a school meal at no cost to your family and you will be helping school funds.

Sri Lanka Visit

Miss Richards and Miss Shields visited our twinned school in Sri Lanka during the summer break and very much enjoyed working with the children and teachers of Batheegama School in Dickwella. On their return they were accompanied by Ms Shanika Gamage, a teacher from Batheegama School, who has spent the week with us here at Bowhill and we wish her a safe journey back to Sri Lanka.

Bug Club

We continue to invest in Bug Club for our early readers. If anybody has difficulties with online access or would like to do some extra reading with their child, the KS1 computer suite will be available every Wednesday after school. No need to book - just pop to the office.

Drop In Café

Every Friday morning we hold an informal morning coffee shop for parents and carers. We hope this will give any parents who have half an hour to spare the chance to chat and catch up. Year 5 or 6 pupils will be on hand to look after you! Our Parent Support Adviser, Kate Williams, will also be around. The Bowhill Coffee Cup will open between 9.00 a.m. and 9.45 a.m. - by the Adventure Playground, or if wet in the canteen! Please pop along if you are able.

Kate Williams, our Parent Support Adviser, will always make time to speak with parents - if you want to have a chat with her you can either call into the office to see if Kate is free, or leave your name and number and she will get back to you.

Foundation Classes Playground

Our Foundation Stage children will start with us next week so can we remind parents of children in KS1 classes not to cut through the Foundation play area at the start and end of the day when heading to the classrooms. Thank you.

Contact Details

Please inform the school office if you have any changes of contact details or address. It is really important that our contact details are up to date in case we need to get hold of you in an emergency.

Jeans for Genes Day - Friday 18 September

We are raising money for this very worthwhile cause by allowing children to come to school on **Friday 18 September** wearing jeans, with their school sweatshirts. Parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution of 50p per child or £1.00 per family. All the money raised will go to various children's charities which aid research into different children's illnesses. (The children may wear trainers for this event.)

School Photographs

Please make a note that the school photographer will be in school on **Wednesday 7 October**. Further details will follow.

Film Club

Film Club will be starting on **Thursday 17 September** and information will be sent home next week to the children involved.

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Miss Caren Brooks
Headteacher

Secondary School Transfer - September 2016

All parents of Year 6 children should have received a letter with information on how to apply for the secondary school transfer - you have until the 31 October to do this.

West Exe School will be holding an Open Evening Showcase on Monday 14 September for Year 6 pupils and their parents, at 6.30 p.m. They are also holding morning tours at 9.15 a.m. if you missed their Summer Open Morning. You can contact West Exe School on 01392 660100.

St. James School will be holding an Open Evening on Thursday 17 September from 6.00 p.m. They will also be holding tours daily from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for Year 6 pupils and their parents from Friday 18 September to Friday 2 October. You can sign up at the Welcome Desk during the Opening Evening or by contacting Dinah Lees, Leadership Team PA, on 01392 209922 ext 300.