



Tel: 01392 206585 / email: [admin@bowhill.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bowhill.devon.sch.uk)

**NEWSLETTER 1**

**9 September 2016**

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!

**Mrs Karen Webb**

Some of you will already be aware that Mrs Webb is on a leave of absence from school due to her husband, David, being ill. Sadly David passed away during August. Support for Karen, Tilly and Charlie was demonstrated by the huge attendance at David's funeral, and our thoughts are with them all at this difficult time.

**Site Manager Vacancy**

We are currently advertising for a Site Manager. If you would be interested in applying please check out our website, or speak to the School Office.

**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 9.15 a.m. and then unlocked at 3.10 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 3.10 p.m. in the afternoon and locked again at 4.00 p.m. Please remember that KS1 official start time is 9.00 a.m. and collection at the end of the day is 3.20 p.m. with collection from the outside classroom doors. KS2 official start time is 8.55 a.m. with class finishing at 3.25 p.m. with collection from the playground.

**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.**

### 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 between 9.00 a.m. and 9.45 a.m. We hope this will give any parents who have half an hour to spare the chance to chat and catch up. Our Parent Support Adviser is usually available at that time too.

### Foundation Classes Playground

Our Foundation Stage children started with us today 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.

### Medical Forms

If your child keeps and uses medicines regularly in school, such as an inhaler, please ensure you complete a green medical form. Please ask at the school office. We ask that parents complete these forms once an academic year for asthma inhalers.

### 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.

### Bicycles and Scooters

If your child rides a bicycle to school please ensure that the brakes work correctly, the bicycle is roadworthy and they wear a helmet.

### Jeans for Genes Day - Friday 23 September

We are raising money for this very worthwhile cause by allowing children to come to school on **Friday 23 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 12 October**. Further details will follow.

### Film Club

Film Club will be starting on **Thursday 15 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 2017

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

All secondary schools will be holding open days/evenings for prospective pupils and parents - some will be quite early on in September. Please check their individual websites for details.