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NEWSLETTER 1

14 September 2018

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!

### **School Photographs - Wednesday 10 October**

Individual school photographs will be taken on **Wednesday 10 October**. An information letter will be sent home - please make a note on your calendar to send your child into school on this day in full uniform (including school jumper!).

### **Jeans for Genes Day - Friday 21 September**

As usual, we will be supporting Jeans for Genes Day this year. Children will be allowed to wear jeans or denim skirts/pinafores for the day with their school jumpers on Friday 21 September. We are asking for a donation of 50p per child, or £1.00 per family group to go towards this worthwhile cause.

### **Secondary School - Open Days**

All the secondary schools will be holding open sessions for prospective Year 7 parents during September. This provides parents and children with the opportunity to look around the secondary schools before submitting applications. Information about open evenings and tours can be found on the schools' individual websites. For our catchment secondary school, West Exe School, Bowhill Primary School and St Thomas Primary School Year 6 parents and pupils are invited to visit on Thursday 20 September or Wednesday 3 October - 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Please contact West Exe School direct for further details.

### **Friends of Bowhill - Friday Feast - Friday 28 September**

The first Friday Feast of the year will be held by Friends of Bowhill on Friday 28 September. They will be sending further details home shortly.

### **Making Appointments**

Should a parent wish to meet with Miss Brooks (Headteacher), Mrs Thornhill (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Eustace (Senco) or Louise Phillips (Parent Support Adviser) please contact the school office in the first instance to make an appointment. But please always speak to your child's teacher in the first instance.

### **Drop In Café**

Our Drop in Café for Parents/Carers is held in the canteen on Friday mornings from 9.00 am to 9.45 am. The cafe continues to be popular with parents from across the school. Feel free to come in for coffee and a chat, little ones are welcome too.

### **Bowhill Running Club**

Our Running Club isn't just about keeping fit - it's about making friends and getting together as a community and supporting each other. People with all levels of fitness are welcome. We meet every Tuesday morning in the school canteen at 9.15 a.m. All you need is some comfortable clothing, trainers and a bottle of water if you feel it is needed. Tea and coffee will be available afterwards in the school canteen and the programme is free to anyone in the local community. If you would like any further information please call the school office and ask to speak to Louise, our Parent Support Adviser, or email her on [lphillips@bowhill.devon.sch.uk](mailto:lphillips@bowhill.devon.sch.uk). If you have any health concerns about beginning an exercise regime, make an appointment to see your GP and discuss it with them first.

### School Gates and the School Day

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. until 9.15 a.m. and opened again at 3.10 p.m. until 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. 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 points on the playgrounds - please check with your child's class teacher if you're unsure. At the start or end of the day, if parents are leaving the classroom to go to the office, please go via the outside of the building and not through the corridors, thank you.

### Parking around the School

Sadly we have already received complaints from our neighbours regarding parking by parents dropping off and picking up children from our school. We would politely request that parents do not pull up in St Phillips Court, or outside the school gates at the start or end of the school day. Thank you.

### Mobile Phones

Can we please remind all parents not to use their mobile phones whilst they are within the school buildings, for safeguarding reasons.

### 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. We would also ask that at least one alternative contact is provided in case you are unavailable.

### 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,, the cost of which is £2.30 per day, unless your family are entitled to free school meals. **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 either register online via the Devon Citizen Portal (see link below) or ask for a form from the office - your child will continue to receive a school meal at no cost to your family and you will be helping school funds.

[https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal\\_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FCCSCitizenPortal\\_LIVE%2F](https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FCCSCitizenPortal_LIVE%2F)

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Miss Caren Brooks  
Headteacher

*Don't forget to keep checking our website which we update with news, photos and links - [www.bowhill.devon.sch.uk](http://www.bowhill.devon.sch.uk)*