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NEWSLETTER 1

11 September 2017

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!

News and updates

Firstly many congratulations to Mr Roddy and his wife on the safe arrival of baby Charlotte.

Vacancy - Cleaner

We are currently looking for a cleaner for 3 hours a day (3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.). For further information please ask at the school office. Closing date for applications is noon on Friday 15 September.

Governor Vacancies

Bowhill governors need new members as we have some vacancies. It is a good opportunity to learn new skills, get training and work with other parents and supporters of the school. Please contact Miss Brooks or the Chair of Governors, Ruth O'Neale on ruth.oneale@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

Helpful reminders

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 open between 8.35 a.m. and 9.15 a.m. and 3.10 p.m. - 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 points on the playgrounds - please check with your 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 which get very congested, thank you.

Mobile Phones

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

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 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

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.

School Photographs

Please make a note that the school photographer will be in school on **Wednesday 11 October**. Further details will follow.

Film Club

Film Club will be starting on **Thursday 14 September** (3.30 pm to 5.30 p.m.) and information will be sent home next week to the children involved.

Code Club (Years 5 and 6)

Code Club will be starting again on **Friday 15 September** (3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.) for Years 5 and 6.

Dance Classes

We regret that Fran O'Brien is no longer able to run our school dance classes. We are making enquiries to find another dance teacher, but in the meantime our dance classes will not be taking place until further notice.

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