



## Newsletter 7

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Happy New Year

**Welcome back and a very Happy New Year** to you all. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break with loved ones. On behalf of all the staff, thank you for your kind thoughts, gifts, and cards at the end of last term, we all appreciated these acts of kindness.

Every year, we seem to celebrate the New Year in countless ways. Some celebrate by spending time with friends and family; some celebrate this time on their own; others may not celebrate at all. Most people use this time for looking back. A lot can happen in a year and between the good and the bad, which may seem like an understatement for some, there are always positive moments and other experiences that we can learn from.

Bringing in the New Year is a time of new beginnings and fresh starts, but also comes with a time of reflection. Whether your resolutions consist of keeping your hands out of the biscuit jar or giving your heartfelt word to work on relationships with loved ones, it can take work. Life isn't always easy, and no-one knows what goes on behind closed doors, but it can make all the difference to put these hopes into words and warm wishes. Even a simple smile could be enough to make someone's day; something we can all do easily.

### Notices

We are seeing an increasing number of **children turning up to school late**. As mentioned above, there are those occasions that are unavoidable, but these should be rare occurrences, not seen daily. School begins at 8:50am and your child should be ready to enter the school at this time. If your child enters via the school office because the other entrances are closed, then they will be marked as late.

If your **child is unwell** and will not be attending school, please can you contact the school office, either by email or leaving a voicemail, with a specific reason by 9am.

**Open classrooms** will be held on Tuesday at 3:40pm. This will be another opportunity to see your child's classroom environment and some of the work that they are proud of.

**Residential Information Evenings for Year 4 & 6** will take place on Wednesday at 5pm in the Year 4 & 6 classrooms. We hope that as many parents can make it as possible. The slides from the presentation will be sent the next day.

Can we please remind children that Year 6 are the only class that can bring backpacks to school.

### **Goodbyes and 'Welcome Backs'**

We are excited to welcome back Mrs Annie Elkington, SENDCo, and Mrs Cole, Year 3 teacher, after their maternity leave. Mrs Elkington will be returning on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, and Mrs Cole will be back after half term. Both members of staff have been back for KIT days to ensure a smooth transition provision across the school.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Vanessa MacCormick and Mrs Askew who have covered both members of staff during their maternity leave. On behalf of the school, I would like to say a huge heartfelt thank you for your hard work over the past year. We will really miss you both, but we will save our proper 'goodbyes' until half term.

### **Admission for Primary School Places for September 2024 – DEADLINE APPROACHING**

Applications for primary school places for 2024/2025 are co-ordinated by the School Admissions Team at Devon County Council. Devon schools offer admission to primary school as a single offer point if the child was born between 01.09.2019 and 31.08.2020. Parents are encouraged to make their application online at [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline) from 15th November 2023 to **15th January 2024**. If you cannot apply online, you will be able to apply using a hard copy of the common application form. If you require a hard copy of the application form, please contact the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019 from the 15<sup>th</sup> November. Please note that it will not be possible to make an application by email. The deadline for primary school places for 2024/2025 is 15th January 2024 and unfortunately, applying late could mean that your child does not get a place at your preferred school.

### **Free School Meal Entitlement**

We are mindful of the pressures facing families during this period of rising costs of living. If your financial or living circumstances have changed, your children may be entitled to Free School Meals. Parents/Carers can make applications for free school meals online through the Devon Citizens Portal [Citizen Portal - Sign in \(devon.gov.uk\)](#) If your application is approved, your child will receive free school meals during term time, and you may be eligible for additional support during the holidays with supermarket vouchers. If you have any other questions about free school meals, your eligibility, or how to apply, please contact the school office on [admin@uffculmeprimary.bep.ac](mailto:admin@uffculmeprimary.bep.ac)

### **Healthy Eating**

With resolutions still fresh in everyone's minds, we thought it would be a good time to highlight again the **Healthier snacks for children** initiative.

Half of the sugar that children are having comes from snacks and sugary drinks. Experts have said that too much sugar can lead to harmful fat building up inside and lead to serious health problems, including painful tooth decay.

Fruit and vegetables are always the best choice, but if you're shopping for packaged snacks for your children, use this helpful tip: look for 100 calorie snacks, and only two a day maximum!

To give you some perspective, a chocolate bar and a juice drink pouch together can contain around 10 sugar cubes of sugar - that's more than the maximum daily amount of added sugar in one go!

For further information, please see the **Change 4 Life** website or seek some medical advice from your family GP.

## **Parent Workshops**

We are busy planning a calendar of parent workshops, which we endeavour to send out in the next couple of weeks. The first workshop will cover online safety, and these workshops will vary in time, from during the school day or after school, so that we reach as many parents as possible. We will make sure we send out any information or PowerPoint slides to all parents so that those that cannot attend, still receive the information.

## **Diary Dates**

<b>JANUARY</b>		
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	3:40pm	Open Classrooms
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	5pm	Year 4 Residential Information Evening Year 6 Residential Information Evening
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	11am	Reception & Year 6 Height & Weight Measurements (NHS)
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	5pm	SATs workshop for parents
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	3:40pm	Parent consultations
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	3:40pm	Parent consultations
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>		Trust-Wide Non-Uniform Day
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024- Half Term Break</b>		

<b>MARCH</b>		
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>		World Book Day
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>		Red Nose Day (non-uniform day)
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	Reception Vision Screening
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	1:45pm	Easter Service at St Mary's Church Last day of Spring Term
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 - Easter Holidays</b>		
<b>APRIL</b>		
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>		First day back of Summer term

Yours sincerely,  
*Fraser Wallace*  
**HEADTEACHER**