



# Mill Water School

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## Headteacher's Newsletter – April 2017

Dear Parent and Carers,

This half term has certainly flown by, and there has been lots going on at school and beyond to update you on. You will be aware that funding has been an issue for all schools and further cuts in funding will impact on the work we do for children here at Mill Water – increasingly we are being asked to do more and more with less money and we are concerned that this will have an impact on the quality provision that we can provide for your children here at Mill Water. We have been active in school in fighting for our fair share of funding, particularly as our pupils are growing more and more complex over time:

### Your Children, Your Money, Your Say

Devon pupils have been poorly funded in relation to other parts of the country for a long time. The new national schools funding formula out for consultation until the end of March would, it was hoped, improve the funding to Devon Schools. Sadly, the planned changes will result in 61% of the pupils already poorly funded in Devon losing even more. These changes are putting immense strain on school budgets and will inevitably lead to cuts including cuts to support staff and teachers. If you would like to support Mill Water and all Devon schools please email your local MP and email your local County Councillor and let them know how you feel – there is more information on this in the accompanying newsletter.

### Donation to School

To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closure of the railway, the OVA and the Fairlynch Museum organised a walk from Newton Popleford to Exmouth. The walkers raised £54.35 for the school as part of their day. We have asked the school council to be in charge of thinking of the best way to spend this money to support activities for playtimes – I know they will come up with some exciting ideas. Many thanks for your fundraising support, it is much appreciated.

### Lambing Sunday: 19<sup>th</sup> March

At Bicton Lambing Sunday last week we raised over £200 for school just on cake and Easter goodies. Thank you to everyone for donations and in particular to Kayleigh, Sarah C, Simon, Tom, Chris H, Helen G, Ollie, Jasmine and Zoe who gave up their Sunday to man the stall. There is still a short time for you to send in £1 to win a giant fluffy rabbit or an Easter Hamper.

## Starters and Leavers

Following feedback in the recent staff survey, I would like to keep you regularly updated when staff changes occur at school. We have a large staff team here at school so it is natural that we have a small amount of turnover through the year as staff seek promotion or new opportunities and we welcome new staff in to work with our wonderful children. This Easter, we say goodbye to Siriol Roe and welcome Emma Whittock as the class teacher for Class 2. We will also say goodbye to TAs Jess Hannah and Julie Hester. New starters are Zoe Bishenden, Jasmine Larcombe, Tracey Taylor and Charlotte Myatt - Welcome to the TA team, I know you will join me in wishing them all the best in their new career at Mill Water.

## Safeguarding Headlines: Sarah Pickering – Designated Safeguarding Lead

\*Soap operas have been giving me an interesting lead into raising safeguarding topics with staff. In recent weeks the storylines of soaps have raised the profile of: child sexual exploitation (CSE), sexting, online bullying, domestic violence (DV) female genital mutilation (FGM) as well as the usual inter relationship troubles. When Ofsted visit they expect all staff to be aware of a range of topics which as Devon families you may question the necessity of knowing about but it helps us remember the key safeguarding messages that “it could happen here” and safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. The feedback I’ve had from staff means that these storylines have caused discussion and debate which can only be a good thing when considering the safety of all our pupils.

Remember anyone can phone MASH (multi agency safeguarding hub) 0345 155 1071 if you have a concern about a child.

## Governor News

We will be saying goodbye to Jean Quinn this term. Jean has served as a Mill Water Governor for the past two years. Jean has previous experience from a career in the diplomatic service and was a key member of the governor team and did much to support the school in her time with us. We would like to wish Jean all the very best as she moves on to take up a role in organising the Budleigh music, food and literature festivals, we know we will be bumping into her soon! The Governing Body has been strengthened by the appointment of Anne Wintercrane. Anne works for the Cornwall College Group, which is part of Bicton College and will be a key contact in working with our local partners. I look forward to publishing her profile soon.

## Mill Water School PTFA News

Many thanks to everyone who came and helped at the disco on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, this was a lovely opportunity for families to get together. The PTFA would like to know if you would like another social event, we would also appreciate your feedback on the disco. Much thanks to Penny B, Sarah S, Maria S (and Husbands!) Cathrine P and Sarah P for giving up your time to make this a successful event.

### **Table Top Sale: Saturday 29th April 10am until 12.30pm at the Public Hall in Budleigh...**

This will include a variety of stalls including plants, crafts, and second hand books. If you would be interested in hiring a table please get in touch with Penny via email [pennybain220@gmail.com](mailto:pennybain220@gmail.com) Tables are £10. We would be grateful for donations of cakes- please bring into school on **Friday 28th April**. Also gratefully received are your unwanted toys and books.

### **Summer Fair: Saturday 24th June at Temple Methodist Church, Budleigh...**

An afternoon of fun and games, crafts and refreshments. There will also be a special visit from Lucy our school therapy dog. You can climb aboard a fire engine as Exmouth's Green Watch will be there and you can also 'jump' into a police car or jump on the bouncy castle. More details to follow.

### **Hot off the Press**

The PTFA team have worked very hard to support the school in many areas, not least in securing funding to support parents across the school. The team have just announced they have secured funding to provide parent support workshops for you to attend which will be valuable learning in how to support our children – many thanks to the PTFA team for your hard work and support, more details will follow shortly.

**Follow the PTFA on Facebook at Mill Water School PTFA for all our latest news and upcoming events. Our next meeting is Tuesday 25th April 9.30am in school. Everyone is welcome.**

## **Namaste**

Hi, I'm Tristan's Mum from Class 1 - I've just returned from a month in India, having successfully completed my yoga teacher training. I'm inviting all parents/carers to join me for a yoga class once a month at school. This will be a class for all, from Bendy Brian's to Can't Touch My Toes Mo's! I will do the class on a donation basis with all contributions going to PTFA to help fund lots more wonderful things for our kids. After the class there will be an opportunity to sit and chat with other parents as we miss out on the 'school gate' interactions. More information to follow.



### ***Dates for your diary:***

- **PTFA Meeting - Tuesday 25th April, 9.30am in school. Everyone is welcome**
- **Table Top Sale - Saturday 29th April 10-12.30. Public Hall in Budleigh**
- **Summer Fair - Saturday 24th June, Temple Methodist Church, Budleigh**
- **'STEAM AND TEAS' – Overton and East Budleigh Railway – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2.00 – 5.00pm donations and proceeds to Mill Water School.**

Very best wishes to you all, I hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing Easter.  
Clive