



**10<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

### **The end of a very strange academic year**

As we now enter the last week of the academic year I reflect upon what we have achieved, what we have done well and what we could have done better. Most of these thoughts have, understandably, been blown out of context by the Covid pandemic. I can wholeheartedly say that the school, staff, parents, carers and most of all children have worked with absolute honesty, resolve and integrity in very challenging, strange and unprecedented times. Of course, looking back there are things we could have done better but given the situation we were faced with I believe we made the best decisions we could at the time. It is because of this I want to say 'Thank You'.

Thank you to the school staff – they have truly made me proud to call them my team having worked tirelessly for the benefit of our children whilst looking after their own children and wellbeing.

Thank you to the parents and carers who have juggled working from home or key work, home education and the safety of their families.

Thank you to the children. I am proud of you for managing and dealing with one of the most challenging social, educational and practical situations we have seen for a generation.

Remember, this week at school would have been sports days, end of term plays, leaver's service, transition days, tidying up and finishing off. You will see the home learning reflects this for this week. Let's enjoy our last week of term together.

### **Leavers and Transition Meetings**

It is such a shame we cannot celebrate our Year 6s moving on from Bridestowe as we normally would. We are planning a mini-leavers service in school to present the children with a leaver's hoodie and celebrate their time with us. In addition, we are planning a get-together celebration at the end of August when, hopefully, we will be able to meet in larger groups safely.

We have also set up virtual transition meetings which were open to all children. These will be a great opportunity to meet and speak to your September teacher and other children in your class.

Whilst setting up these meetings I made an honest mistake in sharing the invites. The email addresses of those in the meeting were shared with one another – a breach of your data protection rights, for which I apologise. The following statement was sent to those affected:



*Over the last 2 days we sent invites to a Microsoft Teams meeting in which the participants can see one another's email addresses. This mistake was a result of a lack of robust checking of the programme. We are sorry for this error. Your email address has been shared with a small number of other parents but no other personal information was shared.*

*We have treated the incident as a data breach and reported it to our Data Protection Officer.*

*You may wish to read some guidance about staying secure online*

*from <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online>*

*Once again, we are sorry that this occurred. We will ensure that this does not happen again by reviewing our virtual meeting procedures.*

*Thank you for your understanding.*

*Kind regards*

*Mr Hill*

Having consulted our data protection officer, it appears there is no way to set up a Teams Meeting without this happening. In future we may use Zoom, however, I don't feel it would be valuable to reorganise the transition meetings on a new platform as the incident has already happened.



### **Home Learning and Class Dojo**

This week will be the last of home learning. We may release some suggested activities for the summer holidays but these will be entirely voluntary with no obligation to complete them.

Class Dojo will be monitored until Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. After this date there will be no obligation for staff to access the platform as they have definitely earned, and deserve, a rest and break from work related activities. At some point over the summer the classes will be archived and children moved to their new class groups. You should not have to change anything at your end.

### **Primary Times Magazine**

As we are currently unable to distribute Primary Times magazines to you, please follow the link to sign up for their free E-Newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/e6fba174f4c0/sign-up-to-the-primary-times-devon-newsletter>

### **Staffing for September**

Following my letter on Tuesday, I would like to reaffirm the staffing arrangements for September:

Owlets	Monday – Wednesday – <b>Mrs Baker</b> Thursday – Friday – <b>Mrs Harris</b> Monday – Friday – <b>Teaching assistant to be appointed</b>
Tawny Owls	Monday – Friday – <b>Mrs Lammas</b> 1 afternoon per week PPA cover – <b>Mrs Houghton and Mrs Butler</b>
Snowy Owls	Monday – Friday – <b>Mrs Sharland</b> 1 afternoon per week PPA cover – <b>Mrs Houghton and Mrs Butler</b>
Barn Owls	4 days per week – <b>Mr Huxtable</b> 1 day per week NQT and PPA cover - <b>TBC</b>
TAs supporting across the school	Monday – Wednesday – <b>Mrs Butler</b> Tuesday – Friday – <b>Mrs Lee-Hillan</b> Monday – Friday – <b>Mrs Houghton</b>

## **September Arrangements**

We have now had the opportunity to examine in detail the guidance for the full opening of schools in September. We are expecting all children to return to school from September 9<sup>th</sup> and more details will be sent out very shortly.

## **FoBS Update & End of Year Messages**

The end of another school year, and what an end to a year!

Despite the unprecedented times and enforced school closure, FoBS have still been working hard to make sure we have funds to support the children and school when we return next year.

Although we haven't been able to enjoy our usual summer events some great things have been happening over lockdown: Bingo via Facebook raising £100 and 'Chop the Mop' head shave raising £160. With these and the events that happened before March you have helped us raise over £2,000 – a fantastic achievement – thank you! A lot of this will go straight to much needed work in the environmental area to ensure a fantastic outdoor learning space for when the children return.

Hopefully you have all heard about The GREAT Bridestowe Community Cookbook, please get your recipe in by the 17<sup>th</sup> July (email [thegreatbridestowemenu@gmail.com](mailto:thegreatbridestowemenu@gmail.com)) so that we can create a fantastic Lockdown Cookbook and raise some money for when the children return in September.

Best of luck to Mr Parsley on his new adventures and of course to our Year 6s as they move on to college! And welcome to Mr Huxtable!

We would like to say a massive thank you to all the families, staff and members of the community who continue to support our fundraising efforts and wish everyone a happy and healthy summer break – stay safe.

You can donate to FoBS at any time via Givey.com  
<https://www.givey.com/friendsofbridestoweschool>

## **Diary Dates**

All previously planned events have been cancelled.

### **July**

17<sup>th</sup> – Last day of the summer term.

### **September**

9<sup>th</sup> – Autumn Term begins

Mr A. Hill – Acting Head of School

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