



Bridestowe Primary School

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*Bridestowe Primary School – With Respect and Ambition We Flourish Together*

28/01/2022

### **The End of January**

January is now coming to an end. It's common to describe January as a slow, long month, but for us at school it has flown by. We have achieved so much great learning in the 4 weeks of this term, and to see the children flourish, especially in swimming, has been an absolute pleasure.

### **Residential Parental Consultation**

We are pleased to be able to offer off-site trips and visits again. With this in mind, we are looking ahead to our summer residential for KS2.

Please could parents of children in Years 3,4,5 and 6 complete the short survey to allow us to make informed decisions about residential trips. <https://forms.office.com/r/wXryPHfk9A>

Please complete by Friday February 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.



### **Children's Mental Health Week: 7-13 February 2022**

This year's theme is **Growing Together**. To mark this week, we are excited to announce that we will be having a 'Well-being Wednesday' on 9th February.

We will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow.

On the morning of this day, each child will take part in an activity which they have chosen from a diverse selection offered by the adults in the school. Some of the activities to choose from include making Worry People, running, singing, art and dance. We will focus on how taking time out to do something we enjoy can help our mental health and well-being. We will also have time to share the new books we have recently purchased and use these to support us in talking about mental health. Some children will have Forest School on this day, but this will not be affected and will go ahead as normal.



### **Covid Risk Assessments**

There have been updates in the covid guidance from HM Government in recent days. Most notably, the removal of the requirement for adults to wear a face covering in communal areas.

As a school, we are still prioritising the safety of our children, staff and community at all times. Therefore, we continue to strongly encourage the use of face coverings for adults in communal areas and for all visitors to the school. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

We continue to ensure the safety of our children and staff with the following measures:

- Ventilation in all classrooms
- Enhanced cleaning, especially of high touch services
- Encouraging face coverings for adults in communal spaces.

## **Morning Timings**

Please could I remind all parents that the start of the school day is 08.50 - 09.00am.

Children should not be dropped off at school earlier than 08.50am\*.

Please wait outside the front gate or immediately inside the back gate until an adult welcomes you into the school.

\*Children coming by DCC Taxi and from Treetops breakfast club have slightly different arrangements.

Whilst there are adults in school, the time before 08.50 is used for vital preparation for the day and staff will often have professional conversations which cannot happen with children in the building.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.



## **Severe Weather Procedures**

In the event of severe weather, such as snow, the school has a robust system in place to decide upon school closure and communication to parents and carers.

School will open unless it is deemed unsafe to do so. This could be because of a lack of staff or damage caused by severe weather.

Staff who live in close proximity to the school will communicate with Mr Hill to report the conditions. All teachers will decide upon the safety of their travel to school and inform Mr Hill. Using this information, Mr Hill will decide if it is unsafe to open the school.

The school administrator will remain at home to ensure they have constant access to the school comms system to inform parents in a timely manner in the event of a school closure.

If severe weather occurs during the school day and the safety of travelling home is compromised, the school may close early.

## **Oral and Teeth Hygiene and Drinks Bottles**

The school is committed to promoting positive oral hygiene for all our children. The new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework sets out the school's responsibility: *'The provider must promote the good health, including the oral health, of children attending the setting.'*

The Department for Education explain its inclusion: *'Nearly a quarter of 5-year-olds in England have tooth decay, with 3 or 4 teeth affected on average. Tooth extraction is one of the most common procedures for children under 6 in hospital. Extraction is also the most common reason for hospital admission for children aged 6 to 10. Children from more deprived backgrounds are more likely to have tooth decay.'*

As a result, we are developing our education for healthy lifestyles to include suitable drinks at school. Children should only have water in their drinks bottles. Squash, even sugar-free options, is a significant contributor to poor oral hygiene and tooth decay. This is not only because of high levels of sugar or aspartame, but because of the nature of drinks bottles forcing the liquid into the front teeth and children being encouraged to drink regularly.

We appreciate that some children may prefer to have squash or flavoured water and your child's class teacher will be happy to discuss ways to encourage drinking water.

More information can be found here: [Oral health - Help for early years providers - GOV.UK \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/oral-health-help-for-early-years-providers) and here: [Reducing sugar - Food facts - Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/reducing-sugar)

### **Snowy Owls Sound Project**

We learnt that to produce a sound with an instrument, you can strike, pluck or blow it. We discovered that these group of instruments are called percussion, string or wind.

We made our own string instrument and plucked it to make a sound. Then we experimented with pitch and used our knowledge to explain what was happening.



### **Parent Governor Vacancy**

Parents – Your school needs YOU!

There is a vacancy for one Parent governor to join the Local Stakeholder Board with the Moorland Hub schools. Local governors are a vital part of the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust's connection with schools and community, and Parents are an important voice within the governance structure.

To qualify as a Parent governor, you must have at least one child on the roll at any school within the Moorland Hub, and must be eligible under the national governing body rules.

Nominations are now open, until close of business on Friday 27th January 2022. All nominations will then be put forward to a parent vote, which will take place electronically.

The nomination form must be completed in full, and can be obtained by emailing the Clerk to Governors:

[j.hooper@dmatschools.org.uk](mailto:j.hooper@dmatschools.org.uk)

For an informal chat about the role of parent governor and the responsibilities of the local stakeholder board, please contact the Chair Bridget Down: [bdown@dmatschools.org.uk](mailto:bdown@dmatschools.org.uk) or the Clerk to Governors:

[j.hooper@dmatschools.org.uk](mailto:j.hooper@dmatschools.org.uk)

Thank you for your interest, and we look forward to receiving your applications

### **Catering Assistant Vacancy – Lydford Primary**

Lydford Primary is currently seeking to recruit a Catering Assistant on a permanent part-time basis, working 8.75 hours per week. The position requires collection and transport of school meals from Bridestowe to Lydford, serving lunches and cleaning up afterwards. Further details and how to apply can be found on the DMAT vacancies page [HERE](#)

#### ***Respect, Ambition, Flourish Awards:***

**Owlets:** George – showing great respect for the class rules

**Tawny Owls:** Liam – showing great ambition in all his learning

**Snowy Owls:** Molly – great ambition in Maths, explaining her answers

**Barn Owls:** Emily – great ambition in her learning, especially Writing.

#### **Whole School Attendance**

# 95.7%

## Dates

### **February 2022**

4<sup>th</sup> – KS2 Swimming  
4<sup>th</sup> - Simmons Park Cross Country – selected pupils  
9<sup>th</sup> Forest School – Owlets, Tawny and Snowy Owls  
9<sup>th</sup> – Well-Being Wednesday  
11<sup>th</sup> – KS2 Swimming  
16<sup>th</sup> Forest School - Owlets and Barn Owls  
18<sup>th</sup> – KS2 Swimming  
WB 21<sup>st</sup> – Half term

### **March 2022**

2<sup>nd</sup> Forest School – Owlets, Tawny and Snowy Owls  
3<sup>rd</sup> – World Book Day  
4<sup>th</sup> – EYFS, KS1 Swimming  
11<sup>th</sup> – EYFS, KS1 Swimming  
16<sup>th</sup> Forest School - Owlets and Barn Owls  
18<sup>th</sup> – EYFS, KS1 Swimming  
23<sup>rd</sup> Forest School – Owlets, Tawny and Snowy Owls  
25<sup>th</sup> – EYFS, KS1 Swimming

### **April 2022**

1<sup>st</sup> – EYFS, KS1 Swimming  
6<sup>th</sup> - Forest school - Owlets and Barn Owls  
8<sup>th</sup> – EYFS, KS1 Swimming  
WB 11<sup>th</sup> – Easter break

Mr A. Hill – Principal

[ahill@dmatschools.org.uk](mailto:ahill@dmatschools.org.uk)

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The Tawny Owls have been looking at the history of London. This week they have learnt about events that nearly destroyed our capital city including The Gunpowder Plot, The Great Fire of London and The Blitz. During break time today, some of the children took their indoor learning outside and independently put it into their play using this equipment as a bomb shelter whenever a siren sounded!