

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe we are 5 weeks into the new school year already, and there is so much going on! At this time of year we are busy showing prospective parents around the school. I have been particularly impressed with the pupils' behaviour during those visits. They were courteous, polite and showed confidence and enthusiasm when our visitors asked them questions. Well done to all involved!

School uniform and jewellery

We have an increasing number of pupils who are failing to comply with, or are pushing the boundaries of our uniform policy. Please can I ask for your co-operation and support in ensuring your son/daughter is wearing the correct uniform, including school shoes.

As a reminder, our school uniform is:-

- **Grey or black skirt/trousers**
- **White polo shirt, t-shirt or blouse**
- **Grey, long-sleeved sweatshirt, V-neck jumper or cardigan**
- **White or black socks or tights**
- **Black shoes or plain black trainers**

I appreciate some pupils may wish to wear make-up or jewellery, as teenagers naturally do. Can I ask you to reinforce our message, that any make-up should be natural looking, with subtle shades, and not too bright. This can look inappropriate for our school environment.

Please can you also monitor the jewellery your child is bringing / wearing to school.

Any earrings should be small studs, not hoop or dangly earrings. Can you also discourage the wearing of any necklaces or bracelets including plastic 'choker' style necklaces.

Thank you for your support with all of the above.

NEWS

#HelloYellow - We would like to invite you into school on **Friday 12th October from 1.45pm**. We are fundraising for **YoungMinds** - a charity that works with families, young people and schools to support young people's mental health.

There is a nationwide campaign called **#HelloYellow** so we would like all pupils (and adults if you would like!) to wear something, anything, yellow in to school that day please!



At the event there will be an opportunity to make a donation to: make a sensory jar to keep, enter a teddy/chocolate tombola, buy a raffle ticket, take part in some creative activities and, of course, buy some tea and cake. It would be great to see you there ☺

School Council - we had an assembly on Monday with last year's school councillors to learn about what the role involves. We heard about all the school council's achievements from last year. This week Tutor groups have been busy voting for a new school council representative for their tutor group. The new school council will hold their first meeting soon and we look forward to seeing what ideas the new councillors will bring with them. Watch this space.

Paper Horse - our Key Stage 3 pupils were treated to a unique live concert last week with talented musicians Zeb and Sam Haynes. The brothers who are collectively known as Paper Horse performed some of their own original work as well as a few old favourites; which we all enjoyed singing along to! It was great to see children so captivated listening to the young acoustic duo, despite not being familiar with many of their songs. We were also proud of the maturity shown throughout the afternoon and impressed with some of the great questions asked at the end. Paper Horse are about to record an EP with some of the songs we heard. We will be watching carefully to see if they are going to be the next 'big thing'! The afternoon was funded by "Live Music Now" a UK-wide initiative, created by Yehudi Menuhin and Ian Stoutzker in 1977, which delivers thousands of interactive music programmes

in a range of educational communities and healthcare settings. Their specialist support and training provides young musicians with skills and employment at the start of their professional careers, across all genres of music.

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

Friday 12 th October	Hello Yellow Coffee Afternoon	Friday 19 th October	Race for Life
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FURTHER AHEAD – FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 6th November – Harvest Celebration
Monday 3rd December & Tuesday 4th December – Christmas Production
Thursday 13th December – Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 18th December – Christmas Fayre

PARENT EVENINGS

Monday 15th October 2018 – Year 7 & 8
Monday 19th November 2018 – Year 9
Monday 11th February 2019 – Year 1
Monday 13th May 2019 – Year 9 & 10
Monday 1st July 2019 – Year 7 & 8

TERM DATES

Half term - Monday 22nd October – Monday 29th October 2018
Pupils return to school – Tuesday 30th October 2018
Term ends – Wednesday 19th December 2018
Pupils return to school – Tuesday 7th January 2019

IMPORTANT MESSAGES:

Reminder – Flu Vaccination – please note that the deadline for completing the Flu Vaccination consent forms is this Friday 5th October 2018. We sent an email with a link to complete the form electronically on 25th September 2018 to all parents.

Gardening Equipment – One of our Teaching Assistants, Karen Hannaford, who is looking after our allotment, would appreciate donations of gardening equipment, such as shears, loppers, pruners, as well as seeds and plants and any other useful gardening tools you may have spare at home – **no plastic pots please**. Many thanks!

Private Fostering - are you looking after someone else's child? Is your child living with another family? If the answer to either question is yes, and the arrangement is for 28 days or more, this is known as Private Fostering. If a child or young person under 16 years old (or 18 if they have a disability) is looked after by someone who is not a close relative, then by law Devon County Council need to be informed. When notified, we will work with the child, parents and private foster carers to ensure the best possible arrangements are in place for the child.

To tell us about a private fostering arrangement or if you are unsure if your situation is private fostering, please contact 0345 155 1071 or email: privatefostering@devon.gov.uk.

SENSORY CIRCUS at Exeter Phoenix, Sunday 21st October 2018 - a SHOW FOR CHILDREN WITH ASD AND PMLD - Blast off into space with Neo, our little alien puppet and discover the magical wonders of planet circus. Sensory Circus is a UV and LED glow performance combining circus and puppetry, followed by a sensory play session. For more information, visit <https://www.exeterphoenix.org.uk/events/sensory-circus/>.

Bronwen Caschere
Headteacher