

How are you all?

We've been back for just over a month now, and it is noticeable how many more challenges we face right now. The Summer has definitely gone, the days are getting shorter and many parts of the country are managing increases in COVID cases. We recognise that the increased numbers of local lockdowns may be affecting other members of your family and friends.

However, there is still so much to be positive and thankful for. A useful technique in getting through the forthcoming winter is to get into the right mindset and keep re-framing your view in order to stay positive.

So, here I go!

There are no COVID cases in our town, and no confirmed cases in any Exmouth schools. We are fortunate to live in a more rural part of the country, and many households can work in COVID-safe environment.

The weather has changed, but we still have a fantastic local environment that can be used in all weather conditions. I will be having a sea swim this month, and the Common is still in great shape for walking, running, cycling and exploring (ask me if you need a good loop!).

Our school community has pulled together so well to provide education for our children in really chaotic and stressful situations. I am proud of how well our children are doing back at school. Things are different, but they are getting back into school learning really well.

You have all been so good at following the new routines - which makes for the smooth running of the school - thank you! Thank you also for the kind words shared at the gate.

Our PTA has been so supportive, the numbers of pupils enjoying our Before and After School Club is increasing, and I have been blown away by the response to our swimming letter to ensure we can keep our pool viable.

If you have worries or concerns - make sure you talk to friends, relatives or seek help from professionals. Get in the right mindset - but don't suffer in silence.

Raising concerns/contacting staff

Please do use the appropriate channels when you have a concern or gripe with the school. Mr Lee and myself are always available to you - we would rather know about something than not!

- The Whatsapp groups and Facebook pages are great to find out about missing information, but you need to understand the impact on teacher mental health when they find out they are the centre of criticism or an issue with their class. Although we are open to criticism and feedback, it has to be done in the right way.
- We can not address issues that we don't know about. So far this term, I have found out about three really important things, which I had no idea about! We were able to learn from all three and put solutions in quickly.
- If you have any ideas about how we can improve communication then please let us know.

Small notices

- Please do not allow your child to bring in toys or money from home. It might be worth checking their bag!
- Don't forget to make your swimming pool payment using School Gateway, or at the school office.

- Don't forget to apply for a secondary school place, or a Reception place for next September for your 3 and 4 year olds - <https://www.st-peters-school.org.uk/key-information/admissions>
- The PTA will soon be announcing it's plans for an alternative Christmas. It sounds really exciting! The first event I can let you know about is a mufti day on 1st December.
- Interested in becoming a teacher? The government has pledged to increase starting salaries for this rewarding career. Train with the top rated course in the Country - <https://web.dpsscitt.ac.uk/>

Reading Rivers

Please visit <https://www.st-peters-school.org.uk/parents/reading-rivers/> for further examples of Reading Rivers. We have been amazed by the creativity shown by pupils as they record their weekly reading - thank you for your support.

Important internet safety warning

In more downbeat news, I do keep bangng on about internet safety at the moment - but it is the most dangerous place for your child, particularly if they are left to their own devices. We worry about them going outside on their own, but from a risk point of view, the internet has more perils.

The Internet Watch Foundation have said, in one week alone, analysts saw almost 700 individual girls being exploited and coerced into filming their own abuse.....most of the girls were between 11-13 years old but the ages ranged from 3 to 17 years old. It is vital we keep plugging away at this. This is by far the fastest growing concern I have seen. To read more click **HERE**.

Book track success

Well done to Lucy D - another successful book track completed! Here she is at the town library with our Mayor. Don't forget, anyone can take part. For more details, contact the librarians <https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/budleighsaltertonlibrary>



We have laser thermometers - thank you Lions!



The Lions of Budleigh very generously paid for 3 laser thermometers so we can easily check pupil and staff temperatures. Not only can we check them if they display symptoms, but if there is an outbreak, we can stand at the school gate and easily check pupils when they enter school for signs of infection. We are really grateful for the Lions donation during these tricky times. Pictured is me with Evelyn Hitchcock, and Alan Lowe (Lions) with Bradley Lowe. We choose our relatives for social distancing reasons! They passed the temp check too!

Download the NHS Covid-19 app

The new [NHS COVID-19 app is now available to download](#). It's free and it has some clever features that will help stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).



It's to support the [NHS Test and Trace service](#), so its major benefit to the public is in helping to trace people quickly when they've been in close contact for a period of time with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus. That way, they can be advised even sooner to self-isolate and take any other appropriate steps.

It also provides risk alerts by postcode, a symptom checker and test booking features.

Venues are now legally required to collect contact details from customers and visitors, so if you don't have a smartphone, they will also have their own log book or other paper method.

X-Box - helpful family settings app for parents

Microsoft have recently released some new management features that parents can use. Available for iOS and Android, it is a free download and it has some great features, e.g.:

- Create new child accounts.
- Manage screen time limits (including grant more time).
- Accept or decline friend requests.
- View and manage friends list.

See the full article [HERE](#).

Well done to our amazing surgery - COVID support group update

The Budleigh Coronavirus Support Group is still in operation, helping the households in the Budleigh area. We have supported fifteen families since the start of the pandemic with financial support. The Hub has also continued to help vulnerable people in the community, providing food and shopping support.

The medical centre have done a brilliant with the recent flu vaccination clinics and they would like to say a huge "THANK YOU" to all the patients who came and stuck to the stringent guidance: arriving at the right time, staying socially distanced and wearing masks. Everyone, patients and staff, really pulled together and because of this it has been a real success. So far, 2,100 vaccinations have been completed in a safe manner, for which the medical practice should be congratulated. Dr Taylor said "it was great to see people face to face and that the staff have done a fantastic job". Please remember that the practice is not closed and you can get medical support - but you do need an invite to come into the building. The practice is working incredibly hard for our area, but all appointments do have to be triaged to ensure the safety of patients and staff.

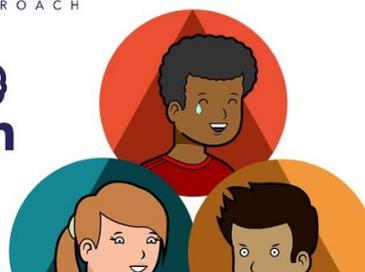
The Exmouth Food Larder is still in need, and supporting Budleigh residents. They have lots of pasta etc, and now need more tinned food. Drop off points can be found in the town supermarkets, or St Peter's Church.



Online course for teenagers

'Understanding your brain (for teenagers only!)

- Have you noticed changes in your behaviour?



DROP OFF & PICK UP REMINDERS

Drop offs

- One parent only. Any gate.
 - Nursery - 9am (at the Nursery gates)
 - 08:45 - Cedar, Sycamore and Cherry
 - 08:55 - Willow, Rowan and Chestnut
 - 09:05 - Beech, Ash and Oak

Pick ups

- One way system: Enter via Moor Lane gate - Exit via the Green Gates.
- Wait on a blue dot in the playground.
 - 15:00 - Nursery
 - 15:15 - Cedar, Sycamore and Cherry
 - 15:25 - Willow, Rowan and Chestnut
 - 15:35 - Beech, Oak and Ash

What's going on soon?

PTA AGM

Thurs 12th Nov 20:00

NON PUPIL DAY

Monday 23rd Nov

Parents meetings

Wb Monday 23rd Nov

Mufti day - 1st December

Last day of term, school closes at 1.30pm Friday 18th Dec

New term starts

Tues 5th Jan

Contact us:

PHONE - 01395 443167

Steve Hitchcock -

head@sps1.org.uk

Phill Lee -

plee@sps1.org.uk

Office -

admin@stpeters-budleigh.devon.sch.uk

h.devon.sch.uk