



Hazeldown Primary School

Maudlin Drive, Teignmouth TQ14 8SE
Tel 01626 772901
admin@hazeldown.devon.sch.uk
www.hazeldown.co.uk

Wednesday 6th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your efforts with making it in to school in the snow and ice on Friday – we really appreciate the fact that so many of you made it in to school and we are grateful for the staff team who also battled against the snow to make it in.

As a reminder: Don't forget that, if we should see more snow, you should assume that school is open unless you hear otherwise. Please don't try to telephone the school early in the morning, as we will not be able to deal with individual enquiries. We will make the decision to close, if we have to do so in order to keep everyone safe, as early as possible and we will email you and post it on our website. We will also inform the local radio stations and post the information on the DCC school closures website.

Finally, don't forget that you need to make the individual decision about whether it is safe for you and your children to travel to school based on the conditions at your house, at the time. If it is not and the conditions improve later in the day, you should bring your child to school once you feel it is safe to do so.

There will be a change to the teaching staff at Easter. After much consideration, Miss Davies has made the decision to resign from her post at Hazeldown for personal reasons and to pursue her desire to travel. Teachers have several points in the year when they may give notice of leaving. February half term is one of them and this means that Miss Davies will be leaving the school at Easter.

I felt it appropriate to inform you as soon as possible about this change. This does, however, mean that we are currently unable to tell you who will be teaching the class after Easter. I would like to re-assure you that we will let you know as soon as possible and will ensure that the children continue to receive high quality teaching through the remainder of this academic year.

The National Safer Internet Day is this week. We have a continuous thread of Internet safety education through the year as the children are using devices on a regular basis. We have our big focus on safe use of the internet in the summer, when the children have moved into their new classes as a way to re-state expectations ready for the summer holidays and the new school year. The E-Safety Newsletter for parents from SCOMIS, who provide us with ICT services through DCC, is being sent out alongside this letter – hopefully you will find some of the points useful in supporting your child to stay safe online.

We are also sending out some information regarding teacher training with the Exeter Consortium Teaching School Alliance. We are a member of this group and work in partnership with them on Initial Teacher Training. You may find the information useful for yourself or a family member.

We are continuing to work on our project to open a Pre-School. We are just completing the final elements of the business plan, which will be submitted to DCC for final approval shortly. Once approval is granted, we should be able to go ahead with developments to the bungalow and putting the plan into action. We will keep you informed of our progress.



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As always, please remember that if you have a question or concern about your child, we are always reminding you that we would prefer to hear about it sooner, rather than later, so that we can take some action alongside you to best support your child. Please contact the class teacher in the first instance or team leaders if you prefer. This also applies to concerns or strong viewpoints that you feel would be useful for us to know about. A number of comments and discussions on social media have been reported to us through a wide range of parents recently, which would have been useful to know about. Please don't sit at home complaining that we haven't acted when you haven't actually told us!

It is also disappointing for us all when individuals make negative comments based on little or no knowledge of the facts. We would appreciate you giving us the courtesy of having made sure your statements are substantiated rather than judgements based on hearsay and assumption. Please come and talk to us if you have a concern. Whilst it does take a little more effort, it does help maintain a positive relationship between yourself as a parent and school.

Please remember that if you are sending a snack in for break-time, this should be healthy, preferably fruit, and certainly not a chocolate bar. We are a 'Nut Free' school, due to a number of children and adults who have serious allergies, so please make sure you bear this in mind. Please also support us in reminding your child that they should not be 'raiding their lunchbox' at break-time and eating half their lunch as they will be hungry later!

Finally, thank you to all of you who have been able to come in to take part in celebration events and other school activities recently. It is great to see such strong parental (and grandparental!) support for the school and your children.

Yours sincerely,
Stuart Ludford,
Headteacher



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