



# FAMILY NEWSLETTER

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

## ***PUSHED FOR TIME? QUICK SUMMARY:***

- Welcome Back!
- Please apply suncream to your child before they leave home, pop a bottle of suncream in their bag for top-ups during the day and provide a named water bottle.
- Lateral Flow Test Kits are available for families – follow the link to find out more/get a kit.
- “The Big Ask” is a national survey which has been sent out from the Children’s Commissioner for England. Click the link to ask your child some questions. Thank you.
- The “Improving Access to Communication Services and Support” (IACSS) Team have lots of information available for parents who are expecting a baby right through to 5 year olds. There is a web page with lots of resources, or click on the Facebook links.
- Fancy walking or running anything from 1 mile to 26.2+ miles to help raise money for Ellen Tinkham in May? Email [emmajaynekeessie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:emmajaynekeessie@yahoo.co.uk) at Heavitree Running Group to find out more. You do not need to live in Devon to participate, the distance is not important and you will receive either a T-Shirt or a medal!
- Relationships and Sex Education – Family sessions have taken place at the College covering this subject, more will be organised in the future. If you would like to find out more about the curriculum, contact Mel Hopton at ETC [mhopton@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk](mailto:mhopton@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk) or Lisa Woodger at ETS [lwoodger@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk](mailto:lwoodger@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk).
- Hollow Lane – please use a one-way system when accessing the school. Come into the lane from Hill Barton Road (near Sainsbury’s) and leave via Ambassador Drive (near Exeter College). Also be considerate with other Hollow Lane users eg cyclists and pedestrians.
- Hollow Lane only - Reading Books – Students will choose a book to bring home. Please look through/read the book with your child for pleasure before returning it to school. Thank you.
- ETS Early Years Dept – The Team are developing a nature area for our younger learners. Do you have any bamboo canes, planters, children’s gardening tools, etc you could donate? Please think of us if you are having a shed or garage clear out in the near future.

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the Summer Term - I hope you enjoyed the Easter break. Students have settled well into their first week back and with warmer weather, we will be able to start enjoying the great outdoors as the country hopefully progresses out of lockdown. In the meantime, all our schools will continue to work within “bubbles”, with staff adhering to our Covid-19 risk assessment. Over the coming few weeks, staff are scheduled to receive their second Covid-19 vaccination which is good news for everyone.

As the weather has improved recently, please remember to apply suncream to your child before leaving home, pop a bottle of suncream in their bag for staff to re-apply during the day as required, and provide a named water bottle. Thank you.

**Lateral Flow Test Kits for Families** – The Government has confirmed that families who have students at our school can also get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees;
- at a local test site or pharmacy;
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site;
- by ordering a home test kit online.

The link below provides further details:

[Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

**National Survey** - Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children’s Commissioner for England, has launched a survey called “The Big Ask” for all children in England. The questions are designed to ask students what their current concerns are and aspirations for the future. This will influence the Government Children’s Commissioner. The link to the survey is now live:

<http://thebigask.uk/>

The results from this survey will help identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve. On behalf of Rachel de Souza, thank you in advance for helping put children and young people at the heart of the country’s plans to rebuild for the future.

**#DevonspeaksupforSLCN** – The Improving Access to Communication Services and Support (ICASS) programme is very excited to announce a new fantastic resource aimed at parents, carers and professionals of children from antenatal-5 years.

As part of the ‘Let’s Get Chatting’ campaign, this group which involves parents and carers have developed a central resource that contains national and local information about speech, language and communication development from bump to 5 years old as well as providing a number of top tips on how best to support.

It is free and very accessible and can be found at: <https://padlet.com/togetherfordevonantenatalto5>

Below are a couple of links to their Facebook page – one is relevant for expectant parents and the other for younger children.

<https://www.facebook.com/cfhdpreschoolslt/posts/266216791862813>

<https://www.facebook.com/cfhdpreschoolslt/posts/266781101806382>

Let's Get Chatting  
from bump  
to baby

Notice how your baby responds...  
to light,  
to sounds,  
to voices,  
to music...

Find out more about how you can support your baby's communication by scanning the QR code

#letsgetchattingdevon

The poster features a blue background with white and yellow text. On the right, there is a photograph of a pregnant woman's belly. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

Let's Get Chatting  
for 0-2 years

Notice how your baby communicates...  
using their fingers to point,  
using their eyes to show you,  
using their voice to make sounds and words...

Find out more about how you can support your child's communication by scanning the QR code

#letsgetchattingdevon

The poster features a blue background with white and yellow text. On the right, there is a photograph of a young child pointing. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

**Fundraising Opportunity for Ellen Tinkham** – Would you like to help raise money for Ellen Tinkham in May by walking or running a set distance?

Heavitree Running Club is a community group that, during lockdown, has been hosting virtual events for local charities.



In May, their chosen charity is Ellen Tinkham.

**Walk or Run**  
Choose Distance 1 mile  
3 miles 6 miles 13.1 miles  
26.2 miles

PIC+COLLAGE

Each participant can choose a distance they want to walk or run over the month and at the end of May, you will receive a bespoke T-shirt. The cost to enter is £10 per person but there are limited entries due to T-shirt quantities. There are also spaces available at £5 per person and you will receive a medal instead. If you could promote this event with your own family, friends or in your neighbourhood, this would be amazing! You do not have to live in central Exeter to take part.

Email Emma via [emmajaynekeessie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:emmajaynekeessie@yahoo.co.uk) to register your place. Thanks very much!

**Relationships and Sex Education at Ellen Tinkham** - At the end of last term, parents and carers of College students were invited to find out more about Relationships and Sex Education at Ellen Tinkham. Fourteen parents and carers participated in the sessions, which focused on the new curriculum requirements and what this will look like for our students. We discussed hopes and fears around relationships and sex education and shared our curriculum documents and ideas for these sessions with parent carers, inviting their feedback.

We had lots of useful feedback from the families who attended the session and we look forward to continuing our ongoing dialogue about this sensitive yet critical topic. Further family sessions will be organised in the future.

If you would like to find out more, contact Mel Hopton at ETC [mhopton@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk](mailto:mhopton@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk) or Lisa Woodger at ETS [lwoodger@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk](mailto:lwoodger@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk)

**Hollow Lane** – For those of you who have visited Ellen Tinkham School, we are located on a narrow, single lane. As you can imagine, the lane is very busy every morning and afternoon with Transport vehicles so in order to keep traffic flowing, we operate an unofficial one-way system for everyone. Traffic comes into Hollow Lane from Hill Barton Road (near Sainsbury's) and leaves via Ambassador Drive (near Exeter College). If you are dropping or collecting your child from school, please use this system.

Hollow Lane is maintained by Devon Highways and is flanked on either side with natural hedgerows which include nettles. Please be mindful when driving down the lane of other users eg cyclists and in particular, pedestrians who may find it difficult to avoid nettles when moving to the side to let vehicles pass. Thank you for your consideration.

**Hollow Lane Site Only - Reading Books** – Very shortly, we will be providing reading books for students to bring home. Your child will have chosen their particular book so it would be great if you could spend some time together either looking through or reading the book for pleasure.

Once you have read the book, or if your child loses interest, please return the book back to school and we can help your child choose a new one. If you have any questions about reading, books in general or your child's progress, please email your Class Teacher who will be able to help. Thank you for your support.

**ETS – Request from our Early Years Dept** - We are hoping to develop the small concrete space at the back of the department into a nature area as an additional area for learning. The Early Years Team are looking out for any items that would be useful for example, bamboo canes, planters, children's gardening tools, etc. If you are having a shed or garage clear out and would be able to donate suitable items, the Team would be very grateful!

Enjoy the weekend.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Warne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a period at the end.

**Jacqui Warne**  
**Executive Head**