

## MESSAGE FROM NIKKI BURROUGHS, EXECUTIVE HEAD



And just like that we are in December!

Christmas time is a great opportunity to bring back the cheer that we have all been missing so much of late. Covid-19 has not gone away and shows little sign of doing so, however we are trying our best to continue with some semblance of normality as safely as possible.

The school is starting to sparkle with decorations and I have enjoyed being able to spend some time in classes celebrating the progress that children and young people have made this term thanks to the support and hard work of class teams and families working together.



Classes have been a hive of enterprise – with some fabulous items being made for our Christmas catalogues. It was great to hear about the virtual STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) presentation some of our FE students participated in this week and to see how excited another group of students have been following their weekly tennis sessions. I was also very proud to talk to a young man who had his first driving lesson this week and to hear about how he is practicing for his theory test – just fantastic!

This week, we have also enjoyed the annual ritual of decorating the Christmas Trees – a huge thanks to Denise Andrews from Bidwell Brook’s Ladybirds Class who donated a tree, and Mr & Mrs Stephens from Connetts Farm [www.connetts.co.uk](http://www.connetts.co.uk) for their kind tree donations to both Ellen Tinkham School and College.

Have a great weekend.

## SHORT OF TIME? HERE’S A SUMMARY

**PTFA** - Raffle tickets are still available to purchase. And if you have any luxury Christmas items eg chocolates or gifts that would be suitable for our hamper, please could you send them into School or College. Thank you!

**Children In Need** - ET raised £212.50!

**St Petrocks** - ETC students raised £308 for St Petrocks as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award! They’ll be visiting this charity on Monday to deliver clothing donations/the money and also to purchase some hot drinks to hand out to the homeless in the town centre.

**Hollow Lane Club** - See attachment. You can win ALL THE PRIZES!

**Winter Wonderland** - See the attached flier. If you have any spare outdoor Christmas decorations, please could you send them to us? Thank you!

**E-Safety Family Workshops** - Will be running in the new year. Look out for dates.

**Christmas Jumper Day** - Wear festive jumpers or tops into school on Friday 10th December.

**Christmas Lunches** - @ Hollow Lane on Wednesday 15th December and @ Wayside Crescent on Thursday 16th December.

**Communication Aids** - Links on page 3 for practical ideas and resources to use at home with your child.

**Driving along Hollow Lane** - Please use the unofficial one-way system. See page 3.

**Financial Support** - Contact the school if you are struggling financially or have not received your Christmas Free School Meal voucher for the holiday.

**Holiday Activities and Food Christmas Holiday Programme** - Links on page 4.

**Devon’s new SEND Model** - “SEND Connect” is being launched next year.

**DIAS - Ambassador Volunteers** - If you’d like to become an Ambassador, see page 4.

**Young Minds Survey** - Click on the link on page 4 if your young person would like to participate.

## DATES 2021/2022

- Friday 10th December .....Christmas Jumper Day
- Wednesday 15th / Thursday 16th December .....ETS / ETC Christmas Dinner
- Friday 17th December.....Term end
- Tuesday 4th January .....Staff Training Day (school closed)
- Wednesday 5th January .....Pupils return to school
- w/c 21st February .....Half Term



## PTFA - HAMPER RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who has purchased Raffle Tickets for our December Hamper Prize Draw!

There's still time to buy tickets, just pop a note in the Home:School Diary or leave a message with the Office and we'll get the tickets home to you.

The draw is taking place on:

**Tuesday 14th December at noon.**



### WANTED

Do you have any luxury food/gift items that you would be willing to donate for the Hamper? These items can include: tinned goods, biscuits, toiletries, beverages, Christmas related items or any other items you feel would make good raffle prizes.

If you think you can help, please bring all donations to the Reception at Hollow Lane or Wayside Crescent by Monday 13th December 2021.

Thank you!

### CHILDREN IN NEED

Ellen Tinkham School raised a whopping **£212.50** for Children In Need this year!

Well done to everyone who supported this worthwhile charity!

Much appreciated.



### ETC STUDENTS: DUKE OF EDINBURGH

As part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, students at the College have been busy fundraising for a local charity. St Petrocks help people who are homeless or vulnerably housed. For 25 years, they have been providing a range of support, housing and prevention services to help fill the gaps in services available to individuals in need. Thanks to the support of local businesses and the students' hard work, the College has managed to raise **£308!**

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December, the students will be travelling into Exeter city centre to hand deliver clothing donations and the money raised. They will then purchase some hot drinks to give to the homeless in the town centre.

Students have worked very hard on this fundraising effort and it will be really nice for them to be able to see where the money is going.



What a great effort! Well done everyone!

### WINTER WONDERLAND - HOLLOW LANE SITE

If you would like to meet other families and help create an extra-special Winter Wonderland on the Hollow Lane site for our primary-aged children, please contact the School Office.

There's a creative session happening on Friday 10th December between 10 am and 12 noon, and on Wednesday 15th December between 1 pm and 3 pm, we'll be outside setting up our Winter Wonderland!

See the attached for more info if you'd like to join us.



Thanks to those who have agreed to help us so far!

### HOLLOW LANE CLUB

Exciting news from the Hollow Lane Club attached!



## E-SAFETY FAMILY WORKSHOPS



We are planning a couple of E-Safety Workshops for families in the new year. This will help you to help your child navigate their way safely when online. Keep a look out for the dates in 2022!

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY!

Friday 10th December 2021 is "Christmas Jumper" day! If your child would like to wear their favourite Christmas jumper or sparkly top into school that day, this would be great! Let's spread some cheer!



## HIGH-TECH AND LOW-TECH COMMUNICATION AIDS

These resources have been circulated by Bethan Scott, our Speech & Language Therapy Assistant, to all teaching staff across the Federation. Families may also wish to read/try these practical ideas at home to reinforce learning taking place in school:

1) This is info gathered by a big research project across Devon on AAC (especially good for families):

[Course: Augmentative and Alternative Communication \(AAC\) – An introduction \(babcockldp.co.uk\)](#)

2) Here are some lesson plan ideas for teaching core vocabulary words such as go, more, want etc:

[Core First Lessons - Tobii Dynavox Global](#)

3) Here are some practical ideas and resources for teaching new vocabulary (e.g. what does it sound like, what does it start with, where would you find it etc):

[Widgit Symbol Resources | Pre-teaching Vocabulary](#)

## TRAVELLING ALONG HOLLOW LANE

Due to the vast number of vehicles travelling along the narrow Hollow Lane at the start and end of the school day, we adopt an unofficial one-way system. Traffic enters Hollow Lane from the Sainsbury's side and leaves heading towards Exeter College. If you drop or collect your child at school each day, please be mindful that not travelling in the same direction as other traffic may cause disruption and result in delays for yourself and others. Thank you for your continued co-operation.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER



@ Hollow Lane =  
Wednesday 15th December 2021

@ Wayside Crescent =  
Thursday 16th December 2021

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

As you are getting your decorations out of the loft this weekend, please could you have a look to see if you can spare any outdoor lights or decorations to hang /stick in the ground? If you have any suitable outdoor decorations, please could you send them into school or College next week? Thank you!

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The school is able to access financial support for any families who are struggling. If you are finding it very difficult to make ends meet, especially with the holidays coming up, please contact Gill Allen or your Class Teacher.

The only criteria we have to meet is that we haven't applied for this money for you in the last year and you are in need. We can apply for Food Vouchers to get boxes from local Food Banks anytime you need them.

We will keep your request totally confidential.

The funds can be requested to cover:

- Providing vouchers for food;
- Supporting with energy and water bills for household purposes;
- Emergency boiler and heating repairs;
- Essential white goods such as a fridge, freezer or cooker.

The scheme can also help with petrol costs to keep you in work and with your broadband.

All families with children on Free School Meals will have received a voucher for the holidays. Please call the School Office if you haven't had yours.

[Free school meals holiday vouchers doubled for Christmas - Devon Childrens' and Families Partnership \(dcfp.org.uk\)](#)

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PROGRAMME (HAF)

The Holiday Activities and Food Christmas Holiday Programme is primarily for children aged 5-16 years (and can include 4-year-olds already in Reception year) who are either eligible for and receiving benefits-related free school meals (FSM) or are classed as vulnerable:

[Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/haf-programme)

School holidays can be particularly difficult for some families because of increased costs (such as food) and reduced incomes. For some children that can lead to a holiday experience gap, with children from disadvantaged families less likely to access organised out-of-school activities, more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health and more likely to experience social isolation. Click [here](#) to find out what's available over the Christmas break.

## DEVON'S NEW SEND MODEL

A new SEND model has been designed in collaboration with parents and carers, professionals and children and young people with SEND. The model has been created in collaboration with various agencies across Devon, with the aim to ensure that every child or young person gets the support they and their families need to achieve their best in life. Here's some information about the new "SEND Connect" service coming out next year.

[Devon's Children's Service announces name of new SEND model, chosen by you! - Devon Children's and Families Partnership \(dcfp.org.uk\)](https://www.dcfp.org.uk/devons-childrens-service-announces-name-of-new-send-model-chosen-by-you/)

## YOUNG MINDS

Young Minds recognise some of our young people are struggling. From speaking to parents, Young Minds is aware parents agree.

Young Minds want young people aged 13-25 across the country, from all walks of life, to tell them what the big issues affecting their lives are. But to make this happen, they need your help. Please could you consider working with your young person to complete and share this 10-minute survey. Click below to start the survey:



[Share The Big Young People's Survey](#)

## MESSAGE FROM DIAS - AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEERS

The **Ambassador Volunteer Project** is supporting the Parent Carer Forum Devon (PCFD) to grow across Devon. More information is available on the [DIAS website](#).

Our number of Ambassador Volunteers is increasing. They are trained and connecting families in their community network to signposted information, and support. The Ambassador Volunteers also feedback themes and trends from their own network through the project to The Parent Carer Forum Devon, to help shape services, and to DiAS, so they can provide the information and support you need.

There are Ambassador Volunteers actively connected and supporting parent/carers of children with SEND in North Devon, Honiton, East Devon, Okehampton and Holsworthy. If you would like to get connected to their networks please email [megankenneallystone@devon.gov.uk](mailto:megankenneallystone@devon.gov.uk) and she can put you in touch with an Ambassador Volunteer network near you!

**New Induction** training for people interested in becoming an Ambassador Volunteer is running on 8th December between 10 am - 1 pm (online). The session will be the first step in training to become an Ambassador Volunteer.



If you are interested in the Induction training please complete the form through this [link](#) and we will be in touch with you shortly.

ATTACHMENTS : SNIPPETS, HOLLOW LANE CLUB NEWS, WINTER WONDERLAND FLYER

EVERYONE WILL BE THE BEST THAT THEY CAN BE; EVERYONE HAS A VOICE; NO-ONE IS EXCLUDED

