

# BLS BULLETIN – NOVEMBER 2021

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. It has been a busy but fun-filled few weeks. We are incredibly impressed with how well our new students, staff and fluffy friends have settled into school life. Thank you to the whole school community for making everybody feel so welcome.

## School Gateway and Class Dojo

If you have not yet been able to sign up to School Gateway and Class Dojo, it is well worth doing so.

Important letters are sent through School Gateway. It can also be used to make cashless payments for school uniform and school dinners. Paper copies of letters will be sent out to those who request them.

Class Dojo is a great tool for sharing things more informally – quick messages, links to resources, photos, reminders etc.

You should have received an email invite for these platforms but we are aware that these are turning up in junk mail folders. Please get in contact with your child's class teacher if you would like any help with signing up.

## Parent/Carer Workshops

These are taking place over Zoom on a Wednesday morning. So far we have shared information about anxiety and local services/support. There is plenty more to come! The topics and links to join will be shared via Class Dojo. If there is something in particular that you would like us to cover, please get in touch.

## Going for Gold

A number of our secondary students took part in a football tournament last month. They played matches against nine other teams. It went down to penalties and the BLS boys won! Behaviour was outstanding and the boys were presented with their medals the next day.



Ms Brown's gerbils (Flash and Belle above) and Miss Alphonse's puppy Luna are loving all of the attention!

## Vacancies

We are seeking to recruit two Learning Support Assistants and a Learning Mentor for the school. All of our vacancies are posted on [Devon Jobs](#).

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

BLS now has a dedicated mental health and wellbeing team. This consists of Mrs Lee, Miss Barrett, Miss Alphonse, Miss Parr, Ms Campbell-Crocker and Mr Schoelkopf. Mrs Lee recently completed her Mental Health First Aid training and the school are keen to train more staff to be Mental Health First Aiders and Champions.

## Photo Permission

We have some wonderful photos of the boys which we are keen to share in the next newsletter. Please keep an eye out for the photo permission letter which will be sent through School Gateway.

## Covid Symptoms and Testing

If your child presents with Covid symptoms, please keep them at home, let us know as soon as you can, book them a [PCR test](#) and email us the test results. We have plenty of lateral flow tests in school. Please let your child's class teacher know if you would like your child to bring some tests home.

## Covid Vaccinations

Within the next few days, parents and carers of children aged between 12 and 15 should receive an email containing information about the vaccination and giving consent. The vaccination team will be visiting the school next week. Further information can be found on the [NHS website](#).

## Finally...

Well done to our whole school community for such a successful start to the school year. We are incredibly proud of the boys and would like to thank all parents and carers for the continued hard work, commitment and support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Alyssa Lee

PSHE/Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead

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### Important Dates

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November: Non-uniform for Children in Need. Voluntary £1 donation.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December: Last day of term.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January: Students return. 9.00am start.