



# Hazeldown Primary School

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

Friday 18th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your support over the first half of term. Everything you do for your children and for the school is really appreciated! Our OFSTED report should be back with us, checked and finalised during the second week back after half term. A copy will be sent out to everyone.

Thank you also for accommodating the change to a slightly earlier start to the day so positively. Attendance and punctuality are really important for your children, and we really do appreciate your efforts in making the change to your morning routines.

Regarding attendance, if your child is too ill to attend school, you are expected to contact us before 9:00am to let us know. We are spending a lot of time and resource calling some parents repeatedly to find out where your children are when it is actually your responsibility to inform the school.

School lunches are being positively received now we have our own kitchen. Eric Patton, our kitchen manager will be providing tasters at Parents' Evenings next week and will be available for questions or feedback about lunches if you have any. One benefit of running our own kitchen is that we have been able to move Christmas lunch to be near Christmas for a change (Monday 16th December) rather than having to have it at the start of December.

Please remind your children what they are going to eat each day as this will save time and potential upset for them in the dinner hall at lunchtime. Similarly, please remember that drinks are provided at lunchtime and children should not be bringing in their own drink, unless they are having their own packed lunch.

We also go to a great deal of effort to provide your child with a water bottle, washing and re-filling these for during the day at school. Children should not be bringing in their own drinks and keeping them in their bags to have at different times during the day. We provide water, they can access it at any time during the day. This is from a health and wellbeing perspective, supporting good dental development and encouraging good habits for the future.

We have made a few changes to our website, updating some pages, and adding some new information. The calendar is now being used for the key events – this will hopefully become a well-used page for you to remind yourselves quickly when things are taking place. Term dates for 2025-2026 have been circulated but are on the website as well for easy access.

We have also added a 'Behaviour and Attitudes' page and a 'Personal Development' page which outline our offer in these areas. This was in response to feedback from parents at the last survey we sent out (not the OFSTED survey) so hopefully those of you who are not sure how we support your child in these areas will be able to take a look and be clearer about it. Please get in touch with us if you have any questions.



Learning for Living

Parking, dropping off and picking up still causes issues unfortunately. It is never acceptable to stop on the zig zag markings outside a school. Not only is it dangerous and putting children at risk, but it is increasingly annoying to those parents who do the right thing. Selfishly stopping in a dangerous place to drop your child off, or to pick up your partner and your child is setting them a really poor example, at odds with everything they are learning with us during the day. Stopping in the middle of the road next to the zig zags is also not acceptable.

The car park is also not for parents to use – we aim to minimise the traffic crossing the pavement to get in or out at busy times. There are two School Transport taxis which do use the car park, but this is for particular reasons which do not apply to everyone else. Similarly, parking or dropping off in the bus stop is not acceptable and is frustrating those parents who do the right thing. It also does not set a good example to your children. You may need to think about leaving slightly earlier in order to park a little further away and walk if you are currently not supporting our school community by stopping in the wrong place.

Please remember to pass these basic expectations on to grandparents or other family members who may pick up or drop off for you, so they don't embarrass themselves either. Thank you.

School funding continues to be very tight. For this year, we took the decision to remove the Assistant Headteacher role from our staffing structure in order to prioritise maintaining roles for teachers and TAs who are directly supporting the children. Additionally, we have had to make the difficult decision that we can no longer provide as much swimming as previously.

We have always prioritised swimming due to being fortunate enough to live by the sea. This has always been driven by the element of safety, and because it opens access to a range of other activities as well as enjoying swimming in its own right.

For the last few years, we have heavily subsidised swimming, to keep the voluntary contribution that we ask parents for as low as possible. Despite this, we have many parents who tell us that the cost is still too high, and we have difficulty with getting these contributions.

Due to the low level of school funding, we have taken the difficult decision that we are no longer able to subsidise swimming for so many year groups so will only be providing swimming sessions for children in year four. These will still be subsidised, and we will be asking for a voluntary contribution of £44.51. As there will be no swimming to pay for in years five and six, there will be less expense overall for parents.

To ensure we continue to meet our responsibilities regarding the National Curriculum, we will be providing a week of 'catch up' swimming sessions for children in year five and year six who have not yet learnt to swim. These will be paid for through the Sports Grant so there will be no cost for parents. We will notify you individually each year if your child will be part of these.

Finally, please remember to contact your child's class teacher, team leaders, Mr Hardee or me if you have any questions or concerns at any point. Parents' evening is a great time to catch up but, if you have anything which needs longer than the 10-minute appointment, it may be best to arrange a different time with your child's teacher for a longer conversation.

Yours sincerely,  
Stuart Ludford,  
Headteacher

## *A message from our Governors*

### The Importance of Learning

Starting out by saying that Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their children of compulsory school age are receiving suitable full-time education may sound a little harsh, but it is a statement from the Department for Education.

Over the past few years there has been a lot of research carried out that shows how important being in school is for a child. It is not just academic achievement that is negatively impacted by not being in school, but also children's wellbeing, wider development and social interaction.

At Hazeldown, our attendance levels are better than the Southwest average, but lower than they were a few years ago. For parts of last year, the national absence rate was around 7.2%, over a similar period at Hazeldown we measured a 4.88% absence level. At governor meetings, Mr Ludford and the Leadership Team explain to governors what the statistics show, what support is in place for parents and other steps being taken to help get attendance levels back to higher levels.

Ofsted expect schools "to do all that they reasonably can to achieve the highest possible attendance". Whilst the grading system by Ofsted is now being changed, a school's attendance does affect some of the school's gradings. You know that Hazeldown has recently been subject to an Ofsted inspection and, whilst our attendance is higher than the national figures, they could still be improved for the benefit of the children. It would be great to show that our attendance levels are the best they can be moving forwards from the point of inspection. At Hazeldown, we believe that if we are implementing the elements within the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework well in all aspects of school life, then your children will be getting a good deal in school, but they do need to be in school to benefit from this.

There are many reasons why children do not attend school, most of them very valid but a few not so much so. Recognising that some parents need that little bit of support in ensuring their children attend school, last year the Department for Education introduced an Attendance Improvement initiative in schools. At Hazeldown we must follow the guidelines of this initiative and have additional support systems in place.

If you are finding it a bit of a challenge getting your little one to school give Mrs Radford a ring, she may get Mrs Duffield or Miss Swainson to give you a call to suggest a few ideas of encouragement. There is also the morning hub with Mrs McGrane where support is available for a period of time before going into lessons.

Don't forget, once your child is in school, learning and playing with their friends, those worries often melt away.

Dave Dawson,

Chair of Governors

## Individual Music Lessons



In addition to our classroom practise, we also offer a range of peripatetic music lessons from professional music teachers, that you can read about below. These classes are delivered weekly on an individual or small group basis for 20-30 minutes, during lesson time.



**Hello! My name is Lisa, you may see me around school because I am one of the specialist musical instrument teachers at Hazeldown School. Throughout my teaching career, I have always taught instrumental lessons, on the trumpet, trombone, tenor horn, French horn, clarinet, recorder, and piano. I always strive to enrich the children I teach.**

**I have been a teacher for nearly 30 years, teaching in the UK and abroad too.**

**I have taught in primary schools as a classroom teacher, head of year, and more recently as a full-time music teacher. I currently teach the whole class instrumental lessons in KS2 at Hazeldown as well as my private instrument lessons.**

**At Hazeldown Primary School, I can offer instrumental lessons on the following instruments:**

**trumpet, trombone, tenor horn, French horn, clarinet, recorder, and piano.**

**Hello, I am Max! You may have seen me around school because I am the guitar tutor at Hazeldown. I am an experienced guitarist and tutor with nearly 15 years' experience of teaching. I have been helping children at Hazeldown to develop their skills on the guitar and their passion for music for over ten years. I am also a busy musician and have performed in many successful local bands since my teenage years.**



**Hi, my name is Becky, and I offer violin and piano lessons at Hazeldown on a Tuesday. I graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in 1991, and ever since then, in addition to performing, recording, and writing music; I have taught violin, viola, and piano/keyboard lessons. I really enjoy working with children and like to make the lessons fun and friendly whilst encouraging good progress. Some children just love to play and progress at their own speed, whilst others like to work their way up through the grades and I support both choices. To be a good musician takes time and practise but should always be a pleasure!**

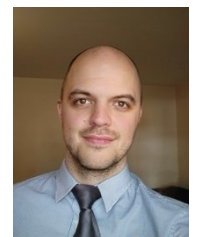


**Hello, my name is Andy, and I offer drum kit lessons at Hazeldown. I have played drums professionally for over 20 years and have been lucky enough to perform all over the world. As well as performing live I love passing on my enthusiasm and passion for music by helping the next generation of budding musicians learn how to play.**

**I have been teaching privately and in schools for over fifteen years and believe anyone can learn to play the drums with the correct teaching methods.**

**I adapt my teaching techniques to ensure students are challenged and engaged in their lessons. Whether it's helping those working towards Graded exams or those wanting to learn their favourite songs for the pure enjoyment of it, I like to make sure I provide a positive and fun atmosphere in lessons.**

**Most of all I want students to be proud of their own achievements and benefit positively through the experience of learning to play a musical instrument.**



## Museum Volunteers

Children from Hazeldown school have been regular visitors to the Teignmouth Museum over a number of years. The Museum is currently struggling to recruit volunteers. Could you or do you know someone who could spare some time to help? Please contact Malcolm Tipper, Centre Manager at: [malcolm.tipper@teignheritage.org](mailto:malcolm.tipper@teignheritage.org)



## Congratulations



to our students who completed the 2024 Summer Reading Challenge.

Students were challenged to complete five reading tasks over the summer holidays. The pupils that completed all five challenges won a gold medal!

Super well done all of those who took part.

## Tales from the library

A generous donation from the PTA has meant that we have been able to restock the library with new books over the summer holidays. There is now a dedicated space for new titles in the library for children to easily find the new books that are available.



The Pre-Loved Uniform shop could do with some more adult helpers. This will involve helping to get the shop opened up at 3pm on a Friday, sorting through donations, running the shop and then helping to put it all away. It is usually all finished by 3.40pm. The shop doesn't open in bad weather!

Could you spare any time to help? Even once a month would make a big difference.

The Pre-Loved Uniform shop is a great resource for the school to provide low cost uniform to pupils and to prevent usable clothing heading to landfill. It is run entirely voluntarily and all of the money raised goes to the school to pay for vital resources. Last year it raised £600.

For more information or to get involved, please email:

[jmilano@hazeldown.devon.sch.uk](mailto:jmilano@hazeldown.devon.sch.uk)

Thank you, Jo and Guilietta.

Forest school are in short supply of spare waterproofs.




If you have any outgrown puddle suits or waterproof jackets and trousers our Forest School team would be extremely grateful .

Please feel free to drop them into the main school office.

With thanks

# DATES TO REMEMBER

PTA DISCO Year 1 - Year 6 Foundation Stage have their own disco in the summer term.	Friday 18th October KS1 - 4.00 - 5.00pm KS2 - 5.15 - 6.15pm
Parents Evenings Year 1 - Year 6	Tuesday 22nd October & Thursday 24th October 2024
PTA Break the rules day (Non School Uniform - Whole School)	Friday 25th October 2024
Cherry Class Parent Lunch	Thursday 7th November 2024
Oak Class Parent Lunch	Thursday 14th November 2024
 Children in Need (Information to follow)	Friday 15th November 2024

**October Half Term - Week commencing Monday 28th October**

**Last day of the Autumn Term - Friday 20th December 2024**

**First day of the Spring Term - Tuesday 7th January 2025**

**February Half Term - Week commencing Monday 17th February 2025**

**Last day of the Spring Term - Friday 4th April 2025**

**First day of the Summer Term - Tuesday 22nd April 2025**

**May Bank Holiday - Monday 5th May 2025**

**May Half Term - Week commencing Monday 26th May 2025**

**Last day of the Summer Term - Friday 18th July 2025**

