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# The Flying Start Federation

## Newsletter 11th December 2017

### Issue 7

[www.buckland-brewer-](http://www.buckland-brewer-)



Dear Parents and Carers,

As 2017 and the Autumn Term draw to a close it is good to look back and celebrate the achievements of last term before looking forward to the next challenges. The children continue to make good progress through a wide range of learning opportunities. Exeter Museum brought a variety of shoes past and present for the children to study and the children revisited many of the ways to keep themselves healthy and safe when the Life Bus visited for a federation day. The Year 5s and 6s attended a very successful residential experience at Beam house in Torrington where they faced personal challenges whilst having loads of fun. Our children in Year 2 have accessed a term of pocket trumpet lessons with Mr Hamilton and several children have continued to take private lessons which is encouraging. All children continue to participate in regular physical activity either through Funky Friday music sessions on the playground or running a mile around the playground.

The schools have worked hard to improve the range of after school clubs- tennis, archery, singing, craft, active 8, gardening have all been offered this term. Both Ladybirds Foundation unit and Buckland Brewer Under Fives continue to offer high quality preschool provision to a steady stream of new children and we have very excited to welcome the BBU5's onto the school site at Buckland on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Parents and carers have been encouraged to be fully involved with their child's learning through very well attended parent/teacher evenings, parent/carer forums and a popular parents workshop that focused on developing phonic skills. Grandparents day @ Parkham proved a popular event and it was lovely to see all ages sharing the children's learning. The 'look in the book' mornings or afternoons have been an extra opportunity for children to share their learning with you and again it is great to see so many parents making time to be there. We now have a register of parent/ carer volunteers who have applied for the role and have been DBS checked.

The children have helped us all to celebrate Harvest in the village Churches and they reminded us of the story of Christmas through two well performed shows. Congratulations to all the children: the standard of singing and presentation was brilliant!

Our Friends committees have been very busy in both schools organising a film night for the children, very successful Christmas Fairs, Doughnut Fridays, hot chocolate evenings etc and all have been well supported by parents and the community. They have donated money towards the playground markings and also the Federation trip to the pantomime- which was such fun.

This term we have said hello and goodbye to both staff and children. Across the federation we have or will have said goodbye to 6 children who have relocated. We are always sad to see children and families move on, but we do wish them well in their new schools. By the beginning of the Spring Term we will have extended a warm welcome to 7 new children and families since the beginning of September.

Again we are always sad to say goodbye to staff that leave us and this term we have said farewell to a teaching assistant- Mrs Roe and an administrator- Mrs Parkinson as well as Meal Time Supervisor- Mrs Hutchinson, but we have been pleased to welcome, Mr Lewis as a Teaching assistant, and Mrs Grierson as our latest admin recruit. To those who have left, the children and staff would like to extend our best wishes and those who have joined a hearty welcome.

We are currently investigating the possibility of wrap around care at Parkham again, specifically a Breakfast Club. There does seem to be enough interest in this provision and so we are now looking for someone to run/staff it.

Thank you to all staff and children who have worked hard to make this such a successful term and thank you to parents and carers who support your child and school in so many ways.

Roll on next term when many exciting learning adventures are planned!

In the meantime, all the staff and children would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. We look forward to seeing you all on the 4th January.

Very best wishes,

Gina Finch

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## Dates

### OFFICE HOURS:

Parkham: Mon—Thurs 8.45—3.45pm  
(please note there is no one in the office on Fridays)

Buckland Brewer: Tues 8.45— 12.45pm

Mon,Wed—Fri 8.45—3.15pm- please avoid making requests when office is not manned.

**If you need to telephone the school urgently and the office is not manned, please ring the partner school as hopefully they can get a message through.**

**Buckland TEL:01237 451315**

**Parkham TEL: 01237 451334**

### Term Dates

#### Autumn Term:2017

Tues 6 Sept—Fri 15 Dec

**Spring Term: 2018** Thurs Jan 4th—Fri 29 March

Half Term: Mon 12 Feb—Fri 16 Feb

**Summer Term 2018:** Tues 16th April—Thurs 26 July

Half Term: Fri 25 May—Fri 1 June

## Parkham

Wed 13 Dec: School Christmas Dinner

Thurs 14 Dec Christmas party

Organised by Fops pm

Last day of term: Fri 15 Dec

Non-pupil day: Wed 3 Jan

New term starts: Thurs 4 Jan

Tues 6 Feb: Class photos

## Buckland Brewer

Wed 13 Dec: School Christmas dinner

Last day of term: Fri 15 Dec

Non-pupil day: Wed 3 Jan

New term starts: Thurs 4 Jan

Milly Lane: School Caterer  
07340710693 If it is necessary to make a change to a meal request please text between 7.30-9.30am. For general queries please telephone or text between 2-5.30pm

Attendance: Target: 97% Whole school:  
Buckland: 97.38% Parkham: 96.83%

Falcons: 96.13% Ladybirds: 97.02% Eagles:  
98.24% Fireflies: 96.45 %

**REMEMBER TO BEAT THE BUGS** by wet combing your child's hair with a nit comb at least once a week.

### How to apply for a primary school place in Devon.

Was your child born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014? You can apply online at [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline) from 15 November 2017—15 January 2018. Or you can call the education helpline on 0345 155 1019 or email: [primaryschooladmissions@devon.gov.uk](mailto:primaryschooladmissions@devon.gov.uk). Even if you have given details to a primary school you must apply for a place through the Admissions Team.



**Severe weather arrangements:** If it becomes necessary to shut either or both schools due to severe weather, notices will be posted on the web-

site/school app and Radio Devon will be notified. Schools are only ever closed after consultation with Chair of Governors either because the school site is unsafe or not enough staff can get to the school. If only one school is closed then all children are welcome to attend the other school. However parents must decide whether conditions are safe enough for them to travel to school.

Vicky Teague -  
School Nurse

School Nursing  
team

Torrington  
children's Cen-  
tre

School Nurses



Care for Kids