



January 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well. As you are aware, although I have been attending Vranch House for one day per week during the Autumn term, I have not fully taken over the role of Head of Education until the beginning of this term. If you would like to know more about my background and experience, a short Biographical resume is available on the Vranch House website.

I am extremely excited about working with such a talented and experienced team at Vranch House. The setting is unique in that the team involves a multiagency approach to education with specialists from the therapy services, working alongside teachers and teaching assistants. We are very fortunate to have such a high level of therapy involvement which is invaluable for developing skills within the pupils at Vranch House.

The theme this term will be 'People who help us' and there will be plenty of visiting specialists from services such as the fire, police and health services to bring to life all the invaluable work that they do. This enables the pupils to value the support network around them and feel a sense of community.

There will be some changes to the timetables this term as the pool undergoes some valuable improvements. Rebound therapy will replace the hydrotherapy whilst the refurbishments are taking place.

The Devon Family Information Service produces useful information and newsletters which can be found online at: http://www.devon.gov.uk/discplus_newsletter_winter_2015.pdf. There is also a file within the Reception area which contains items of useful information for parents. Please do take a look when you are in School.

Sandra Tutinas will continue to hold monthly coffee mornings in school, which will focus upon a number of different topics. I have attached a questionnaire for you to complete to let us know what topics you would value being covered during these informal events.

In order to help you to be able to meet with me if you would like to, I am planning to keep my diary free **every Friday morning between 9am and 11am**, for you to book an appointment to discuss any concerns or questions you may have.

Dates for your diary are as follows:

15th -19th Feb: Half term

24th March –end of term

11th April: INSET

12th April: Summer Term, School returns

2nd May: Bank Holiday, School Closed

I would like to extend warm wishes to you all for 2016, and look forward to meeting with you soon.

Pearl Barnes

Head of Education

Questionnaire to parents

Every month there is an informal coffee morning at Vbranch House for parents to attend. It has been suggested that during these times information sharing could be offered in a number of areas and it would be invaluable to have your opinion as to which topics could be covered.

Below is a list of topics which could be offered. Please tick as many topics as you feel would be useful. If you have an idea for a topic which is not on the list, please add and return this to Vbranch House.

Please complete and return to: Pearl Barnes, Head of Education, Vbranch House, Exeter
by: 15th January, 2016

Topic to be covered	Please tick
Objects of reference	
The Revised SEN Code of Practice, including parent voice and participation	
What are P Scales?	
The National Curriculum	
Teaching literacy and numeracy	
ICT – ipads and APPS	
The Education and Health Care Plan (EHC Plan)	
Therapy: how can we help at home?	
Rebound Therapy	
Makaton: the basics	

Please provide any other ideas: _____

Many thanks,

Pearl Barnes

Head of Education