



Dear Parents and Carers,

### Pick-up

Just a reminder that at the end of the school day, staff are not able to let children go with an adult other than a parent or other family member who regularly picks up. Although in the HB community everyone is so supportive and helpful and would want to take a child left at the gate, TEAM MAT policy dictates

that parents must inform school directly if their child is to go home with another parent. Please let Mrs Goss know if your child's pick-up arrangements suddenly change. After 1:00pm, there is rarely anyone in the office to answer the phone. If in an emergency your child is to go home with someone different, please email me to let me know: [head@high-bickington-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:head@high-bickington-primary.devon.sch.uk)

### This week

#### Armistice Day Collective Worship

On Tuesday, we had a short service of remembrance in the church for classes at the old site. The children had learnt about the importance of remembrance and to reflect on the courage and sacrifices of those who served in conflicts since 1914. Children from Class Four led the service by reading their own writing about how and why we mark Remembrance Day and the importance of 11am on 11th day of the 11th month from poems. They also read the famous poem: 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae and the verse from 'The Fallen' by Laurence Binyon. Thank you to Isaac, Jack, Freddie R, Daniel, Oscar, Freddie W, Emilia, Megan, Niah, Evelyn and Esmay for your beautiful reading. And thank you to everyone in Classes 2,3 and 4 for the respectful and thoughtful way you all observed the two minutes silence at eleven o'clock.

#### Christmas Play

The big news in KS1 and KS2 this week has been the revealing of parts for the school Christmas play. I know that some children have already learnt lines and many were keen to be practicing at break times the day after. Please do help your child to learn their part and song words too. The few weeks that we have to practice in school will soon slip by!

#### Big Event

Children from Class Four had several excellent workshops with Kate from Tiverton Museum this week linked to the Home Front in the Second World War. Our knowledge of rationing was increased by actually having to shop for basic food items under rationing conditions and we learnt about 'Make do and Mend'.

#### Children in Need

I wrote last week about Evelyn's amazing cake sale effort to raise money for CiN. Today all of the children pulled out the stops, ditched uniform and helped to raise even more money for this excellent cause. Everyone looked fabulous and there were plenty of Pudsey-themed outfits in evidence. We will let you know how much we raised next week when Mrs Goss has had chance to count it all!

### Next week—W/C Monday 17th November 2025

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Individual School Photos  
Class Three PE

Class One Outdoor Learning (Please remember appropriate footwear)  
After School Church Club

YR Vision Screening  
Class Two PE

Class Four PE  
3.00 Celebration Collective Worship  
KS2 Sports Club

## **Next Week**

### **School Review**

On Wednesday we have our next review with Mr Swait (Ofsted Inspector) and Mr Polak (Director of Education) coming in to observe teaching, look at work completed in books and talk to children to find out what they have learnt. We will let you know what they find next week.

### **School Photos**

On Tuesday afternoon, children will be having individual and sibling photographs taken. Please make sure your child has a school sweatshirt on the day. We have gone with an highly recommended local photographer as we are keen to engage more with the local community when we possibly can.

Have a great weekend,

Rob Norton  
Head of School

## **Notices**

### **Individual School Photographs**

As on the letter sent out this week, Jayne Poole will be visiting on Tuesday afternoon to take individual photographs. If you would like a photograph taken of your child but have not get completed the consent on Arbor, please remember to do this by the end of Sunday 16th November. Jayne has kindly agreed to stay on after school to take any sibling group photographs you may want – please collect your children after school and take them to the Church Hall if you would like a sibling/group photograph.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

### **Parent-Teacher Meetings**

Bookings will be going live on Arbor this evening at 7.00pm—please look under Guardian Consultations. Meetings are ten minutes long, and are available between the following times:

#### Class One

Wednesday 3.20-6.00pm (Mr Northmore)

#### Class Two

Monday 3.40-5.30pm (Mrs Laurence)

Tuesday 3.40-5.30pm (Mrs Laurence)

Wednesday 3.40-5.30pm (Mrs Laurence)

#### Class Three—Please note on Arbor these will all show as Miss Trofa

Monday 3.40-5.00pm (Miss Trofa)

Tuesday 3.40-5.00pm (Miss Trofa)

Thursday 3.40-5.00pm (Mrs Kennard)

#### Class Four

Monday 3.40-5.00pm (Mr Norton)

Tuesday 3.40-5.00pm (Mr Norton)

Thursday 3.40-5.00pm (Mr Norton)

## Notices Continued...

### **After School Church Club**

The next After School Church Club session is on Wednesday 19th November. Places will need to be booked in the normal way on Arbor—please look under clubs. Booking will open at 7.00pm this evening.

### **Christmas Production**

We are pleased to confirm that we are able to hold the two performance on Tuesday 16th December, to ensure that all parents and carers will be able to attend. The first performance will start at 11:00am and end by 12:00 noon. If you are bringing small children to see the performance, this is the one that we would like you to come to. The afternoon performance will start at 2:00pm and end by 3:00pm - this will be the 'quiet performance' when we ask that you don't bring small children. Tickets for the performances are free, but we will need you to book seats (on a first come, first served basis). Please complete the [Google Form here](#) to indicate which performance you will be attending. Thank you.

Children will need to bring a packed lunch on the day of the Christmas Production, as we will be staying at the Community Centre in between performances.

## School Calendar

### **November**

Tue 18th: Individual School Photographs

Wed 19th: After School Church Club

Fri 28th: PTA Non-Uniform Day—bring a bottle for the Christmas Fair Tombola

**\*NEW\* Fri 28th: Class Two Planetarium Visit (in school)**

### **December**

W/C Monday 1st December - Parent-Teacher Meetings

Tue 9th: Book and a Biscuit from 3:30pm

Tue 16th: School Christmas production - 11.00 and 2.00

Wed 17th: School Christmas dinner

Fri 19th: Carol Collective Worship in the church at 2:45pm

Fri 19th: Last day of term

### **January 2026**

Tue 6th: School restarts

### **February**

Tue 3rd: London Residential (Y5) departs

Fri 6th: London Residential returns

Mon 9th: Book and a Biscuit from 3:30pm

Fri 13th: Last day of the half term

W/C Mon 16th: Half Term

Mon 23rd: School restarts

Mon 23rd: DT week begins

### **March**

Wed 11th: SGH Residential (Y3/4) departs

Fri 13th: SGH Residential returns

Fri 21st: Red Nose Day - non-uniform

## April

Thu 2nd: Easter Service in the church at 2:30pm

Thu 2nd: Last day of term

Mon 20th: School restarts

## May

Mon 4th: Bank Holiday - no school

Mon 11th: Y6 SPaG SAT

Tue 12th: Y6 Reading SAT

Wed 13th: Y6 Arithmetic and Maths 1 SAT

Thu 14th: Y6 Maths 2 SAT

Sun 17th: Bude Residential (Y6) departs

Fri 22nd: Bude Residential returns

Fri 22nd: Last day of the half term

W/C Mon 25th: Half Term

## June

Mon 1st: Non-Pupil Day

Tue 2nd: Y4 Multiplication Tables Check

Thu 18th: Vision Day

## July

Wed 15th: Book and a Biscuit from 3:30pm

Mon 20th: School Sports Morning

Tue 21st: Leavers' Service at 2:00pm

Tue 21st: Last day of the school year

## What happened at school this week?

These questions are about what has been happening in each class this week and are designed as 'conversation starters' for you to use with your child. We hope that they will provide a useful prompt to encourage conversations about school - talking for just three minutes each day about school has been shown to have a great impact on children's learning!

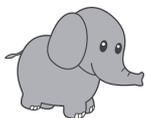


### Learning Lions (Class One)

What is hibernation?

What does wind look like if they were a person?

Why do we remember soldiers with a poppy?



### Exploring elephants (Class Two)

Can you make up a game to learn your number bonds to 10?

Can you watch a video of the first Moon landing and write about it?

Can you draw the Moon and write some adjectives to describe it?

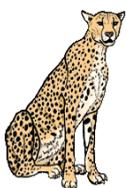


### Inventive Impalas (Class Three)

Can you show someone how to complete a column addition?

Can you remember any of our classroom commands in French?

What happens on Shabbat and why is it an important day for Jews?



### Challenging Cheetahs (Class Four)

Can you talk to someone about the Home Front and how ordinary civilians helped with the war effort?

Can you explain how to use SWM to divide by single digit and two-digit numbers?

What are the key ingredients for an instructional text?

## Home Activities and Homework Tasks

### **Class One:**

Please spend time reading with your child and practising their new phonic sounds.



### **Class Two:**

Please aim to read with an adult for 15 minutes each day and **record in reading records.**

### **Class Three:**

Spellings, multiplication tables and Reading Log book.

### **Class Four:**

Read for 60 minutes at least (Y6) and 45 minutes at least (Y5). Maths homework to be returned on Tuesday please.

## Class One

This week in Class 1, we have been focusing on the story 'Hibernation station'. We have learnt what the word 'hibernation' means and have even learnt which animals hibernate and where. In phonics, we have been working hard practicing our handwriting and reading and have also learnt some tricky special friends 'ng' and 'nk'. In maths, we have been consolidating our knowledge around capacity, shape and weight. In addition to this, we have been very creative and have made some beautiful printed poppy paintings and some clay hedgehogs.



## Class Two

In Class Two this week, the children have started to develop their knowledge in their 'Space Explorers' project. This week, the children learnt about Neil Armstrong and found out how he was the first astronaut to walk on the Moon. Mrs Laurence's literacy group have immersed themselves into their new story book called 'Grandad's Island'. The children uncovered some items linked to the story which included a key hidden under a plant pot with a special note. The children used drama to consider what the key may be for and imagined stepping through a door. In Science this week, the children have been keeping a record of the weather each day to inform their learning with seasonal changes during autumn. Last week the children worked really hard to complete their DT Spaceships, they will be displayed in class if parents would like to take a look, you are more than welcome!



### Class Three

Class 3, we began by testing our aqueducts. We absolutely loved this activity—some designs worked brilliantly, while others had a few leaky surprises, but everyone had lots of fun putting them to the test! In Maths, we have been learning how to use column addition, making sure to start in the ones column and carefully regroup when needed. In English, we have started writing our own character descriptions inspired by the book *Seen and Not Heard*. Our characters have been getting up to all sorts of mischief—ask us what they've been up to! In RW, we explored what is important to Jewish people and learned about how they celebrate Shabbat, a special day of rest that begins on Friday evening and focuses on family, peace, and togetherness.



### Class Four—Freddie M

This week in Class 4 we have been learning about World War 2 and we visited Tiverton Museum on a school trip. At Tiverton Museum we discovered interesting facts about World War 2 which included rationing, evacuees, and air raid shelters. The museum set us up with workshops which implied most of the information. Also this week in Science we carried on with our carbon footprint topic and we made completed posters full of outstanding facts. In the beginning of the week we started to write out our bridge building instructions and we finished them on Friday. In the middle of the week we started our English project with Mrs Kennard which is an adventure story and the class began to analyse a script of an adventure story for excellent ideas.



### Next Week's Menu—W/C Monday 17th November 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Cheese and tomato pasta bake</b> Seasonal Veg  Apple Cake	<b>Minced Beef Cottage Pie</b> V – Quorn cottage pie Sweetcorn  Fruit Jelly	<b>Roast of the Day Chicken</b> V – Quorn roast Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Veg  Fruit salad	<b>Hidden Veg Chicken Curry</b> V - Hidden Veg Quorn Curry Rice, mixed veg  Lemon drizzle cake	<b>Oven Baked Fish</b> V – Quorn Nuggets Golden Fries and Seasonal Veg  Homemade Cookie (various flavours)

## Stars of the Week and Reading Stars

Certificates to be presented at Celebration Collective Worship on Friday  
14th November 2025, 3.00pm in the church.



### Stars of the Week!

Class One— Finn for his engagement and ideas during drawing club.

Class Two— Harry F for always being ready to learn and completing his work to his best ability.

Class Three— Imogen for her outstanding effort in all of her learning since coming back from half term!

Class Four— Freddie R for using every second of time in class to challenge yourself with your learning.



### Reading Stars



Class One— Rowan for working hard in sounding out and blending unfamiliar words.



Class Two— Oliver for being an enthusiastic reader and completing many books already this month.



Class Three— Erika for taking lots of AR quizzes and making a real effort to become a better reader.



Class Four— Harker for excellent reading aloud in class.



# TEAM Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies



Life, Love and Learning to the Full



Part of TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

For more information and how to apply directly with My New Term please visit our website

<https://www.teamacademytrust.com/vacancies>

We currently have 3 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

## Trustee with Financial Expertise

EDV/2025/TMT/20736

### Team Multi-Academy Trust

TEAM Multi Academy Trust are seeking a Trustee with Financial Expertise – Help Shape the Future of Education in North Devon

- 📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- £ Voluntary

**55 Days Remaining** • Apply by Midday, Wednesday 31st Dec, 2025

## Meal Time Assistant

EDV/2025/UPA/14675

### Umberleigh Primary Academy

The appointed person will work as part of a team of Meal Time Assistants managed by the Head of School. In-service training will be provided where appropriate.

- 📍 Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- £ £12.65 Hourly
- 3 Hours per week | (12PM – 1PM TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY EACH DAY)

**New** • Apply by Midday, Friday 28th Nov, 2025 • Job start: ASAP

## SPECIALIST TEACHING ASSISTANT

EDV/2025/BCPS/19692

### Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

We're looking for a caring, motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our school community and play a key role in supporting our pupils' learning and development.

- 📍 Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ
- 🕒 Fixed Term | Full-Time
- £ £13.90 Hourly
- Grade D | 30 hours per week (08:30AM – 3:30PM MONDAY – FRIDAY) | We understand that availability varies, if you're only able to only commit to a few days per week, we're open to appointing two candidates to share the role.

**15 Days Remaining** • Apply by Midday, Friday 28th Nov, 2025 • Job start: ASAP

# Apply for a primary school place

Was your child born  
between 1 September 2021  
and 31 August 2022?



Apply online at:  
[devon.cc/admissionsonline](https://devon.cc/admissionsonline)

or scan the QR code. Applications open from  
**15 November 2025** to the **15 January 2026**

If you can't access the school admissions website you can get more information by emailing [admissions@devon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@devon.gov.uk) or call our Education Helpline on:  
**0345 155 1019**



You must apply through the Admissions Team, even if you've already given details to a school. Applications made directly to schools or on their lists will not be accepted.



**Any articles which appear in the school newsletter, that have not been organised by or on behalf of the school, have not been verified by TEAM Multi-Academy Trust as to the suitability for children. The news items are for parent information only.**

## CLEANER NEEDED FOR UMBERLEIGH VILLAGE HALL

To work on a self employed basis being paid on number of hours worked reported on a monthly basis.

Hours variable currently between 6 and 15 a month depending on use of the hall

Hourly rate of pay £12.65 per hour

There is a need to clean the hall between big events so timing is variable but to some degree flexible

To apply or for more information please email [penny.wignall@gmail.com](mailto:penny.wignall@gmail.com)





## **WANTED**

### **Christmas Decorations**

**Do you have any unwanted Christmas decorations you no longer use or need?**

I'm looking for donations of anything festive from Christmas trees, baubles, lights and even tinsel, or other decorations in the hope this helps bring some holiday cheer to families within your child's school and across the Trust.

Some of our families are facing difficult times and for many, Christmas can be a stressful and challenging time which can then affect our parents' and children's mental health. My aim is for us to help ease that burden and bring a little joy into their homes to make the festive time a little more comfortable and enjoyable and I am hoping with your support we can all do our bit for our families in need.

I'm sure many of us have decorations tucked away in the attic that we no longer use perhaps because we've changed our colour scheme or theme or just no longer need. If you're able to donate any of these items, it would make a real difference to some.

If these donations can be brought in as soon as possible to the school office and I will then pop around all schools and collect all bits donated. I will then box up some of these bits and deliver them to our families in need.

Thank you so much for your support and your generosity towards this situation. Between us all let's make a difference to someone this Christmas.

Carrie-Anne Sprenger

TEAM Family Support Worker