



Newsletter—Friday 21st November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Safeguarding

Obviously at High Bickington, safeguarding of children is our first priority and we have many systems and procedures in place to ensure that all staff and adults associated with the school understand that safeguarding is

everyone's responsibility. All staff, volunteers and LGB members undergo Level 2 Child Protection training annually. Myself and Mr Thomas who is our Designated Safeguarding Lead also complete Level 3 refresher training every other year and Safer Recruitment training every five years. There is an ethos of openness and vigilance: as a staff we all know 'it could happen here'.

In addition to staff awareness, we also teach the children to be safe - both online and in the 'real world'. As part of that, we deliver a programme from the NSPCC: "Speak Out. Stay Safe." Next week we will be having a SOSS assembly in Class Two (appropriate for 5-7 year olds) and in Class Three / Four (appropriate for 7-11 year olds). There will also be follow up lessons in each class. Further information on this programme is contained in a separate letter attached to this one. Please do look at the materials and in particular at how you can support this work at home.

Building Mental Wealth and Wellbeing

One of our four drivers at High Bick and across TEAM MAT is building mental health and wellbeing. From what we see in school and from what the children say (in pupil surveys and day to day), we know that for the most part, children are happy and enjoy school.

We also know that sometimes children need a little extra support because their mental health is not what it usually is. Staff have an understanding of this and are able to help. However, there are times when additional support is needed and within TEAM there is excellent additional pastoral support available. As a school we do tap into this when required. I am pleased to say that we also now have access to dedicated mental health 'first aid' via the Torridge Mental Health Support Team. This will give us the opportunity to present very low threshold individual incidents of low mental health to the team in order to gain additional support to help children when they are having particular issues. Rebecca Calderbank who is an Education Mental Health Practitioner and Supervisor for the MHST for schools will be coming in to HB next Friday to talk to children in KS1 and KS2 about good mental health. She will then be in the Church Hall from 2:45pm running a parent and carer drop-in for anyone who would like to find out more about the Torridge MHST and how they will be working with school.

Attendance

I know that there have been bugs and illnesses this term, but despite that, I am really pleased to be able to report that the school's overall attendance for the term to date is a very commendable 97.34%. If we can improve on that as we go through the rest of the year, we will have done really well.

Next week—W/C Monday 24th November 2025

Monday:	
Tuesday:	Class Three PE
Wednesday:	Class One Outdoor Learning (Please remember appropriate footwear)
Thursday:	Class Two PE
Friday:	Non uniform day—PTA bottle tombola Class Two Planetarium Visit Class Four PE 3.00 Celebration Collective Worship

This week

School Review

The review went well on Wednesday. Mr Swait and Mr Polak looked at how all children are included and supported in lessons as well as how children learn in Early Years. They spoke with Miss Trofa and myself about our SEND provision and how we use additional funding to help children in and out of the classroom. Some of the points made were:

- *Staff maintain high expectations for the most vulnerable pupils, including those with SEND and those who are disadvantaged. As a result, these pupils typically work towards the same ambitious end points as their peers and achieve a good level of success. Where needed, staff make appropriate adaptations, as outlined in individual support plans, including the use of visual aids and specialist equipment. Support staff are deployed effectively to promote independence. Vulnerable pupils benefit from a warm, supportive environment that encourages engagement, confidence, and a willingness to take risks in their learning.*
- *Pupils are confident, resilient and independent. They are reflective, behave with integrity and cooperate consistently well with others. Pupils behave exceptionally well across the school.*
- *Pupils display secure and detailed knowledge across most areas of the PHSE curriculum that they cover. They are well prepared for life in modern Britain.*
- *Leaders ensure that the most vulnerable pupils, including those with SEND and the disadvantaged, are supported to fully engage in all aspects of the school's personal development & well-being offer.*

Next Week

Next week is test week for children in years two to six. These SATs-style tests are well-known to most of the children and will not be onerous. We use the information from the tests to inform what teaching is required in the Spring Term and to gauge whether children are at Age Related Expectation. If you have any questions about the tests in SPaG, Reading and Maths, please don't hesitate to contact me: head@high-bickington-primary.devon.sch.uk

Friday

Class Two visit to a planetarium at HBCC as part of their Space project

Non uniform day—please bring a bottle for the PTA bottle tombola! Class Four—if your non uniform is not suitable for PE, please bring your PE kit to change into.

Have a lovely weekend,

Rob Norton
Head of School

Notices

Parent-Teacher Meetings

Bookings are still live—if you have not yet booked an appointment with your child's teacher, these can be booked on Arbor—please look under Guardian Consultations.

Christmas Production

If you have not yet completed the Google Form to say which of the two performances you will be attending, please do so—the form can be found [here](#)

Attendance Ladder



Our Attendance this term

Reception	98.34%
Class Two	97.15%
Class Three	98.11%
Class Four	96.94%

School Calendar

November

Fri 28th: PTA Non-Uniform Day—bring a bottle for the Christmas Fair Tombola
 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
 Tue 31st: Book and a Biscuit from 3:30pm

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!

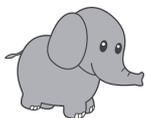


Learning Lions (Class One)

Can you find some Autumn coloured leaves and put them in colour order?

Can you find something that has parts for its whole?

Can you practice your gymnastics shapes?



Exploring elephants (Class Two)

Can you practise your number formations?

Can you draw the planets in the Solar System?

Can you make a poster about your favourite planet?

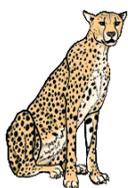


Inventive Impalas (Class Three)

What happened in your mischief narrative?

Can you explain how to use standard written method for subtraction?

How can you use the 'solve it together' process to solve a conflict?



Challenging Cheetahs (Class Four)

What causes contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War?

What are Prime Numbers and how can you find them?

What makes food healthy or unhealthy and how do 'traffic lights' on packets work?

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 (two weeks to learn), 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 during drawing club, we have been focusing on the video clip of 'The Cat in The Hat'. We have been using our imaginations to create some fantastic ideas, such as; what we would want our own machines to do and who we would like to meet if jumping into the magical crate. In maths, we have been learning about parts and wholes and have also investigated ways of composing sets of 2, 3, 4 and 5 objects. In addition to this, we have continued our work around autumn by painting autumn leaves as well as going on an autumn leaf colouring matching hunt.

Class Two

In Class Two this week, we have found out even more about our Space Explorers project. We have learnt all about the Solar System, knowing that there are eight planets and the differences between them. In small groups we have started to create a class fact book to teach others about the planets. This week we looked carefully at the colours of the planets and painted them for our pages. We will be adding some facts around our planet before piecing our pages together to create one large book.

In Mrs Laurence's literacy group, we have been developing our story writing skills. We have been describing nouns using adjectives and locational prepositions (which describe where a noun is) We used our new skills to write a short piece to describe the setting from our Grandad's Island book. We did a great job!

In Maths, Year Two have been using their number bonds to ten to solve addition and subtraction calculations including adding by making ten and adding three one-digit numbers. Year One have been developing their understanding of subtraction and have shown this using number lines, tens frame and finding the missing part.



Class Three

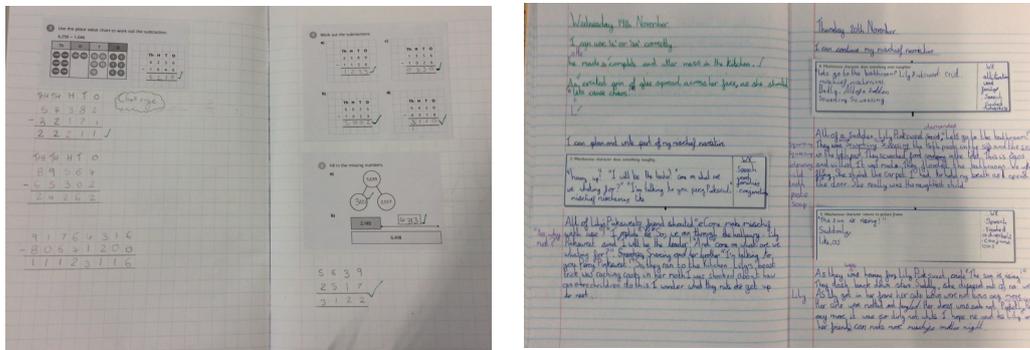
This week in class Three, we finished our Mischief Narrative! We really enjoyed reading the book and then creating our own versions. Ask us about the mischievous things our characters got up to... there were plenty!

In Maths, we continued working on the standard written method. We practised adding 4-digit and 3-digit numbers, making sure we lined up each digit in the correct column. We also started using this method for subtraction.

In English, we learned new words with the /shun/ sound, like optician, conclusion, preposition, and mission.

In Computing and French, we used quizzes to help consolidate our learning from both subjects—which was lots of fun!

In Topic, we learned about some of the most significant Roman emperors. Ask us to name one and tell you why he was important!



Class Four—by Kaitlyn

This week in class 4, we have been thinking about WW1&2 as that is our project this half-term. We have been focusing on “The Treaty of Versailles” and how it affected Germany. In writing, we are looking at a bravery speech and how we can write our own. We have identified what the speech needs and what to include. We have been looking at prime numbers and what features they need. We have thought about the higher the number, the trickier it is to find a prime number. Class Four’s week has been fun and interesting. We all enjoyed it.

Next Week’s Menu—W/C Monday 24th November 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Sausage roll V – Quorn sausage roll Potato Wedges, Baked Beans and Sweetcorn</p> <p>Peach melba</p>	<p>Minced Beef Pie V – Quorn mince pie Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Veg</p> <p>Fruit Jelly</p>	<p>Roast of the Day Pork V – Quorn Fillet Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Veg</p> <p>Fruit salad</p>	<p>Chicken and veg Casserole V – Vegetable casserole Crusty bread</p> <p>Jam sponge and custard</p>	<p>Fish Fingers V – vegetable fingers Golden Fries and Seasonal Veg</p> <p>Shortbread Biscuit</p>

Stars of the Week and Reading Stars

Certificates to be presented at Celebration Collective Worship on Friday 21st November 2025, 3.00pm in the church.



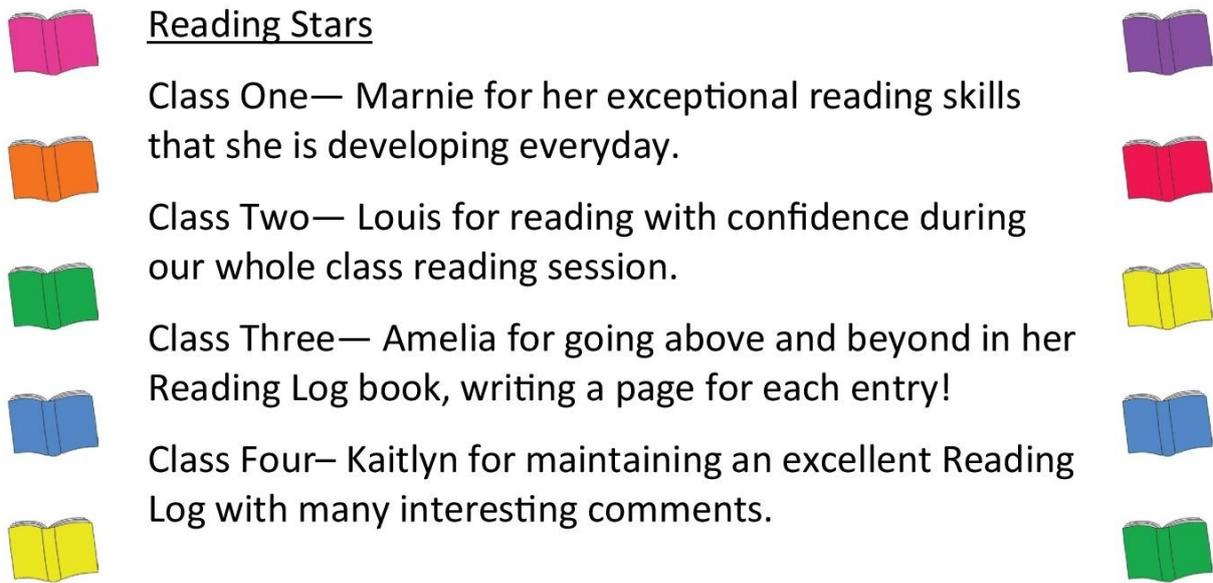
Stars of the Week!

Class One— Harry for focusing really well during drawing club in writing sentences.

Class Two— Dexter for being on task with his independent work and for presenting his work carefully.

Class Three— Torben for working really hard and having great vocabulary ideas in our Mischief Narrative.

Class Four— Daniel for excellent work on divisibility in maths this week.



Reading Stars

Class One— Marnie for her exceptional reading skills that she is developing everyday.

Class Two— Louis for reading with confidence during our whole class reading session.

Class Three— Amelia for going above and beyond in her Reading Log book, writing a page for each entry!

Class Four— Kaitlyn for maintaining an excellent Reading Log with many interesting comments.





VACANCIES

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

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

Administrative Assistant

EDV/2025/HBCEPA/44963

High Bickington Church of England Primary Academy

We are seeking to appoint a flexible and committed administrative assistant to support the Head of School and Trust Business Manager in the daily operation of our school front office and reception...

📍 High Bickington, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AY
🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
💷 £13.26 Hourly
Grade C | 20 HPW (MONDAY TO FRIDAY 08:30AM - 12:30PM)

New • Apply by Midday, Friday 5th Dec, 2025 • Job start: 6th January 2026

AFTER SCHOOL PLAYWORKER LEAD

EDV/2025/UPA/05739

Umberleigh Primary Academy

Do you have a few spare hours during the week and love working with children? Are you local to Umberleigh and/or can reliably commute? Then we want to hear from you!

📍 Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD
🕒 Temporary/Fixed Term | Part-Time
💷 £13.26 Hourly
Grade C | 7.5 HPW (15:30PM - 17:00PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY)

New • Apply by Midday, Friday 5th Dec, 2025 • Job start: 6th January 2026

Cleaner

EDV/2025/PIA/85697

Pilton Infants' Academy

The appointed person/s will be managed by the Premises Manager and Head of School. In service training will be provided where appropriate.

📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU
🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
💷 £12.65 Hourly
Grade A | 10HPW (2 HOURS PER DAY TO BE WORKED AFTERNOON/ EVENINGS) | 41 WEEKS

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

AFTER SCHOOL PLAYWORKER

EDV/2025/UPA/66770

Umberleigh Primary Academy

Do you have a few spare hours during the week and love working with children? Are you local to Umberleigh and/or can reliably commute? Then we want to hear from you!

📍 Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD
🕒 Temporary/Fixed Term | Part-Time
💷 £12.84 Hourly
Grade B | 7.5 HPW (15:30PM - 17:00PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY)

New • Apply by Midday, Friday 5th Dec, 2025 • Job start: 6th January 2026

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.

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

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)

9 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

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 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.



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