



Newsletter—Friday 28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading

It is evident from the tests in Reading this week that children are, on the whole, making good progress with their reading. However, there is also a strong correlation between those who read regularly and for

an extended time at home and attainment in the tests. The supplementing of reading tasks in school with support for reading at home is so important and, as a staff, we value reading at home incredibly highly. We want all children to be fluent, expressive and understanding readers. Here are a few things that you could do at home to support your child's progress in Reading:

- Read to your child regularly (not just to early readers, but to Y6s too!)
- Listen to your child read regularly
- Talk with your child about their reading choices and preferences
- Quiz your child on what they have just read, asking a few comprehension questions to check understanding
- Help your child to complete their Reading Log
- Help your child to broaden their vocabulary by talking about the meaning of new words they encounter in reading and other places

The last of these points is super-important as Reading SATs are weighted towards understanding the meaning of vocabulary, so talking to children about words helps a lot.

This Week Test week!

The children have been absolutely fantastic in the calm, focused way they have gone about the end of term tests this week. We do keep the tests pretty low key, but even so, children could panic or become flustered: we have seen none of that. And, undergoing these tests each term helps to 'normalise' completing them, so that when SATs come around in Y6, they seem common-place to the children. For staff they are an excellent, moderated bench-mark to measure progress and help teachers to plan next steps in Reading, SPaG and Maths. Well done indeed to all of the children who have taken part this week.

Play progress

We have begun to increase the amount of time spent on rehearsals now and children are beginning to put the various parts together. Miss Trofa and Mrs Laurence are working hard on this in school. Any help you can give your child to learn and be able to say their lines loudly and clearly is very much appreciated.

KS1 Planetarium Visit

What a fantastic time Class 2 had this morning, visiting an inflatable planetarium in HBCC! Inside the darkened space, the children saw stars and planets and learnt about aspects of space to help with their current project, 'Space Explorers'. Here are a few of their comments:

Next week—W/C Monday 1st December 2025

Monday:

Tuesday:

Class Three PE

Wednesday:

Class One Outdoor Learning (Please remember appropriate footwear)

Thursday:

Class Two PE

Friday:

Christmas Jumpers!

Class Four PE

3.00 Celebration Collective Worship

KS2 Sports Club

We saw three stars in a row - it was great! (Dylan) Good ... we saw lots of planets on the tent roof. (Riley-Rae) I liked it a lot - it was about space and stuff and it was really cool ... I told him a lot of facts! (Dexter) I thought it was good. There was an explosion that made me jump! (Clara) I loved it! I love learning about space in the Wonder Dome. (Arlo)

Next Week

Parent meetings

If you have not yet done so, please sign up to meet your child's class teacher for a brief (10 minute) conversation about where they are in terms of academic attainment and progress. This is different to the Book and a Biscuit evening (the following week).

Have a lovely weekend,

Rob Norton
Head of School

Notices

Props for Christmas Production

We will be making some props for the Christmas production next Friday. If your child is in one of the following country groups, please could they bring in:

Poland—cereal box (or similar)

Malawi—cardboard tubes/box

Thank you.



Christmas Jumper Fridays

We would like to invite all children to wear their Christmas jumpers (or favourite cosy jumper) every Friday in December to support the Save the Children charity. We will be collecting donations over the three weeks, which we will then forward on to Save the Children.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

Bookings will remain live until 9.00am on Monday morning—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](#)

Next Week’s Menu—W/C Monday 1st December 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Burger in a bun/ veggie burger Hash brown, beans, peas</p> <p>Fruit crumble and custard</p>	<p>Beef Pasta Bolognaise V – veggie bolognaise Crusty bread and vegetables</p> <p>Fruit muffin</p>	<p>Roast of the Day Gammon V – Quorn Fillet Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Veg</p> <p>Fruit salad</p>	<p>Hunters Chicken V – Hunters Quorn Rice and vegetables</p> <p>Chocolate Sponge and Chocolate Custard</p>	<p>Cod or Salmon Fishcakes V – Vegetable fingers Golden Fries and Seasonal Vegetables</p> <p>Cracknell</p>

School Calendar

December

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

***NEW* Friday 5th December—Christmas Jumper Day 1**

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

***NEW* Friday 12th December—Christmas Jumper Day 2**

Tue 16th: School Christmas production - 11.00 and 2.00

Wed 17th: School Christmas dinner

***NEW* Friday 19th December—Christmas Jumper Day 3**

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!

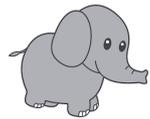


Learning Lions (Class One)

What is migration?

How can we be safe on our tablets?

Can you show different ways of showing 4 and 5?

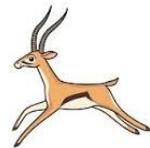


Exploring elephants (Class Two)

Can you learn your line for the Christmas play off by heart?

Can you draw the Nativity Scene and write about why baby Jesus was so important?

Can you write about the stars in the night sky?

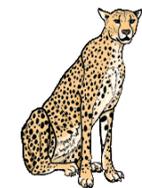


Inventive Impalas (Class Three)

Can you explain how you would set out a written subtraction with an exchange?

What did you put in your stop-motion animation?

What is the story behind the Jewish festival of 'Pesach'? (Think about the story of Moses and the Israelites leaving Egypt)



Challenging Cheetahs (Class Four)

What do you need more work on in maths as a result of your tests this week?

What was everyday life like in Britain during the Second World War?

What have you learnt about video production in Computing so far?

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/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.

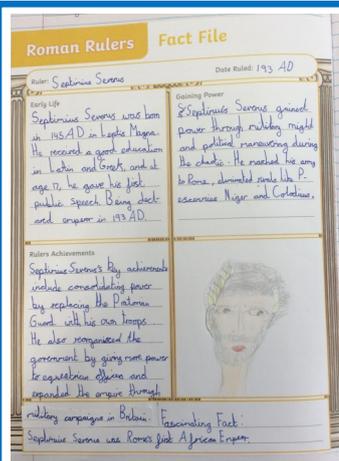


Class One

This week in Class 1, we have started feeling festive! During drawing club, we have been focusing on the story of 'Stick man' and have suggested some wonderful ideas on how stick man could get home again if he wasn't to have met Santa. We have also been busy working in our new role play area 'Santa's workshop' where we have been wrapping presents and writing christmas cards. In maths, we have been working on wholes and parts as well as how to compose and de-compose different numbers. In music, we have been identifying different sounds that can be heard in autumn, and we even made our own natural wind chimes.

Class Two

This week in Class Two the Year Two children have worked really hard to complete their Maths, Reading, Spelling and Grammar assessments. The children were dedicated to achieving their best and showed determination and perseverance. They should feel proud of themselves! Year One have been developing their sentence level work based around the story of Toys in Space. They have been concentrating on writing sentences using accurate punctuation, nouns and adjectives. Year One have also completed some simple Maths assessments and worked hard on these. On Monday, the children worked in small groups to complete their Solar System fact files which we have pieced together to create a class book. In RW this week, the children have started to learn about 'Why Christmas is important to Christians?'. They considered where the Christmas story appears in the Bible and learnt about how Christians believe Jesus was an incarnation of God. They created some beautiful stars which reflected the importance of baby Jesus at Christmas time. On Friday we had a visit from Wonderdome in the Community Centre. The children found out all about the night sky including the constellations and the planets. We will use this to inform some of our project and written work next week.

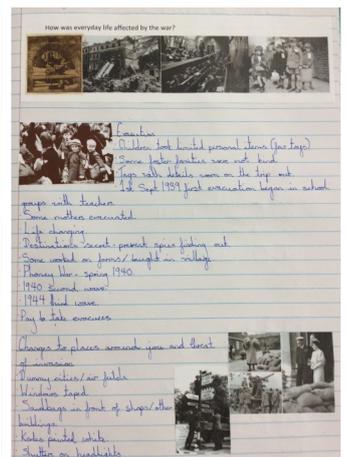
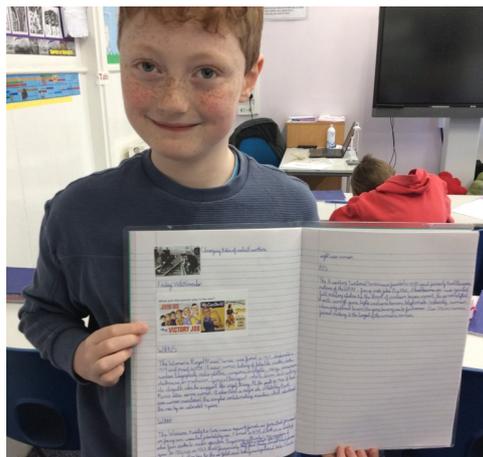


Class Three

This week in Class 3, we completed all our tests. We worked extremely hard and tried our very best! Some of the other activities we enjoyed included creating our own fact files about the Roman emperor we found most interesting. Ask us who we chose and why—we'd love to share what we found out! Today, we also created our own mini story booklets so we could write up our Mischief narratives in neat. We are really proud of our stories!

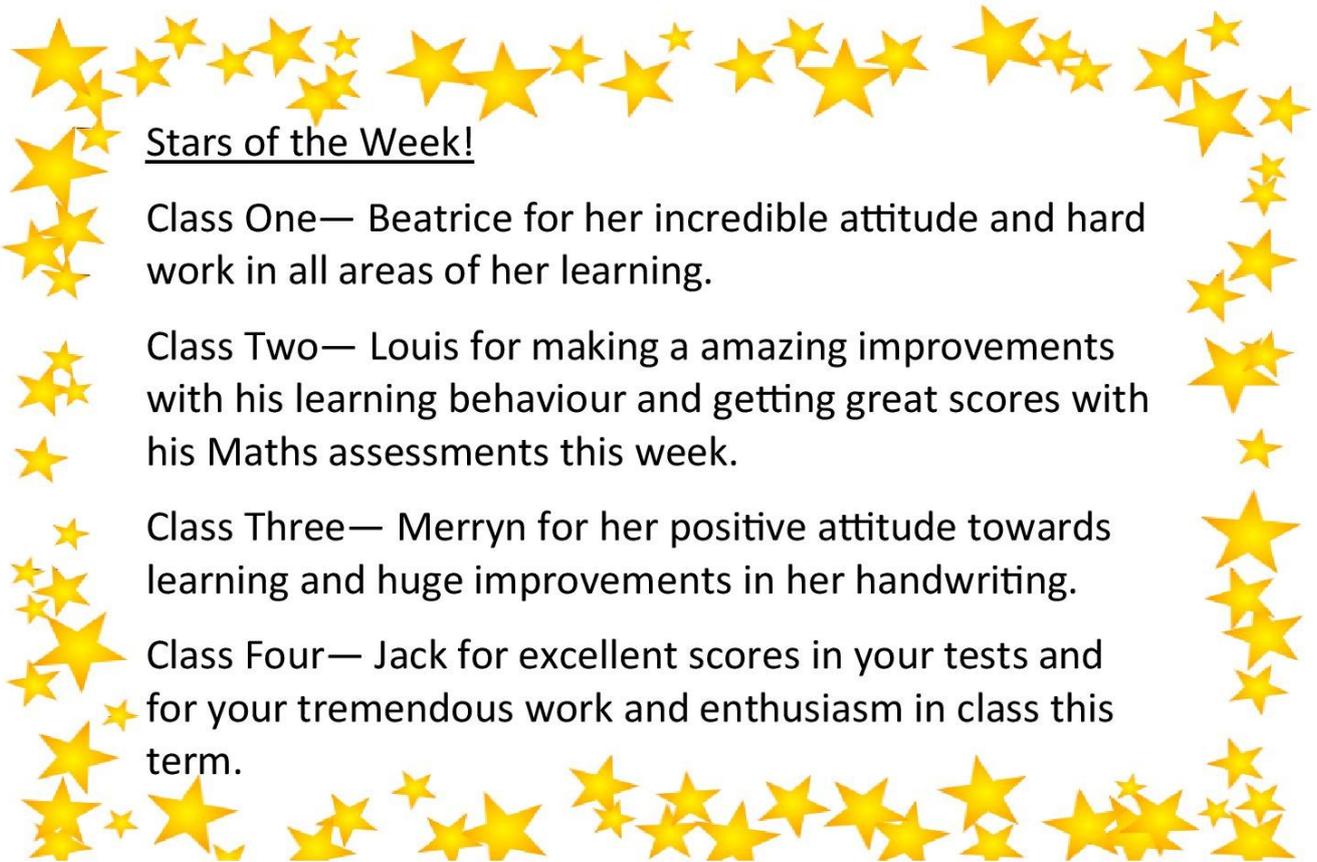
Class Four—by William H

This week in class four we have been tested in three Maths; one SPaG and a reading paper. For maths, we had one arithmetic paper and two reasoning papers. Mr Norton was pleased with all of our effort and how much progress we are making. In history, we were looking at what the effect on women by men going and joining the army in world war two was. They took on new jobs including the WAAF (women's auxiliary air force), where some of them were moving planes, a job which would have usually been taken by men previously. In R.W we were learning about the parable of the banquet and how this relates to the kingdom of God on earth. All in all it has been a good week for Y5 and Y6.



Stars of the Week and Reading Stars

Certificates to be presented at Celebration Collective Worship on Friday 28th November, 3.00pm in the Community Centre.



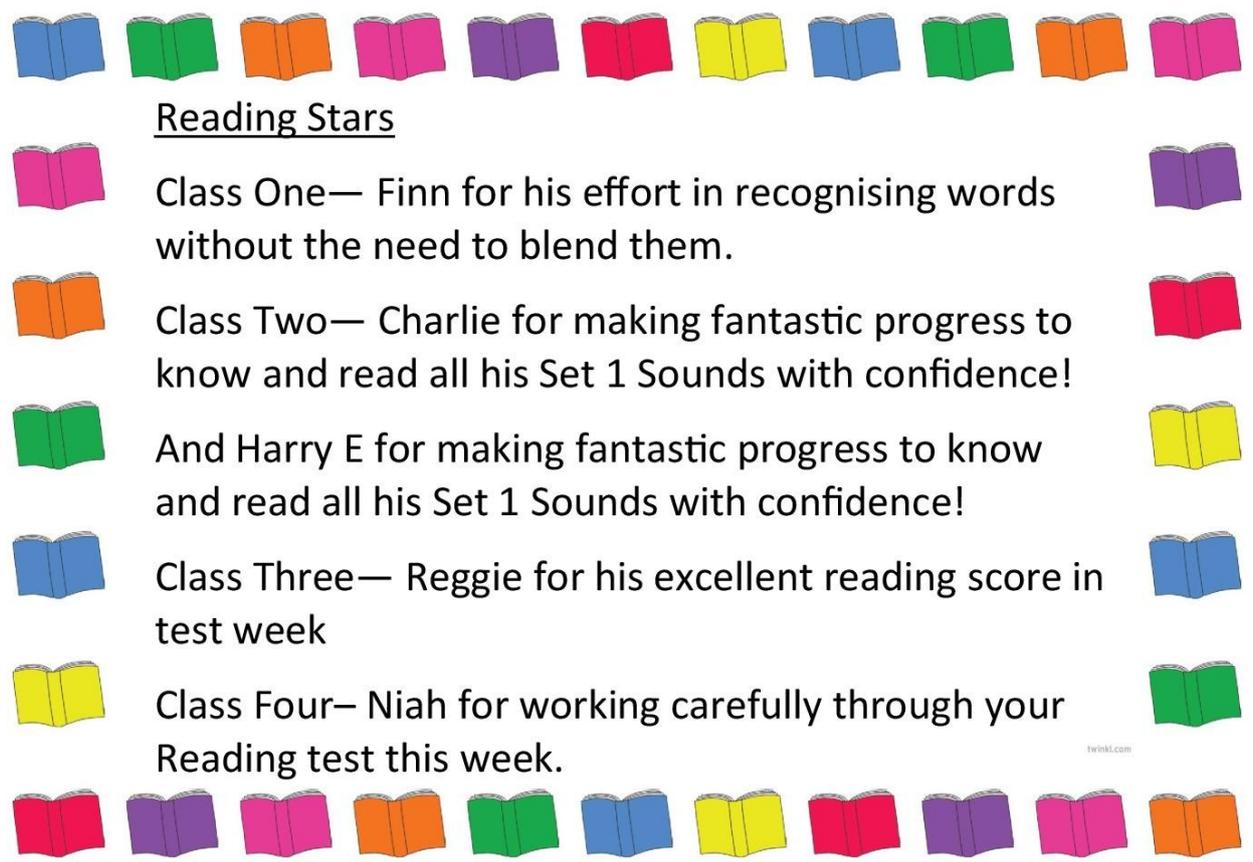
Stars of the Week!

Class One— Beatrice for her incredible attitude and hard work in all areas of her learning.

Class Two— Louis for making a amazing improvements with his learning behaviour and getting great scores with his Maths assessments this week.

Class Three— Merryn for her positive attitude towards learning and huge improvements in her handwriting.

Class Four— Jack for excellent scores in your tests and for your tremendous work and enthusiasm in class this term.



Reading Stars

Class One— Finn for his effort in recognising words without the need to blend them.

Class Two— Charlie for making fantastic progress to know and read all his Set 1 Sounds with confidence!

And Harry E for making fantastic progress to know and read all his Set 1 Sounds with confidence!

Class Three— Reggie for his excellent reading score in test week

Class Four— Niah for working carefully through your Reading test this week.

High Bickington
Primary School PTA



Christmas Hamper Raffle



Tickets £1 each

Available from School Office
& High Bickington Community Shop

Please see the list on the next page for
suggestions if you would like to donate
an item for the Christmas hampers.

Thank You.





Donation Suggestions

- After Eights
- Bath Bombs
- Bath Salts
- Beer
- Biscuits
- Body Butter
- Box Of Stuffing
- Box Of Chocolate Fingers
- Boxes Of Chocolates
- Boxes Of Sweets
- Breadsticks
- Bubble Bath
- Candy Canes
- Chocolate Log
- Chocolate Orange (All Flavours)
- Chocolate Santa / Reindeer
- Chocolate Truffles
- Chocolate/Sweet Stocking Filler Tubes
- Chocolates
- Christmas Cake
- Christmas Craft Kit
- Christmas Pudding
- Chutney
- Crackers For Cheese
- Cranberry Sauce
- Crisps
- Exfoliating Gloves
- Face Masks
- Festive Crisps / Pringles
- Festive Mug
- Flannel
- Foot Mask
- Fudge
- Gingerbread / Christmas Biscuits
- Gravy Granules
- Hair Mask
- Hair Brush
- Hand Cream
- Haribo
- Hot Chocolate Powder
- Jar Of Coffee
- Jelly
- Jelly Beans
- Kids Fizzy Drinks
- Manicure Tools
- Marshmallows
- Mini Cans Of Lemonade/Coke
- Miniature Alcohol Gift Set
- Mince Pies
- Multipacks Of Chocolates
- Mulled Wine
- Nail Polish Set
- Nuts
- Pickled Onions
- Pickles
- Popcorn
- Pork Scratchings
- Pre-Mixed Cocktails In A Can
- Prosecco
- Selection Boxes
- Shortbread
- Shower Gel
- Spirits
- Toblerone
- Tub Of Chocolates
(Celebrations/Heroes/Quality Street/Roses)
- Wine

All donations can be handed in to the school. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation to the school for us to buy hamper items, please hand cash to Ms Goss at the main office.

Donations needed by Friday 12th December please. Thank you!



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

Cook

EDV/2025/WCEPA/75406

Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy

Witheridge C of E Academy are looking for someone special to lead our school kitchen and provide nutritious, delicious meals for our pupils and staff.

📍 Fore Street, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 8AH

🕒 Permanent/Term Time Only | Full-Time

£ £13.26 Hourly

GRADE: C | 32.5 HPW (MONDAY - FRIDAY) | 38 Weeks

New • Apply by Midday, Wednesday 10th 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

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

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.