



Next week—W/C Monday 8th December 2025	
Monday:	
Tuesday:	Class Three PE BaaB from 3.30pm
Wednesday:	Class One Outdoor Learning (Please remember appropriate footwear)
Thursday:	Class Two PE
Friday:	Christmas Jumper Day 2 Class Four PE 3.00 Celebration Collective Worship KS2 Sports Club

Dear Parents and Carers,

**This week
Parent Meetings**

Thank you to everyone who was able to come in to school and meet with your child's class teacher. I know that there were many positive conversations had and teachers were very happy to report great effort and attainment. It was also good to share 'next steps' with you so

that parents and carers can support at home. As always, I would like to remind you that you can make an appointment to speak about your child's progress at any time ... You don't need to wait for the next 'formal' meeting dates, which will be in the Summer Term.

**Next Week
Book and a Mince Pie!**

The parent meetings do not give us time to look at books, and there is some lovely work in these. If you are able to, please do come along to BaaB (with mince pies) next Tuesday (9th), so that your child can talk you through the work they have been doing this term.

Administrator Post

We are now at the end of the application period for the Administrator position at HB, with the closing date being noon today. So far we have had a very good response with more than ten very promising looking applications. We short-list this weekend and will be calling successful applicants for interview next Wednesday (10th). As soon as we have made an appointment, we will let you know. Our plan is for the person appointed to be able to spend some time with Mrs Goss before Christmas and also to support them with on-going training in the New Year.

Christmas Performance (Tuesday 16th Dec)

Practices are in full swing now - and just as well! We have fully booked the afternoon performance, so we are looking forward to a packed audience. However, that does mean that if you have not already signed up for the afternoon, there are no further seats available. We do have a few seats left for the morning performance.

Christmas Post Box

The Christmas post box is now available under the archway each day. If your child would like to send Christmas cards to their friends this Christmas, they can post them in our Christmas post box. Please ensure your child clearly writes the recipient's name and class on the envelope to help our Year 6 posties deliver the cards to the correct person. We will be starting deliveries from next week, but last post is not until Thursday 18th December!

Rock Steady Music Concert (Monday 15th Dec)

We would like to invite Rock Steady children's parents / family & friends to an end of term concert on Monday 15th December in the Church Hall. Please arrive from 2:30pm.

Christmas Dinner (Wednesday 17th Dec)

The school's Christmas dinner will take place on Wednesday 17th December. There is no

need to book in advance, if you would like your child to have Christmas dinner, just make the payment for the day on Arbor as normal.

Have a lovely weekend,

Rob Norton
Head of School.

Notices

Christmas Performances

Thank you to all who have completed the Google form to book seats for the performances. The 2.00pm performance is now full. We have spaces available for the 11.00am performance - if you want to book seats for that performances, please use this [link](#).

PTA Christmas Hamper Raffle

Today, your child should be coming home with raffle tickets. If you wish to buy some, please complete your name and phone number and return to the school office, either with correct payment, or confirming that you have made a bank transfer to the PTA account (please note dots in the account name):

Account name: P.T.A

Sort code: 40-09-13

Account number: 41077023

Donations for the hampers are now being received in the school office - please see the poster later in the newsletter for suggestions. Please bring these in by Friday 12th December. Thank you.

School Calendar

December

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

Fri 12th: Christmas Jumper Day 2

Tue 16th: School Christmas production - 11.00 and 2.00

Wed 17th: School Christmas dinner

Fri 19th: 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)

Can you recognise amounts quickly to 5?

Can you remember what three gifts the wise men brought Jesus?

What vegetable do Mexicans carve on Christmas eve?



Exploring elephants (Class Two)

Can you confidently and clearly say your line for the Christmas play?

Can you write a short story about a space adventure?

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

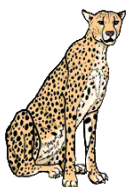


Inventive Impalas (Class Three)

Tell someone at home all about your R.W lesson this week.

What was life like for a Roman gladiator?

Can you tell someone about the instructions you analysed yesterday.



Challenging Cheetahs (Class Four)

How do you convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions?

What was 'Operation Overlord'?

What ingredients do you need to include in a rousing speech?

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:

Multiplication tables and Reading Log book.

Class Four:

Read for 60 minutes at least (Y6) and 45 minutes at least (Y5).

Next Week's Menu—W/C Monday 8th December 2025

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

Class One

This week in Class 1, we have been focusing on the topic of Christmas. We have been sequencing the story of the nativity, as well as imagining what the North pole would look like during our drawing club sessions. Some of us very much added a Devonshire flare with Santa and the elves riding through the snow on tractors! In phonics, we have been working hard on applying our set 1 sounds when reading and writing simple sentences. During maths, we have been representing different amounts up to 10 as well as recapping our knowledge of 2D shapes. In addition to this, we have made some lovely Christmas crafts including angel tree toppers, straw barn scenes and paper chains to decorate the classroom.

Class Two

We have got into the Christmas spirit in Class Two this week, learning all about Advent and how it is important to Christians during the lead up to Christmas. We learnt all about the Advent wreath and the significance of the candles of hope, joy, peace and love. The candle in the centre which represents Jesus being the light of the world. We have considered some of these traditions and how they relate to our 'Let you Light Shine' vision at school. In class we created an advent calendar together of the Nativity scene. We have enjoyed each day, crossing off our numbered squares and choosing a name out of Mrs Laurence's special box! When our names are chosen, we are given an act of kindness to 'Let our Light's Shine' even

more during this festive period. Mrs Laurence's Literacy group have also been excited this week as they have planned their own adventure story based on our text 'Grandad's Island'. They have used the structure to plan their own adventure into space. We look forward to writing them next week.

Class Three

This week we started a new piece of writing all about instructions. We had great fun analysing instructions on how to mess up our classroom! We have taken lots of ideas from this and will be writing our own instructions next week. In maths, we continued our work on subtraction, and we learned how to borrow (exchange). In Topic this week, we have loved learning about gladiators in Roman times. We learnt about their daily lives and found it really interesting learning about the Colosseum and how gladiators would battle and put on shows. We also discovered that gladiators trained in special schools called ludi, that the Colosseum could hold around 50,000 people, and that gladiators used a wide variety of weapons such as swords, shields, nets and tridents. We were surprised to learn that not all fights ended in serious injury, as many were stopped early, and that some gladiators even became famous across Rome. Today, we had a really exciting live call to Antarctica! We spoke to Robert Swan, who is there right now. It was fascinating to learn about how our actions affect the world and how the ice caps are melting. We left the call feeling inspired to do more to help protect our planet.

Class Four - by Francesca and Kaitlyn

This week in Class 4 we have been learning about fractions and how to convert mixed numbers into improper fractions. To convert a mixed number into an improper fraction, you times the whole number by the denominator, then add the numerator. On Thursday we started writing a formal speech about Rose Blanche, a character who risked her life for others in World War 2.

During our project work this week, we have been focusing on Operation Overlord, when Britain, America and Canada fought for the allies against the German army. In science, we just finished our project on space and pretended to be planets orbiting the sun. We had a zoom meeting with a champion of Antarctica; Rob Swan. Did you know? Antarctica is all of our property so we need to take care of it and leave it alone.

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

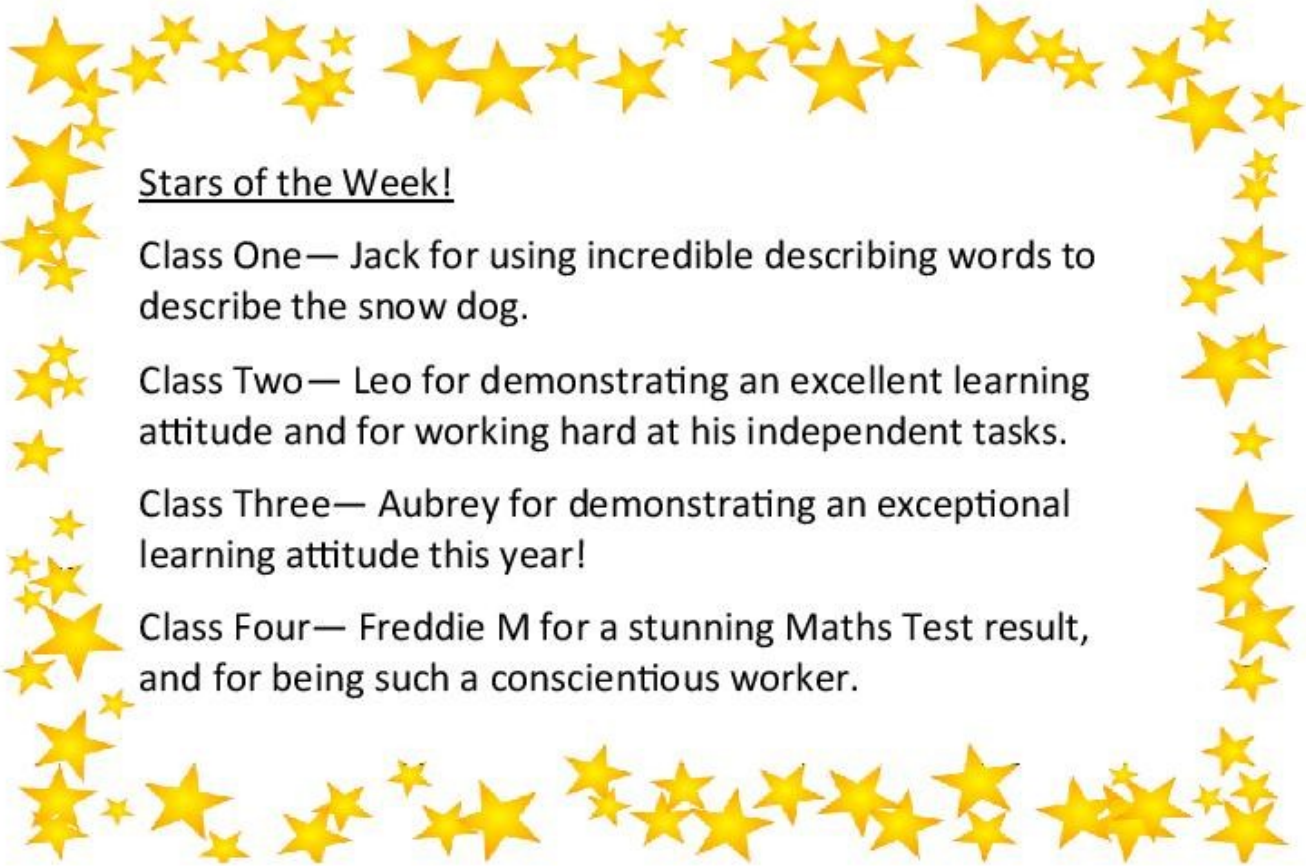
- After Eights
- Bath Bombs
- Bath Salts
- Beer
- Biscuits
- Body Butter
- Box Of Stuffing
- Box Of Chocolate Fingers
- Boxes Of Chocolates
- Boxes Of Sweets
- Breadsticks
- Bubble Bath
- Candy Canes
- Chocolate Log
- Chocolate Orange (All Flavours)
- Chocolate Santa / Reindeer
- Chocolate Truffles
- 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!

Stars of the Week and Reading Stars

Certificates to be presented at Celebration Collective Worship on Friday 5th December 2025, 3.00pm in the Community Centre.



Stars of the Week!

Class One— Jack for using incredible describing words to describe the snow dog.

Class Two— Leo for demonstrating an excellent learning attitude and for working hard at his independent tasks.

Class Three— Aubrey for demonstrating an exceptional learning attitude this year!

Class Four— Freddie M for a stunning Maths Test result, and for being such a conscientious worker.



Reading Stars

Class One— Henry for believing in himself when it comes to reading challenges.

Class Two— Emmett for using his phonic knowledge to read carefully to his read partner.

Class Three— Mason for consistently demonstrating focus and determination throughout our reading lessons.

Class Four— Evelyn for an excellent Reading Test score.





VACANCIES

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

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

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

Apply Now

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

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

Apply Now

6 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Wednesday 10th Dec, 2025 • Job start: 6th January 2026