



Newsletter—Friday 12th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the penultimate letter of this long Autumn Term, and a good time to reflect on the hard work put in by everyone in the school community and to say thank you.

I have written often about the excellent work of the children at HB this term - and rightly so. The commitment to their learning and to one another continues to shine through. Day in, day out since September 4th they have exemplified our core values of **friendship, perseverance, respect, truthfulness** and **love**. When things haven't quite gone to plan, there has been a large dose of **forgiveness** too! I am so glad that next Tuesday the HBCC will be packed, and you will see a small measure of what these excellent little people are about. Thank you to all of the children for making this a special term.

Obviously, a huge thank you goes to the tremendous staff, volunteers and trainees who have worked in school this term. The hard work, dedication and expertise you put into the life of HB really makes it what it is. Thank you to you all for another wonderful term.

The work of PTA continues to make a massive difference to what we can offer - especially in terms of curriculum enrichment. Without the incredible fund-raising efforts and support of you all for the events put on, we would not be able to offer the children as many 'big event' trips and visitors as we do. I know that Mrs Pearce will be expanding on the work of PTA in the last news letter of term, but for now, I would just like to express my sincere gratitude for all that you do.

Finally, a big thank you to a pretty much unseen group who have a vital role in the successful operation of the school ... the Local Governing Body (LGB). I am so fortunate to have the support and challenge of a large group of Governors who do a great deal of work 'behind the scenes' checking, monitoring, questioning and supporting the continued improvement of the school. Our current LGB is: Rev Tracy Doyle, Rosie King, Helen Carn, Susie Kevern, Becca Large, Haydn Ayers, Simon Hayward, Lee Trevellick and chair, Stephen Graham. They are all guided by Mrs Goss, who is Clerk to the LGB.

There needs to be a special 'thank you' to Verity, who is staying on as Clerk to the LGB, but of course is leaving as Administrator ... However, I think I will leave that until next week ...

New Administrator
We had a terrific response to the advertisement for a new administrator. TEAM Business Manager, Briony Parsons and myself were able to short list four exceptional candidates for interview from the list of 15 very strong applicants. Following a rigorous round of interviews on Wednesday this week conducted by Mrs Parsons and myself, I am delighted to say that from January our new school administrator will be Mrs Jemma Sanders. Mrs Sanders will be

Next week—W/C Monday 15th December 2025

Monday:	Rocksteady Performance 2.45pm
Tuesday:	Drop off at new site - packed lunches! 11.00 morning Christmas performance 2.00pm afternoon quiet performance 3.00pm pick up
Wednesday:	School Christmas Dinner
Thursday:	Class Two PE
Friday:	Christmas Jumper Day 3 Class Four PE 2.45pm Christmas Collective Worship No KS2 Sports Club

working alongside Mrs Goss next week and will be supported throughout her initial period in the job from January 2026 by staff from the Central TEAM Office as required. There will be a lot to learn, but I know staff and parents will be super-supportive when Mrs Sanders takes up the reins.

Class One

With Mr Northmore away this week, I'd like to say thank you to Mrs Rowden and Mr Tucker for taking the class. We are fortunate to have Mrs Rowden on the staff: she is a trained teacher with experience across most of primary and secondary year groups and is excellent across all classes at HB. Mr Tucker is an old friend of the school as well as being a great supply teacher and (of course) wonderful guitar player. The children know them both well and they know the children. Hopefully both are familiar to parents too. Mrs R and Mr T are on stand-by in case Mr Northmore is not able to be in next week.

Atherington Christmas Tree Festival

I was lucky enough to take the Sanctuary Ambassadors, the Lead Boy and the Lead Girl to Atherington church on Wednesday to decorate a tree for the festival there. Despite a few hurdles along the way, the children made a lovely job of decorating the school tree (number 9) with the baubles made by all children in Classes Two to Four. The theme of the tree's decoration - like the theme of the play - is 'Christmas around the World'. Please do try to have a look if you have the chance: Atherington church looks beautiful inside.

Next Week

Monday 15th

Rock Steady concert in the Church Hall at 2:45pm

Tuesday 16th

Please drop all children to the new site between **8:40am and 9:00am**. The only exception to this would be children attending Breakfast Club, who can do so as normal at the old site. A member of staff will then walk them to the new site once Breakfast Club has finished. All children will need a packed lunch on this day please.

9:15am Dress rehearsal (no audience)

11:00am Morning performance

2:00pm Afternoon 'quiet' performance

Please pick up all children from the new site at 3:00pm.

Further information regarding the performance day is included in this letter. Please read carefully.

Wednesday 17th

School Christmas Dinner from 12:05pm

Friday 19th

Christmas Carol Collective Worship at 2:45pm in the church

Please do come along if you can to celebrate the stars of the week; hear some of the Christmas work completed by the children and **join in** with some well-known Christmas carols!

Have a great weekend,

Rob Norton
Head of School



Notices

Christmas Performances

Today, everyone will have received an e-mail giving a final confirmation of how many tickets your child has reserved for which performance. For any further ticket questions, please contact Mrs Goss directly - the Google Forms are no longer accepting requests.

A staff member will be on the door of each performance with a list of who is expected. Please do not arrive for a performance if you do not have tickets assigned to you.

The PTA have organised light refreshments after the 2.00pm performance, and will also be drawing the hamper raffle then.

Enjoy the show!

After School Church Club

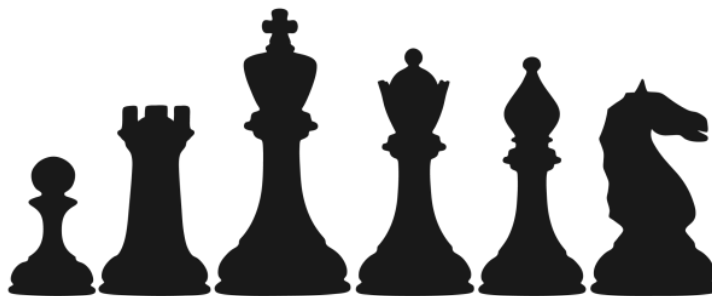
A reminder that there is no Church Club in December - this will resume in the new year.

Chess Club

Come to Chess Club, run by Ezra and Isaac. We want people to enjoy and learn how to play chess. It's for KS2 (Years 3,4,5 and 6) and it will be in the Staff Room. You are not forced to come, you don't have to come every week. It is on Tuesday after Christmas at 1:00 - 1:25. Come along and try it, you don't have to stay if you don't like it!

For further info please speak to Ezra K or Isaac C!

Thank You very much!



School Calendar

December

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)

What is one less than 5?

Can you name a 2D shape with 3 corners and 3 sides?

How did the shepherds find baby Jesus?



Exploring elephants (Class Two)

Can you write down some acts of kindness which you are going to try through December?

Can you make a Christmas bauble for your tree?

Can you play number bond bingo to 10 at home?



Inventive Impalas (Class Three)

Why did the Romans leave Britain?

Can you try some print making at home.

Explain to someone at home all about your mischievous instructions!



Challenging Cheetahs (Class Four)

What have you learnt about the Second World War?

Can you retell the story of the First Christmas?

How do you add two fractions, when the denominators are the same; when one denominator is a factor of the other; when denominators are not factors of each other?

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:

Reading log book, Times Table Rockstars and going through tests correcting mistakes.

Class Four:

Reading , plus polish your play part and song words for Tuesday!



Next Week's Menu—W/C Monday 15th December 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sausage roll V – Quorn sausage roll Potato Wedges, Baked Beans and Sweetcorn Peach melba	All need Packed Lunch	Christmas Dinner!	Chicken and veg Casserole V – Vegetable casserole Crusty bread Jam sponge and custard	Fish Fingers V – vegetable fingers Golden Fries and Seasonal Veg Shortbread Biscuit

Class One

This week in Class 1, we have been very busy completing lots of lovely Christmas activities. In maths, we have practiced our counting and writing of one less number sentences as well as making Christmas 2D shape pictures. In phonics, we have been practicing our reading and writing of CVC words, as well as all reception children completing their half termly assessments. They all did amazingly and have made such progress this half term, so a big well done to them. In addition to this, we have thoroughly enjoyed singing Christmas songs with Mr Tucker, making clay Christmas decorations, Christmas wreaths, cotton wool Santas and decorations using sticks that we collected. What a busy week we have had!

Class Two

As Christmas is on it's way, we have been involved in a few fun activities this week in between our normal lessons. Class Two have all taken part in decorating an individual bauble for Atherington Christmas Tree Festival. Each child was given a different country from around the world. They decorated the bauble with the country's flag and a special Christmas message. Mr Norton took all of the baubles on Wednesday to decorate the tree. We hope you get chance to visit the festival and spot our baubles hanging in pride of place. We have had many play rehearsals this week, the children are doing a super job of practising their lines and songs, we look forward to performing it next week. In RW, the children have continued to learn about the Christmas story and 'Why Christmas is important to Christians'. We considered the feelings of the shepherds this week and how they must

have felt when seeing a new born King for the first time. Alongside some Christmas activities, Mrs Laurence's literacy group have been working hard to complete their adventure narrative stories based around Space, in Art we have been learning about collagraphs and in PE we have been developing our dance skills.

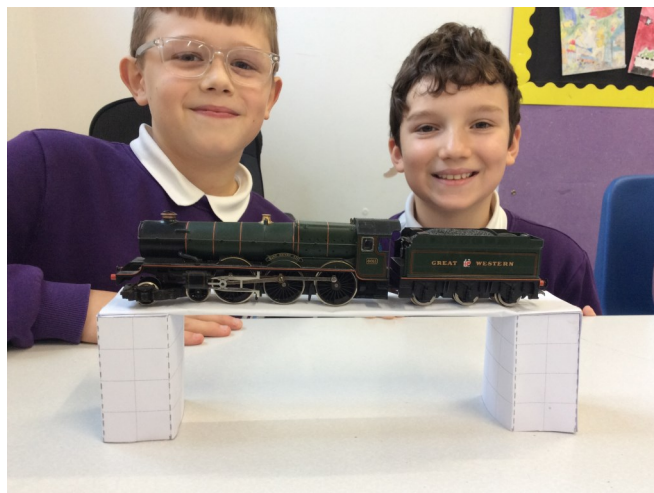
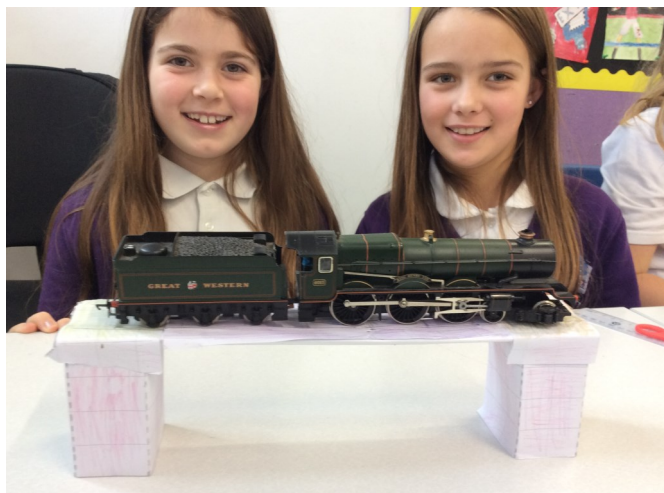
Class Three

Although this week has been filled with finishing-off bits as we reach the end of term, we have still been super busy! This week, we wrote our own instructions about how to ruin a party! We based this on our class text and an example titled How to Mess Up Our Classroom! We had lots of fun creating our own mischievous instructions, just like the children in our book! In Topic, we learned about why the Romans left Britain. One key reason was that the Roman army was needed back in Rome to defend the empire from attacks, so the soldiers had to leave Britain and return home. We also finished off our Art for this term, which focused on printmaking in the style of Andy Warhol. We had lots of fun carving polystyrene with our Roman designs, then using ink to make bright, colourful prints—just like Andy Warhol!



Class Four - by Freddie M and Niah

This week in Class 4 we have written about D-Day Operation Overlord and World War 2. We wrote a speech about Rose Blanche who is linked to WW2 because she saved countless lives of innocent Jewish children from German concentration camps. We have continued our work on our underground adventure stories with Mrs Kennard. On Thursday we had another go at bridge building - we had seven straws and paper, this time at least half of us succeeded in building a bridge to hold the train - much better than last time! We have also been rehearsing the Christmas play ready for next 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.





Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.



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

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

1.1 SEND TEACHING ASSISTANT

EDV/2025/BCPS/45528



Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

The appointed person will work in close partnership with the relevant class teachers and will help to support pupils to engage with their learning. In-service training will be provided where...

📍 Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ
🕒 Fixed Term | Part-Time
£ £13.26 Hourly
Grade: C | 30 Hours per week (MONDAY TO FRIDAY 08:45AM - 3:30PM) | Fixed Term | 38 weeks Term Time Only

Apply Now

New • Apply by Midday, Monday 5th Jan, 2026 • Job start: ASAP

1.1 SEND TEACHING ASSISTANT

EDV/2025/BCPS/90334



Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

The appointed person will work in close partnership with the relevant class teachers and will help to support pupils to engage with their learning. In-service training will be provided where...

📍 Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ
🕒 Fixed Term | Part-Time
£ £13.26 Hourly
Grade: C | 27.5 Hours per week (MONDAY TO FRIDAY 08:45AM - 3:30PM) | Fixed Term | 38 weeks Term Time Only

Apply Now

New • Apply by Midday, Monday 5th Jan, 2026 • Job start: ASAP

Cleaner

EDV/2025/PBCEA/44027



Pilton Bluecoat Church of England Academy

This is a part-time, permanent cleaning position, working 13.75 hours per week (2 hours 45 minutes per day, Monday to Friday). Hours are to be worked outside of the school day from 3:30pm.

📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU
🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
£ £12.84 Annually (Actual)
GRADE: B | 13.75 HPW (2 HOURS 45 MINUTES EACH DAY | 3:30PM - 6:15PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY) | 41 WEEKS

Apply Now

New • Apply by Midday, Friday 2nd Jan, 2026 • Job start: 12TH JANUARY 2026 OR AS SOON AS REASONABLY POSSIBLE

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

25 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Monday 5th Jan, 2026 • 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.

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

Apply Now

25 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Monday 5th Jan, 2026 • Job start: ASAP