



'Spurring each other on with love'

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Headteacher: Mrs Tameka Hue Hamilton

Monday 23rd February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you had a restful half term. This half term, we are basing our work around 'Our Amazing World'. We will be starting by looking at where we live and looking at local landmarks.

Literacy:

- Naming and describing local landmarks.
- Drawing and labelling maps from our home to school.
- Going on a virtual bus tour of Plymouth and talking about the places that we recognise and what we already know about them eg: The Life Centre or Derriford Hospital.

Phonics:

- Miss Houghton's groups will be recapping ay, ee and igh, with a focus on reading words with these special friends in.
- Mrs Vanstone's groups will be learning ay and ee. Please see the QR codes sent home last half of term.
- Mrs Bond's group are recapping the set 1 special friends, focusing on reading words with the sounds in.
- Mrs O'Toole's group will be learning sh and qu.
- Mrs Greensalde's group will be recapping z, x, y, v and w. Their main focus this half of term is reading green words independently.



The children will be bringing home a reading book or ditty sheet on Friday. If your child brings home a book that they have already had, this is fine. We are working on fluency. Please ensure your child is pointing to the words as they read and following the text. Also ask the children about what they have just read. Can they answer your questions about the story, showing understanding of the text? Some of the children will bring home two books, a book bag book (colour book) and a black and white paper copy of the guided book that they have read in phonics. Please do not allow your child to draw on the black and white paper books. These should be returned to school on Friday, along with the book bag book.

Maths:

- Learning about time.
- Using small clocks to show o'clock times
- Thinking about what we do at different times of the day.

Other Areas:

- Learning about Brian Pollard and developing our painting skills by painting Brian Pollard inspired hot air balloons.
- Role playing being at home.
- Exploring what we can do in one minute.
- Role playing going on a bus trip, buying tickets and having a picnic at our final destination.

PGCE student

- Today, Jenna Marsh, an early years PGCE student from MARJON has started in Red Bears. She will be spending the week getting to know the children and our school. Over the next few months, she will be teaching more, under the guidance of Mrs O'Toole, and taking on more responsibilities. We would like to welcome her to our team and hope that she enjoys her time at Bickleigh Down.

Any questions please come and ask us.

Foundation Stage Team

