

'Spurring each other on with love'

School Drive, Woolwell, Plymouth PL6 7JW

Headteacher: Mrs Tameka Hue Hamilton

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Kerri Conday

☎: 01752 301837

✉: admin@bickleighdown.devon.sch.uk

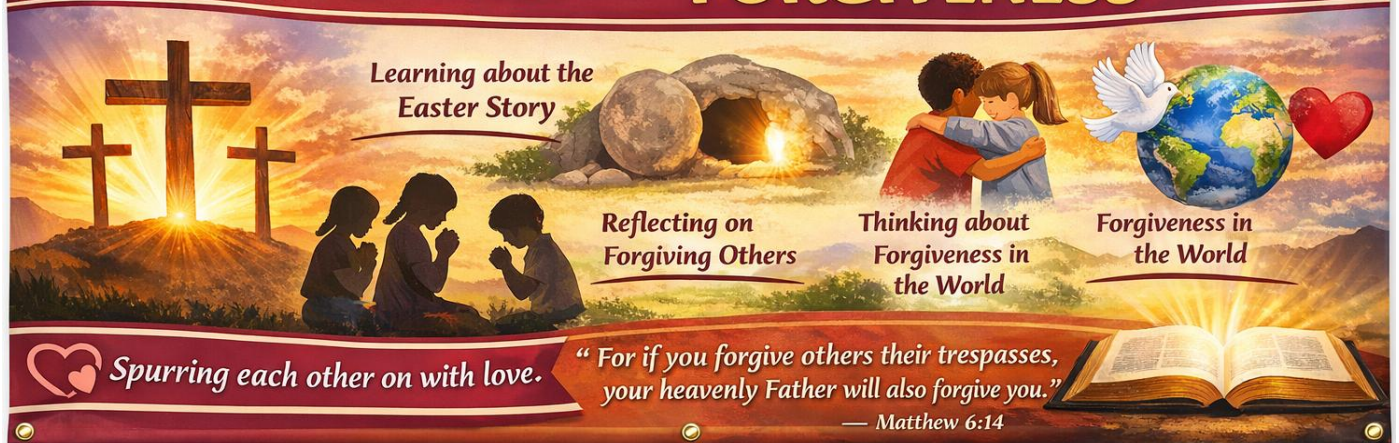
Our Christian Value: Forgiveness

This half term, we will be focusing on our Christian value of forgiveness. In Collective Worship, we will be finding out about why Christians believe that forgiveness is important. The children will be learning about the big story of Easter and the themes of forgiveness and love that are found within it.

Through our times of quiet reflection, we will be thinking about forgiveness for ourselves, others, the world and how forgiveness makes us feel. The children will also be finding out about our focus Bible verse for this term and how showing our value of forgiveness helps us to live out our vision of spurring each other on with love.

*For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly
Father will also forgive you.*

Matthew 6:14



Faith Speakers in Religious Education

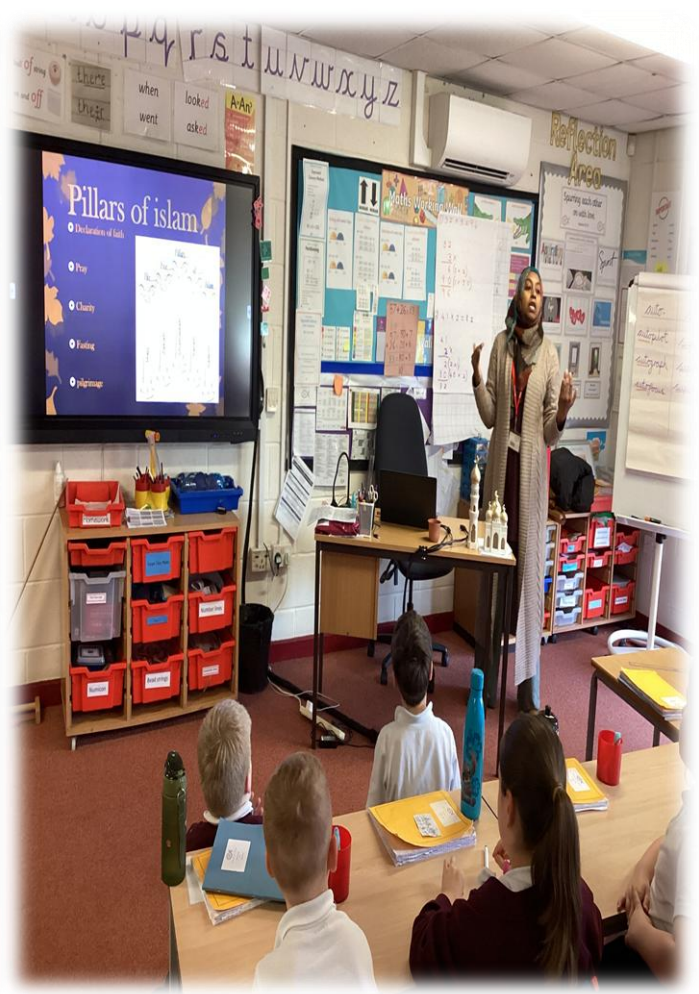
At the end of last term, Year Three and Year Four had visiting faith speakers as part of their learning within Religious Education.

Year Four heard from Tinny, who talked about Puja (worship) and Arti (removing darkness with light) and her lived experience of being a Hindu living in Plymouth. The children really enjoyed learning about the different artefacts that Tinny brought with her and asked her lots of interesting questions about Hindu Dharma. The children were also able to share their knowledge of the different Murtis, the Trimurti and the cycle of Samsara.

Year Three children were visited by Rania who talked to them about her experiences as a Muslim living in Plymouth. Rania also shared how she lives out the five pillars of Islam and how different festivals are celebrated. The children were able to share their deep knowledge, answering lots of Rania's questions and enjoyed posing their own questions to deepen their knowledge.

Both Rania and Tinny commented on the wealth of knowledge that the children had and their respectful and enquiring natures. We are very proud of all the Year Three and Four children and their deep knowledge across the RE curriculum.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the visits. Please see highlights on the next page.



Year Four Trip to Kents Cavern

Last half term, our Year Four pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit Kents Cavern, located in the heart of the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark. As part of their History curriculum, the children explored this remarkable Stone Age site, the only place in Devon where you can truly walk in the footsteps of prehistoric people. During their visit, pupils learned how humans first used the caves for shelter over 500,000 years ago, discovered how archaeologists piece together the past through artefacts such as tools and animal bones, and developed their understanding of life in the Palaeolithic period. The trip brought their classroom learning to life, deepening their knowledge of prehistoric Britain and inspiring thoughtful discussions about how early humans survived, adapted and evolved over time. Thanks to all the staff who accompanied the children and ensured they were safe and engaged throughout.







Important Dates and Events for Parents and Carers



March 2026

Thursday 5th: World Book Day Celebration - Dress up as a book character.

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th: Foundation Balanceability Training Sessions

Monday 9th - Friday 13th: Year Five Bikeability Training Sessions

Tuesday 10th March: High 5 Neon Dodgeball After School Activity (£11 per child)

Thursday 12th - Friday 13th: PFA Mother's Day Present Room

Tuesday 24th - Thursday 26th: Parents' Evenings

Wednesday 25th Class Photos

April 2026

Wednesday 1st April: Spring Music Festival for Foundation, KSI & KS2 (See Schedule)

Thursday 2nd Last Day of Term Early Dismissal @ 1.15 pm

3rd - 17th : Easter Break

Friday 24th: Military Family Breakfast @ 8.10 am (All pupils wear purple accessories (purple hair accessories, socks etc) in celebration of Month of the Military Child)

Wednesday 29th - Meeting with current Year Four Parents re Year Five Mount Batten and Year Six Residential Trips @ 3.30pm.

Thursday 30th April - High 5 Inflatables After School Activity (£11 per child)

May 2026

Wednesday 6th: Meeting with Year Three Parents re Adventure Race @ 3.30 pm

Thursday 7th; National Height and Weight Check (Foundation & Year Six pupils)

Monday 11th - Thursday 14th: Year Six SATs Assessment Week

Wednesday 20th; PFA Summer Disco for Foundation, KSI & KS2

Thursday 21st: New 2026 Foundation Intake Meeting @ 5pm

25th - 29th: Half Term Break

June 2026

Wednesday 3rd: All pupils return to school

Wednesday 3rd - Friday 12th: Year Four Multiplication Tables Check

8th - 12th: National Phonics Screening Check

Monday 15th: Foundation & Key Stage One Sports Day

Wednesday 17th: Key Stage Two Sports Day (Years Three to Six)

Thursday 18th PFA Father's Day Present Room

Friday 19th : PFA Father's Day Present Room

Tuesday 23rd 1st Visit: New Foundation Intake Induction Day @ 1.30 pm

Wednesday 24th 1st Visit New Foundation Intake Induction Day @ 1.30 pm

Friday 26th: PFA Mufti Day

Tuesday 30th: 2nd Visit: New Foundation Intake Induction Day @ 1.30 pm

July 2026

Wednesday 1st: 2nd Visit: New Foundation Intake Induction Day @ 1.30 pm

Friday 3rd: PFA Mufti Day

Friday 10th : PFA Mufti Day & Summer Fayre

Friday 17th: Year Six End of Year Trip to Woodlands

Tuesday 21st : Year Six Production @ 6 pm

Wednesday 22nd : Year Six Production @ 2pm

Year Six Leaver's Disco @ 5pm - St Barnabas Hall

Friday 24th: Last day of term 1.15 pm dismissal

World Book Day Celebration 2026

We are delighted to be celebrating World Book Day in collaboration with Promoting Children in Plymouth (PCIP) as part of the Fifth Plymouth Community World Book Day, proudly sponsored by BD (Becton Dickinson).

As part of the celebrations, children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. We are excited to be joining schools across the city in championing the joy of reading during the 2026 National Year of Reading.




During the afternoon, we will be welcoming volunteers from BD, led by one of our parents, Mrs Michaela Roberts. They will be sharing the story *Scout and the Missing Bees* with pupils from Foundation to Year Four.

Our Year Five and Year Six pupils will take part in an inspiring poetry session, offering them the opportunity to explore language and creativity in a fun and engaging way. We look forward to a wonderful afternoon celebrating stories, imagination, and the magic of reading together! 🐝 📖

Spring Music Festival 2026

On Wednesday 1st April 2026, Bickleigh Down will be hosting its annual **Spring Music Festival**. This will take place over three sessions throughout the day with the aim of showcasing aspects of our music curriculum offer.

All children will be taking part during the day. The classes will perform the instrument they have been learning, as outlined in the timetable below. **Only two parents/carers** are invited to attend the session for each family. This is to ensure that we adhere to our fire regulations and keep everyone safe. We are encouraging all parents and carers to please arrive in time for the start and stay for the whole session to avoid disrupting performances. Thank you for your usual cooperation. 😊

Time	Class/Group	Performances
	Year One	Singing and Glockenspiel
	4BH	DooDs
	School Choir	
	5H	Glockenspiel
	6B	Djembe Drums
	10.15 – 11.15 am	3G
	4W	DooDs
	School Choir	
	5S	Glockenspiel
	6R	Djembe Drums
	2.00 – 3.00 pm	2W
	Foundation	Singing and Glockenspiel
	3AL	Recorders
	2H	Ocarina
	School Choir	

There will be no Key Stage Two Awards on Wednesday 1st April 2026!

Road Safety Concerns: Parking and Driving

We continue to receive a high number of concerns regarding the safety of children while walking to and from school each day. Both local residents and parents have raised ongoing worries about motorists driving at excessive speeds and failing to adhere to speed limits and road signage in the area surrounding the school. In addition, there remain persistent issues with parents and carers parking on double yellow lines and in close proximity to the zebra crossing. This significantly restricts visibility and poses serious risks to pedestrians, particularly our children at the busiest times of the day. The safety of our pupils is a shared responsibility. We ask all members of our school community to work together to ensure that children can travel to and from school safely. By parking considerately, observing speed limits and road signs, and modelling responsible behaviour, we can help prevent accidents and ensure a safer environment for everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation in being proactive, rather than reactive, in keeping our school community safe.

Be Alert Pedestrians!



Keeping Everyone Safe During Key Stage Awards

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding our pupils, we would like to remind families of the procedures in place for Key Stage Awards on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. To ensure that only authorised parents and carers enter St Barnabas Hall, a member of the senior leadership team—usually the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher—will be stationed at the hall entrance each morning to welcome you. The hall doors will close promptly at 8:55am. If you arrive after this time, please enter through the main reception. A member of staff will then escort you to the hall so you can join the awards. For the safety of all children and staff, we kindly ask that you do not knock on the hall door or ask pupils or other adults inside the hall to let you in. This helps us ensure that only authorised adults are entering the space and allows us to maintain the highest safeguarding standards. Thank you for your support in helping us keep our school community safe.

Safeguarding Update

Bickleigh Down CE Primary School We Are a J9 Trained Safe Space



Support for Anyone Affected by Domestic Abuse

- ✓ Speak confidentially to a trained member of staff
- ✓ Access information on support services
- ✓ Use a phone in private to call for help
- ✓ Get caring, non-judgemental support



About the J9 Initiative

In memory of Janine Mundy

Helping you find support
when you need it most.

You can approach us safely and in confidence. A safe place for our whole community. 



DfE Celebrates Excellent Outcomes for Disadvantaged Pupils at Bickleigh Down Church of England Primary School

A message from Bridget Phillipson



Dear Tameka,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Bickleigh Down Church of England Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

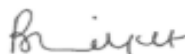
This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with [your region's RISE networks](#) and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and **congratulations** to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

Your sincerely,


Bridget Phillipson

Secretary of State for Education

Thank You from British Red Cross!



The power
of kindness



This is to recognise the wonderful achievement of

Bickleigh Down Church Of England Primary School

For raising **£590.81** for the
British Red Cross
General Fund Appeal

This valued donation will provide practical, medical and emotional care to people in crisis.

Your kindness makes a tremendous difference to people's lives and will bring happiness to many.



The British Red Cross Society, incorporated by Royal Charter 1908, is a charity registered in England and Wales (220949), Scotland (SC037738), Isle of Man (0752) and Jersey (430).