

'Spurring each other on with love'

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Bickleigh Down
Church of England Primary

Our Vision in Action

This term in Collective Worship we will be thinking about **our school vision** and how we can live it out in our **local, national and global** community.

“ and let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds”
Hebrews 10:24

Exploring the **Book of Hebrews**
We will discover why the letter writer wanted to encourage the early Christians to think about their actions.

Guided by our **Christian Values**

- LOVE**
We show love to others as Jesus loves us.
- FORGIVENESS**
We forgive others and start afresh.
- HOPE**
We have hope for the future and trust in God's promises.
- SPIRIT**
We are inspired by God's Spirit every day.
- ASPIRATION**
We aspire to be the best we can be, using our gifts and talents.

We spur one another on towards love and good deeds,
encouraging each other to be the best that we can be.

This term, in Collective Worship, we will be thinking about our school vision and how we can live it out in our local, national and global community. Our school vision is based on Hebrews 10:24 which says, 'and let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds'. The children will be finding out about the book of Hebrews and why the letter writer wanted to encourage them to think about their actions. As a school, we will be considering how our Christian values of love, forgiveness, hope, spirit and aspiration help us to live out the vision and encourage each other to be the best that we can be.

If you want to find out more about the book of Hebrews, you can do so by clicking on this link: https://youtu.be/lfNWTZZwgbs?si=PdjhjBY8YxSO2e_T.

Year Three Roman Day – A Blast from the Past!

Year Three had an incredible time during their 'Blast from the Past' Roman Day on Thursday 21st May, immersing themselves in the fascinating world of the Romans. The day began with a visit from Roman legionary Adrian, who brought history to life as he shared what life was like in the Roman Army and explained how the Romans were able to invade and conquer Britain so successfully. The children were captivated by his stories, knowledge and demonstrations. Later, the children put their mathematical skills to the test by learning about Roman numerals. They then completed a Roman-themed quiz, using their understanding of numerals to crack a secret code word. In the afternoon, the fun continued with games including Roman Rummy and a Hadrian's Wall challenge, before the children took part in an exciting re-enactment of a Roman invasion, complete with shields and swords!

We were also incredibly fortunate to welcome Michael, Henry's dad, who shared his remarkable collection of Roman artefacts with the children. His passion, knowledge and fascinating stories gave the children a unique insight into Roman history. A huge thank you to Michael for giving up his time to provide such a memorable experience. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day, learning a great deal whilst having lots of fun along the way. Finally, a special thank you to everyone who dressed up for the occasion. The effort that went into the costumes was outstanding, and the children all looked fantastic. They certainly helped bring Roman Britain to life for a truly unforgettable day!





Year Two Football Festival at Manadon

On 18th May 2026, our Year Two football team proudly represented Bickleigh Down at the Manadon Football Festival, where nine schools took part in an exciting day of sport. The team performed brilliantly throughout the competition, winning two matches, drawing one and narrowly losing one. The children demonstrated excellent footballing skills, determination and teamwork, but what stood out most was their outstanding sportsmanship and positive attitude in every game they played. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school and should be extremely proud of their achievements. A special thank you goes to Mr Harding for his guidance, encouragement and support throughout the festival, helping the children to enjoy such a successful and memorable day.



Plymouth Half Marathon Challenge

On Sunday 17th May, 44 children from Year Three to Year Six represented our school in the Plymouth Primary Schools' Running Challenge which took place on Plymouth Hoe. In the lead-up to the event, the children worked tirelessly to complete 12 miles over a period of time. Finally, on Sunday, they completed their final mile on the Hoe and crossed the finish line of Devon's biggest running competition.

The atmosphere was electric. Crowds filled the streets for the entire mile, cheering over 3,000 children along. It was truly a wonderful event.

The children were fantastic and represented the school brilliantly. They showed great listening skills, manners, perseverance, sportsmanship and, most importantly, they had a great time. It was a pleasure to be part of the Bickleigh team. A massive thank you to all the parents and teachers involved.



Year Five Activity Week 2026

From 19th-22nd May 2026, the children in Year Five enjoyed an unforgettable Outdoor Adventure Week at Mount Batten. Throughout the week, they participated in a wide range of exciting activities, including kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, bell boating, sailing, rockpool hunting, abseiling, rope climbing and orienteering. These experiences encouraged the children to challenge themselves, develop new skills and step outside their comfort zones, whether that meant conquering a fear of heights, working together on the water or sailing in the open sea.

The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience and determination throughout the week, supporting one another and embracing every challenge with enthusiasm. They were outstanding ambassadors for Bickleigh Down, representing the school with pride through their exemplary behaviour, positive attitudes and willingness to try new experiences.

A particular highlight of the week was seeing the children grow in confidence and independence. Managing their equipment, organising themselves each day and taking responsibility for their belongings provided valuable life skills, and they rose admirably to the challenge—returning home with almost all of their possessions intact! Meanwhile, the children who remained in school enjoyed a fantastic programme of sporting, outdoor and indoor team-building activities. They worked collaboratively, encouraged one another and demonstrated the same positive spirit and teamwork shown by their peers at Mount Batten.

A huge thank you goes to all of the staff who supported the children both in school and at Mount Batten. Their care, encouragement and dedication helped to make the week such a memorable, enjoyable and successful experience for everyone involved.





Foundation Minibeast Day 2026

Last half term, the children in Foundation Stage thoroughly enjoyed their topic, 'Marvellous Minibeasts'. They were fascinated by the incredible world of insects and creatures, discovering many surprising facts along the way. For example, did you know that a woodlouse has 14 legs and is not actually an insect at all, but a crustacean?

To celebrate the end of the topic, the children took part in a week packed with exciting hands-on activities. They worked with Mrs Vanstone to help create a new bug hotel on the bottom playground, providing a welcoming habitat for local wildlife. A special thank you goes to Mrs Vanstone's dad for kindly building the frame for us. The children also enjoyed observing our caterpillars as they transformed and emerged from their chrysalides as beautiful butterflies, as well as glazing the clay snails they had carefully crafted.

The week concluded with a fantastic Minibeast Dress-Up Day, where the children proudly showcased their wonderful costumes. We were delighted to welcome children and staff from our local nurseries to join us for a special storytelling session and celebration of learning. This provided a valuable opportunity for our youngest visitors to experience life at Bickleigh Down, share in the excitement of the topic and enjoy meeting the Foundation Stage children. It was wonderful to see everyone learning, exploring and celebrating together. Throughout the topic, the children demonstrated great curiosity, enthusiasm and creativity, and it was a joy to see them so fully engaged in their learning.







Year Three and Four Quad Kids Event

On Tuesday 3rd June, while the rest of the school were enjoying the final day of their half-term break, a group of dedicated children from Years Three and Four proudly represented Bickleigh Down at an athletics competition held at Brickfields.

The event required each child to compete in four disciplines: a 75m sprint, a 600m run, a vortex throw and a standing long jump. Throughout the morning, the children demonstrated outstanding determination, resilience and sportsmanship, giving their very best effort in every event. Their performances were so impressive that staff from other schools took the time to compliment the team on the quality of their running and athletic ability. The children had dedicated many lunchtimes to training in preparation for the competition, and their hard work, commitment and perseverance were clearly reflected in their performances on the day. Their teamwork and encouragement of one another were equally commendable, making them excellent ambassadors for the school. We are delighted to announce that the team achieved an incredible total of 1,329 points, securing first place and winning the event. This was a fantastic achievement and one that every child involved should be extremely proud of.

A special thank you goes to Miss Willis for supporting and encouraging the children throughout the event, and to all the parents who came along to cheer the team on and help make the morning such a success. Congratulations to everyone involved on a truly outstanding achievement!





Important Dates and Events for Parents and Carers



June 2026

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 (Surnames A-L)

⊙ 1.30 pm

Wednesday 24th: 1st Visit New Foundation Intake Induction Day (Surnames M-Z)

⊙ 1.30 pm

Friday 26th: PFA Mufti Day

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

(Surnames A-L)

July 2026

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

(Surnames M-Z)

Friday 3rd: PFA Mufti Day

Wednesday 8th: Final Visit: New Foundation Intake Induction Day ⊙ 1.30 pm

(Surnames A-Z)

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

Uniform Expectations

Please be reminded that any earrings worn should be plain silver or gold studs for both girls and boys. These need to be removed for PE lessons and any sporting events that they may take part in. Hairbands should also be purely for the purpose of holding hair back - large hairbands and bows are not permitted as they are a distraction from learning. Nail varnish is not part of school uniform and should be removed before the start of a school day.

Important Reminder!

Please refrain from parking or dropping off pupils in the Bumblebees Car Park both mornings and afternoons!



Mixing of Classes for the New Academic Year

In life, we are often thrown into new groups in almost everything we do (work, clubs, societies, families, friends). Coping with changes to our social groupings and learning to adapt ourselves to this change is normal and an important life skill.

Our children learn best in an inclusive and supportive environment. As a result, in preparation for the new academic year, we have decided to mix the current classes in Year Five. All other classes will remain the same as they transition into the next year group in September 2026. The decision to mix the year group is not taken lightly. It requires considerable planning and preparation by class teachers and senior staff. To further support the children, the teacher will ask them to name three children they would like in their class, and we will ensure that they are placed with at least one of them. This will reduce any anxiety or worry and help children to respond positively to the changes they may experience. We hope that, by being open about the process and rationale for mixing classes, parents and pupils will understand our thinking. Even if you ultimately do not agree with our decision, you will appreciate our openness and honesty. Thank you for your usual support.

Expectations for Sports Days 2026

Foundation and Key Stage One

Foundation and Key Stage One Sports Day will be held on Monday 15th June 2026 at 1.30 pm. The children are expected to wear their school uniform into school after which they will change into their PE kit. Parents and carers are invited to come and watch at 1.30 pm on the school field.

Key Stage Two

Key Stage Two Sports Day will be held on Wednesday 17th June 2026 at 1.30 pm for parents and carers to watch. Pupils will be engaged in various sporting activities throughout the day. Children in Key Stage Two should wear their PE kit into school.

Let's Keep Everyone Safe!

For both KSI and KS2 Sports Days, please ensure that the children have applied sun cream. They should also have a hat and a drink (water). All jewellery must be removed, especially earrings. For safeguarding reasons, we are requesting that parents or carers remain behind the respect barriers and refrain from calling the children away from their groups or supervision of the school staff. Parents and carers will not be allowed to offer the children any food or drink during the sporting events.

PFA

The PFA will be selling various food and drink beverages throughout the sports days. Please support them as much as possible so that they can continue to raise much-needed funds for the school. They are always in need of more help so please contact them to volunteer your time. Thanks.

Special Feature - Staff Inflatable Costume Race

To round off both Sports Days, some staff will take part in a fun inflatable costume race. Children will remain with their classes and will continue to be fully supervised throughout. A special thank you to the PFA for sponsoring the costumes and helping make this event possible.

15 MINUTES TODAY, A BETTER TOMORROW!

Just 15 minutes a day can help your child build skills, confidence and a love for learning.



15 MINUTES A DAY CAN MAKE
A **HUGE** DIFFERENCE!



READ

Enjoy stories, discover new worlds and grow your imagination. ♡

PRACTISE YOUR TIMES TABLE

2x3=

Fluency with times tables builds confidence and helps with all areas of maths. ☆

EXPLORE NUMBOTS OR TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

NUMBOTS OR TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

Fun and engaging ways to boost maths skills and beat your best! ☆

PRACTISE YOUR SPELLINGS

abc ✓

Good spelling builds confidence and helps you communicate clearly. ♡

COMPLETE YOUR HOMEWORK

Finishing homework helps learning stick and shows responsibility. ☆

♡ Small steps every day lead to big achievements!

⇒ Thank you for supporting your child every day! ♡ ⇒

Upcoming High 5 After School Events - Please Book!

SCAN HERE TO BOOK!!

COUNTDOWN TO THE 2025 WORLD CUP

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB SPECIAL EVENT -

WEDNESDAY 10TH JUNE

All included within our standard and extended day bookings, at no additional cost. To get in on the action, all you need to do is book your child for the day the event is rolling into your school.

SCAN HERE TO BOOK!!

WET & WILD SESSION

THURSDAY 18TH JUNE

3:20-5PM

COST £11 PER CHILD

FOR COLLECTION UNTIL 6PM IS £4 EXTRA

LIMITED NUMBERS - BOOK NOW!!