

'Spurring each other on with love'

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Foundation First Lunch at Bickleigh Down

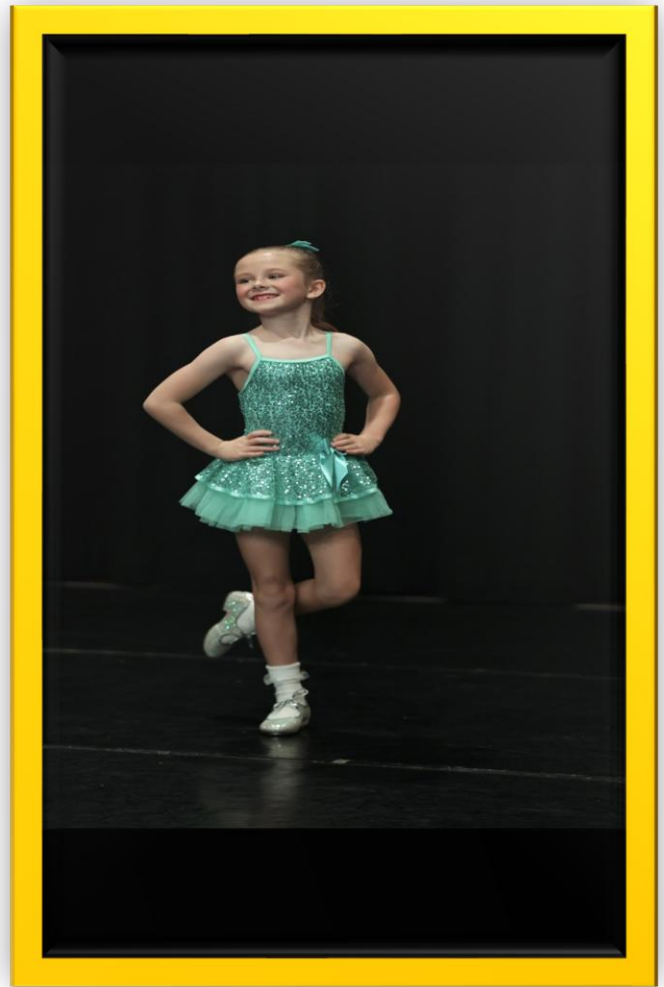


During their second week at school, our Foundation children enjoyed their very first school dinner together. There was lots of excitement as they sat with their new friends, socialised, and began to develop their independence by practising using their knives and forks to cut their food. We were incredibly proud of the children for showing such resilience, confidence and independence as they experienced a new routine. They all did so well and should be very proud of themselves!

A huge well done to all of our Foundation children and a special thank you to our wonderful Foundation staff for their patience, encouragement and care in helping the children to learn their routines and settle so confidently into school life.

What a fantastic start!

Aspiration: Celebrating Isla's Dancing Success



A huge well done to Isla, who enjoyed a fantastic summer of dancing at the Plymouth City Dance Festival!

Isla achieved 1st place in her ballet solo and 2nd place in her tap solo, as well as taking part in group performances with friends from Bickleigh Down. Her jazz group achieved 1st place in the Under 10s section, and her ballet group also secured 1st place.

What a wonderful achievement, Isla! We are incredibly proud of your dedication, talent and confidence. We are also incredibly proud of the other children who participated and did extremely well. Keep dancing and shining! 😊

School Harvest Friday 2nd October 2026

This year, Bickleigh Down CofE Primary School will be reflecting on and celebrating Harvest during the week of the 28th September. Churches around the UK will also be celebrating Harvest during this week so we will be finding out about the lived experience of Christian communities during this time. On Friday 2nd October, we will be having a special Harvest Collective Worship with our school vicar, Rev Jo Northey. During this worship, the children will be hearing from our local homeless shelter, Shekinah Mission. The children will be invited to bring in a Harvest gift to share with Shekinah and take it to the front during this time together. Shekinah Mission has advised that they require the following items to support the local community:

- Pasta tinned tuna baked beans crisps chocolate biscuits
- Pot Noodles cakes instant mashed potato tinned tomatoes rice
- Cereal pasta sauces tinned fruit tinned vegetables potatoes
- Tea bags coffee body wash toothbrushes deodorant

If your family would like to support this charity, we would be grateful if your child could bring in their food item on 2nd of October. Their class teacher will then organise how this will be shared during Collective Worship. Please do not send in food gifts before this day as the school has no space to store them before our Harvest celebration. Thank you for your usual support and contributions each year. 😊





Important Dates and Events for Parents and Carers



September 2026

Monday 28th – Friday 2nd October: Year Six Residential at Barton Hall

Tuesday 29th – Plymouth Library Service presentation of Summer Reading Challenge Certificates for Key Stage One.

Tuesday 29th – Flu Vaccination for Foundation to Year Five pupils

Wednesday 30th – Plymouth Library Service presentation of Summer Reading Challenge Certificates for Key Stage Two.

Wednesday 30th – Foundation Phonics Workshop for Parent and Carers @ 3.00 pm in St Barnabas Hall. The school will provide childcare throughout the duration of the workshop. Please try and make every effort to attend. Thanks.

October 2026

Friday 2nd : School Harvest – please bring food donations in. 😊

Monday 5th – Thursday 8th: After School Fun Clubs begin

Thursday 8th – Friday 9th: 4G Adventure Race Visit

Wednesday 14th : Flu Vaccination for Year Six

Thursday 15th – Friday 16th : 4W Adventure Race Visit

Friday 16th : Plymouth Mental Health Support Team – Worry Management Talk for Parents/Carers in St Barnabas Hall @ 14.30 – 15.15

Tuesday 20th : Year Six Junior Life Skills Visit at Ivybridge Leisure Centre

Tuesday 20th – Thursday 22nd : Parents' Target Setting Meetings in school

Thursday 22nd : Tempest Family & Individual Photos in school

Friday 23rd – Greek Food Day (celebrating diversity in food) menu will be shared.

26th – 30th: Half Term Break

November 2026

Friday 6th : School Tour for New/Prospective Parents @ 9.30 am

Monday 9th : School Tour for New/Prospective Parents @ 9.30 am

Thursday 12th : PFA Foundation, Key Stage One and Two Autumn Disco

Thursday 26th : New Reception Headteacher Meeting for New/Prospective Parents at 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm

Friday 27th : PFA Mufti Day (contributions to be confirmed)

Friday 27th : School Tour for New/Prospective Parents @ 9.30 am and 2.30 pm
Please contact the school office via email to book your space on the above tours and meeting.

December 2026

Friday 4th : PFA Mufti Day (contributions to be confirmed)

Friday 4th : School Tour for New/Prospective Parents @ 9.30 am and 2.30 pm
(contact us)

Monday 7th : Foundation & Key Stage One Nativity Performance @ 5 pm

Tuesday 8th : Foundation & Key Stage One Nativity Performance @ 2 pm

Friday 11th : PFA Mufti Day and Christmas Raffles

Friday 11th : School Tour for New/Prospective Parents @ 9.30 am and 2.30 pm
(contact us)

Wednesday 16th : Christmas Jumper & Dinner Day (Collection of food for charity)

Thursday 17th : Key Stage Two Carol Service @ 2.00 and 5.00 pm

Friday 18th : Term Ends Early dismissal at 1.15 pm 😊

Important Reminder: Bumblebees Car Park and Dogs on Site

A few important reminders to help keep our shared site, Bumblebees Nursery, safe and accessible:

- **Nursery car park:** This is for nursery use only. Please do not park or wait there when dropping off or collecting your child.
- **Keep the entrance clear:** Please do not park or stop on the entrance or bend, as this can prevent vehicles from leaving safely.
- **High 5:** Families using High 5 should follow the parking arrangements communicated by High 5 and not use the nursery car park.
- **Dogs:** The nursery now has a **blanket ban on dogs on its premises**. Please do not bring dogs into the nursery car park or grounds, including while waiting to collect children.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us to keep both sites safe for everyone, especially the young babies and children. Thank you. 😊



ClassDojo

ClassDojo Update



ClassDojo

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers who have signed up to ClassDojo and for the positive engagement we have seen so far. It has been lovely to see families using the app as a direct and convenient way to communicate with their child's teacher. As with any new system, we experienced a few teething issues at the beginning, but we are all finding our feet and becoming increasingly familiar with the smooth running of the app. We appreciate your patience and support while we have been getting accustomed to it.

Merit Points

Each time your child receives a merit, you will receive a notification straight away and will be able to see all of the merit points awarded during that week. Please note, however, that ClassDojo does not allow you to see the total number of merit points your child has accumulated over time. Please be reassured that teachers can see the overall total and maintain a running record of merit points awarded. Once a child reaches 40 merit points, these are redeemed and a certificate is awarded.

In Foundation and Key Stage One, teachers will message parents and carers to let you know when your child is receiving a Bronze, Silver or Gold Certificate. A Headteacher's Award will be communicated separately through a letter from the Headteacher. In Key Stage Two, unless your child has significant additional needs, we encourage children to let their parents and carers know themselves when they are receiving a Bronze, Silver or Gold Certificate. This is an important opportunity for children to develop their independence, take responsibility for their achievements and prepare for the next stage of their learning journey.

Photographs and Privacy

Please also be reassured that we treat ClassDojo as a social media platform for the purposes of our photography permissions. Therefore, if you have asked us not to share photographs of your child on social media, we will not post photographs of your child on ClassDojo. Thank you once again for your continued support and for embracing ClassDojo. We hope it will continue to provide a positive, effective and straightforward way for home and school to communicate.

PFA Annual General Meeting - 2026-2027

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our PFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday 14th September, whether joining us face-to-face at The Lopes Arms or online. We really appreciated your time, enthusiasm and participation, and it was wonderful to see such positive engagement as we begin another exciting year for our PFA.

We are delighted to announce our 2026-2027 PFA Committee:

- **Chair:** Hannah Walsh
- **Co-Chair:** Gemma Reed
- **Vice Chair:** Kerry Davies
- **Treasurer:** Gemma Waite
- **Secretary:** Felicity Nicholson
- **Co-Secretary:** Sally Prout

We would like to congratulate all of our committee members and thank them for volunteering their time and commitment to supporting our school community. Please do take a look at the **Newsletter Diary Dates** for all of the exciting PFA activities and events planned throughout the school year. There are lots of opportunities for our children and families to get involved and have fun together. We would also like to encourage every parent and carer to consider pledging a little of their time to volunteer at least once each term or during the school year. Whether you can spare an hour at an event, help with preparations or support behind the scenes, every contribution makes a difference. The success of our PFA depends on the wonderful support of our school community, and together we can continue to provide memorable experiences and valuable opportunities for our children.

We wish our new committee and the whole PFA a successful, productive and enjoyable year ahead. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Applications for Reception and Secondary Places 2027



School Admissions 2027

Important Dates for Parents and Carers

A great start to the next chapter...
—❤



Is your child starting primary or secondary school in September 2027?

If your child is due to start Reception or Year 7 in September 2027, it is important that you apply for a school place by the relevant deadline. You should apply through the local authority where you pay your council tax.



Devon
County Council



Primary School Applications (Reception)



Applications open: **15 November 2026**
Closing date: **15 January 2027**



Secondary School Applications (Year 7)



Applications opened: **1 September 2026**
Closing date: **31 October 2026**



Apply online:
www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place



Email: admissions@devon.gov.uk



Education Helpline: 0345 155 1019



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL



Primary School Applications (Reception)



Applications open: **16 November 2026**
Closing date: **15 January 2027**



Secondary School Applications (Year 7)



Applications opened: **3 September 2026**
Closing date: **31 October 2026**



Apply online:
www.plymouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions



Online application form can be found at:
www.plymouth.gov.uk/contact-school-admissions



School Admissions: 01752 307469
(11am – 3pm)



National Offer Days

You will be notified of your child's allocated school place on the following dates:

Secondary school
1 March 2027

Primary school
16 April 2027

!!!
Please make a note of the application deadlines, as late applications may affect the school places available to you.

Together we can help your child get the best start ❤





Bickleigh Down

CE Primary School

Spurring each other on with love

HEBREWS 10:24

Keeping Our Children Safe

Please do not contact children through the fence



For safeguarding reasons, we kindly ask that adults do **not approach, communicate with, or pass items to children through the school fence** during school hours, particularly during playtimes and lunchtimes.



Some children are subject to specific safeguarding arrangements and are not permitted contact with certain adults. In addition, staff supervising playtimes are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of all children and are unable to effectively monitor interactions that take place at the fence while overseeing the playground.



We would be grateful for your support in respecting this request and helping us maintain a **safe and secure environment for every child**.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

LOVE

FORGIVENESS

HOPE

SPIRIT

ASPIRATION

Bickleigh Down High 5



Breakfast & After School Club

Meet The Team



Jamie B
Head of After School
High 5



Nikki J
Breakfast & After School Club
manager



James J
Breakfast Club &
After School Events



Ruby C
Breakfast Club



Dan W
Breakfast Club



Olly B
Breakfast Club



Libby W
After School Club



Amelia G
After School Club



Jasmine G
After School Club



Mrs Greenslade
After School Club



Mrs Bond
After School Club