

'Spurring each other on with love'

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Girls' Friendly Football Match

A special well done goes to our girls' football team, who took part in a friendly match against Horrbridge on Thursday 24th September 2026. The girls played brilliantly, showing great determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout. Most importantly, they represented our school with pride and were fantastic ambassadors for our school community. We are very proud of them all!



Summer Reading Challenge Presentations

On Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th September, Katrina Wright from Southway Library joined us to present certificates to the children who completed this year's Summer Reading Challenge during our Key Stage Awards. A huge well done to all of our children who took part and completed the challenge! We are especially proud that, once again, Bickleigh Down had the highest number of participating children of all the schools represented - what a fantastic achievement! Reading is at the heart of learning. Developing strong reading skills supports children across the whole curriculum, while discovering wonderful books and stories helps to nurture curiosity, imagination and a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you to all the parents and families who joined us for our Key Stage Awards and, importantly, to those who encouraged and supported their children to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

Fostering a love of reading remains a high priority at Bickleigh Down, and we encourage all children to enjoy at least 10-15 minutes of reading every day. Every page, every story and every book helps our children to grow as confident, curious and enthusiastic readers.





Foundation Phonics Information Session

On Wednesday 30th September, our Foundation staff hosted a Phonics Information Session for Parents and Carers in St Barnabas Hall. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend - we hope you found the session useful and informative.

If you were unable to attend, the staff have uploaded the PowerPoint presentation to the Foundation class page on the school website and have also shared useful video links on Class Dojo. Phonics teaches children the sounds that letters and groups of letters represent and helps them to blend these sounds together to read words. It provides children with the essential skills they need to become confident, accurate and increasingly independent readers. Strong phonics skills also support children's spelling, writing and their ability to access learning across the curriculum.

The following videos from the Read Write Inc. portal may be particularly useful for supporting your child at home:

What is Read Write Inc. Phonics?

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/J8UZmeKI/afetyfh9>

How to Say the Sounds

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Lg5EhiGa/iOcgudV>

Sound Blending

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/2qNvOgRk/99K7QOfn>



Year Six Residential 2026

Our Year Six children enjoyed a fantastic residential week from Monday 28th September to Friday 2nd October, with many children heading off to PGL Barton Hall for an action-packed adventure, while others enjoyed their own exciting programme of activities back at school.

Those at Barton Hall certainly packed a lot into their week! From abseiling, archery tag, rifle shooting and sensory trails to zip wires, trapeze, survivor challenges and giant swings, there was plenty to challenge and excite everyone. The children also enjoyed an evening of orienteering, searching for flags from around the world, and a memorable evening around the campfire, singing and toasting marshmallows—even the rain couldn't dampen their spirits!

The final evening was a particular highlight, with a silent disco bringing everyone together for plenty of dancing, laughter and fun, accompanied by the wonderfully entertaining PGL 'groupies', who even dressed as bananas!

Back at school, our Year Six children who did not attend the residential also had a brilliant week. They took part in a range of team-building activities, challenges and shared experiences, developing their confidence, cooperation and resilience while having lots of fun together.

Across both experiences, the children demonstrated our school values beautifully. They supported one another, encouraged their friends, persevered when things were challenging and embraced new experiences. It was wonderful to see them grow in confidence and independence throughout the week.

And then came Friday! After a whole week without seeing their families, there were plenty of very excited faces as the children returned to school and were finally reunited with their parents and carers. There were huge smiles, lots of stories to share and, no doubt, some very tired children!

A huge well done to all of our Year Six children for making the week so special, and a very big thank you to all the staff who supported them throughout the residential and those who created such a wonderful week of activities in school. What a fantastic way to build memories, friendships and confidence as our Year Six journey continues!















School Harvest 2026

Our Harvest celebration was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a school community. Rev Jo led our Harvest Worship, followed by a presentation from Kristy, a representative of Shekinah Mission, who shared how their work supports individuals and families across Plymouth and the difference our donations make.

A huge thank you to our wonderful families for your incredible generosity. Shekinah Mission was overwhelmed by the volume of food and essential items donated. Our Spirit Detectives also played a vital role in sorting and preparing the donations for collection.

We are also grateful to Tesco for their generous gift card donation and to Mrs Sowden, Florence's mum, for kindly shopping for additional essential items and bringing them into school.

We are incredibly proud of the compassion and kindness shown by our children and families. Our pupils are certainly being agents of change in our communities, putting our vision of spurring each other on with love into action and making a meaningful difference to those who need it most.







Bickleigh Down

Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Spurring each other on with love

Hebrews 10:24

- ♥ Love
- ♥ Forgiveness
- ♥ Hope
- ♥ Spirit
- ♥ Aspiration

Fantastic News!

Our Kitchen has achieved a

FOOD HYGIENE RATING

0 1 2 3 4 **5**

VERY GOOD

A great result!
♥

Well done!

Teamwork makes the difference!
— ♥ —



A huge thank you to our
**Maintenance, Catering and
School Business Manager**

for all your hard work, dedication
and commitment to keeping our
kitchen safe, clean and running so well.



Safe food ♥ Healthy children ♥ A brighter future



Bickleigh Down
CofE Primary School



Greek Day MENU

Friday 23rd October 2026

Main
Chicken Gyros



Veggie
Halloumi Wrap



Dessert

Mosaiko

(Greek Chocolate Biscuit Dessert)



A taste of Greece! ♥





Important Dates and Events for Parents and Carers



October 2026

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) See flyer on previous page for menu options (£2.90). Let's try different foods from different cultures.

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

Wednesday 2nd : Trutex Pop Up Uniform Shop @ 3pm in St Barnabas Hall

Thursday 3rd : School Choir performs at Plymouth Angle Carol Service

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

Wednesday 9th : School Choir sings at Devonshire House Care Home

Thursday 10th ; School Choir - Tesco Carol Singing for Charity

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)

Monday 14th : Rock Steady Concert for Parents & Carers @ 2.30 pm - St
Barnabas Hall

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 😊



Bickleigh Down
CE Primary School

Spurring
each other on
with love

Tea & Treats Fun & Games

Fridays after school in
the main hall

Starting
Friday 16th October
Immediately after school
(3.20 pm) in St Barnabas Hall
and each Friday there after
during term time.

Join Rev Jo our School Vicar
and the Bickleigh & Shaugh Prior team.

Proceeds to raise money to
redecorate St Cecilia Hall
as we build towards a new
church community there!

Good food ♥ Fun for all ♥ A brighter future together ♥

BBC 500 WORDS 2026

Ages 5–11 · Free to enter

Could your child be the next **500 Words** storyteller?



It's the UK's biggest story-writing competition for children aged 5–11 – and every child is welcome!

BBC Writing Competition

OPENS

8am Tuesday 29 September 2026

CLOSES

9pm Friday 6 November 2026

How it works

- 1** Children write an **original story in up to 500 words**, letting their creativity take the lead.
- 2** An **adult, such as a parent or guardian**, submits the story at bbc.co.uk/500words.
- 3** Our judges look for **original ideas, imagination and storytelling**.

Two age categories

5–7

years old

8–11

years old

Spelling, punctuation and grammar aren't marked!

500 words is a maximum, not a target – shorter stories are welcome too.

In previous years, children have surprised themselves by seeing their stories reach the Top 50 – could your child be next?

What are the prizes?

Their story could be **read by a celebrity on the BBC!** Prizes include National Book Tokens:

£75

Gold winners

£50

Silver winners

£25

Bronze winners

- ✓ Framed illustrations of their story
- ✓ **Gold winners** also receive 500 books for their school library
- ✓ A place in the 500 Words winners' book
- ✓ Full prize details at bbc.co.uk/500words