

*'Spurring each other on with love'*

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## Year Six Residential Week 2025

While some of our Year Six pupils were away on their residential at Barton Hall, those who remained at school enjoyed an exciting "Racing and Teamwork" week filled with challenges, creativity, and fun! They began with first aid training, toasted marshmallows while listening to *George's Marvellous Medicine*, and drew inspiration from an FI for Kids race before designing their own cars. The week featured a range of team-building games and problem-solving challenges such as bridge-building, paper-chain races, orienteering, and "cross the river" hoop challenges. The highlight was the Racing Car Project, where each child built and decorated a battery-powered model car before competing in thrilling races. All the children showed brilliant teamwork, sportsmanship, and creativity throughout a truly memorable week!





The Year Six residential took place at a new venue - Barton Hall in Torquay. Although still run by PGL, the change of setting brought fresh experiences while keeping the familiar structure and fantastic instructors who quickly built great relationships with the children. The week was packed with a wide range of activities, from thrilling high challenges like climbing, abseiling, the zip wire, giant swing and vertical challenge, to ground-based options such as archery, fencing, rifle shooting, problem solving and survivor. A highlight of the new venue was the water-based fun, including raft building (with plenty of splashes!) and an afternoon in the heated swimming pool. Evenings were just as lively with a silent disco and songs around the campfire - complete with toasted marshmallows. The children embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and resilience, making us incredibly proud. Glorious weather topped off an unforgettable week of adventure and teamwork.





## Tour de Moor Triumph!



Two weeks ago, several of our Bickleigh Down pupils took part in the Tour de Moor - a challenging cycling event across Dartmoor in support of St Luke's Hospice. Among them was Alex, who was incredibly proud to be involved and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. He was excited to share his photos and talk about the event with his classmates.

We are extremely proud of all the children who took on this fantastic challenge, showing great determination, teamwork and community spirit - true examples of spurring each other on with love!

## High 5 Wraparound Care & Fun Inflatable Session

High-5 wraparound care operates from St. Cecilia Hall daily. Parents and carers are asked to drop off and collect children from the Key Stage Two gate adjacent to Bumblebees Car Park. They offer breakfast and after school care up to 6.00 pm from Monday to Friday. On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, they will also have a fun inflatable session on the school field which is available for all children. Please see the flyer below for more information on how to book your child's place.



**SCAN HERE TO BOOK!!**

**BICKLEIGH DOWN FUN INFLATABLE SESSION**

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 3:30-5:30PM**

**COST £11 PER CHILD**  
FOR COLLECTION UNTIL 6PM IS £3 EXTRA

**LIMITED NUMBERS - BOOK NOW!!**




**High 5 Breakfast & After School**  
@Bickleigh Down

**Autumn Term Programme**

**Breakfast Club 7:30-8:35am**  
A selection of breakfasts from our Breakfast Station

**EVERY DAY CHILDREN CAN FLOW BETWEEN THESE 3 STATIONS**

Creative Craft Zone	Wake-up Shake-up Active Zone (Including Table Tennis)	Sleepy Heads Chill Zone
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**After School Club 3:30-4:30pm**  
Choice of nutritious tasty snacks and drinks

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>11:00-1:00</b>	Lego Legends	Classic Board Games	Mega Art Project	Magic with Milo	Friday Chill Club
<b>1:00-3:00</b>	Dynamic Dodgeball	Brilliant Ball Sports	Wild Tribe	Mega Multi Sports	First Touch Football

**Extended Day Club - All Ages 4:30-6:00pm**

**EVERY DAY CHILDREN CAN FLOW BETWEEN THESE 3 STATIONS**

Creative Craft Zone	Indoor Games Zone	Slow Motion Zen Zone
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## A Year One, Three and Five Place is Available at Bickleigh Down CE

We would like to inform parents and carers that places have become available in Year One, Three and Year Five. If you know of any families who may be interested in their child joining Bickleigh Down Church of England Primary School, please direct them to apply through the Devon County Council Admissions Team at the earliest opportunity in order to secure the place.

## Playground Expectations

As we continue to develop positive play, we also want to remind everyone that 'rough play' will not be tolerated in our playground. This includes, but is not limited to, kicking, pushing, grabbing of body parts, jumping on top of each other, and excessive pulling of clothing. Such behaviours can quickly lead to accidents and upset, and we are committed to ensuring that playtime remains safe and enjoyable for all children. Our staff are vigilant in monitoring playtimes, but we also ask for your support in reinforcing these expectations at home. Please remind your child about the importance of playing kindly, showing respect to others, and using positive and encouraging language in their interactions.

Together, let us spur one another on with love and help create a playground environment where every child feels safe, respected and happy.

## Use of the S2 Absence Request Form

We are reminding all parents and carers that all absence requests must be completed on the required Absence Request Form, which can be accessed from our school website or at the school office.

An Absence Request Form must be completed for all time away from school such as:

- Transition and open days at secondary schools. *This will be marked as an authorised absence and will affect children's attendance as advised by Devon County Council and the new DfE Attendance Guidance.*
- Holidays (which will be unauthorised). The school should be notified at least three weeks in advance.
- Weddings, funerals, or any activity that requires the child to be away during school hours.

## Catch the Gate...Don't be Late!

Please ensure that your child arrives to school on time before the register closes. The gates are opened by 8.30 am and are closed promptly at 8.45 am each morning. Regular lateness will result in your child missing out on valuable learning time in the mornings. Over time, this will affect your child's progress in school.

Catch the gate...don't be late!



## Bickleigh's Harvest Celebration



Next week, in Collective Worship, the children will be learning about the Christian celebration of Harvest. Together, we will explore the origins of this special festival, how it helps Christians to show love and gratitude, and the many ways it is celebrated around the world.

On Monday 20th October, we will be holding our whole-school Harvest Celebration. As part of this, we invite children to bring in long-life food items such as pasta, rice, tinned goods, and other dried foods.

All donations will be shared with our local foodbanks and homeless shelters, helping to support those in need within our community.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and for helping our children to live out our school vision of *spurring each other on with love*.



## A Big Thank You to 'The Woolwell Path Man'

We were recently contacted by Scott Boyland, known locally as "The Woolwell Path Man," who kindly offered to trim the trees overhanging the path along our school perimeter—completely free of charge.

Although our recent tree inspection confirmed that the branches were not at an unsafe level, we were delighted to accept Scott's generous offer to make it even easier and safer for pedestrians using the pavements around the school.

Scott did a *fantastic job*, and we are extremely grateful for his time and community spirit in helping to keep the area around Bickleigh Down looking safe, tidy, and well cared for. 😊



## Important Dates and Events for Parents and Carers



October 2025      Black History Month & National Bullying Prevention Month

Monday 13<sup>th</sup>: Year Six Junior Life Skills Visit - Ivybridge Leisure Centre

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>: Year Four Adventure Race (4BH)

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - High 5 Inflatables on the Field at 3.30 pm

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday 17<sup>th</sup>: Year Four Adventure Race (4W)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup>: Show Racism the Red Card (Non uniform day - wear red) & Black History Month celebration.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - Harvest Festival Food Donation to Charity

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>: Parents' Evening Target Setting Meetings

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>: NHS Flu Vaccination for Foundation to Year Six pupils.

27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>: Half Term Break      3.20 pm dismissal

November 2025      School Council Month

Friday 7<sup>th</sup>: Scouts, Girl Guides, Cadets and St. Johns etc can wear their uniforms in recognition of Remembrance Sunday and Day.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>: Remembrance Day

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>: PFA Autumn Disco for Foundation, KS1 and KS2

17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>: Road Safety, Antibullying Week and Inter-Faith Week

Friday 21<sup>st</sup>: PFA Mufti Day - contributions to be confirmed

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>: Reception Headteacher's Meeting with New/Prospective Parents

Friday 28<sup>th</sup>: PFA Mufti Day - contributions to be confirmed

December 2025      Gee Wee It's Christmas

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>: PFA Movie Night

Friday 5<sup>th</sup>: PFA Mufti Day - contributions to be confirmed

Monday 8<sup>th</sup>: Non-Pupil Day

Friday 12<sup>th</sup>: PFA Christmas Raffle

15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>: Pupils are allowed to bring in and exchange Christmas cards

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>: KS2 Rock Steady Band Concert @ 2.30 pm in St Barnabas Hall

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>: Foundation & Key Stage One Nativity @ 6 pm

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>: Foundation & Key Stage One Nativity @ 2 pm

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day (Food Bank Collection)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>: Key Stage Two Carol Service (2:00 and 6:00 pm)

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>: Dismissal at 1.15 pm

## Supporting Our Families – Normal Magic Wellbeing Service

At Bickleigh Down, we recognise the importance of supporting the emotional wellbeing of all our children and families. We are pleased to remind you that the Normal Magic Personal Wellbeing Service is available to any parent or carer who would like support, advice or simply a listening ear. Normal Magic offers personal wellbeing conversations covering a wide range of topics, including:

- Children's emotional wellbeing
- ADHD and ASD
- Bereavement and loss
- Behaviour challenges
- School refusal
- Anxiety and low mood
- Family changes and separation
- Transition to secondary school
- And any other personal concerns

Families can access the service directly using the poster and QR code below. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you feel you would benefit from a conversation or would like some guidance.

As today is observed as World Mental Health Day, we are reminded that looking after our mental health is just as important as caring for our physical health. This year's theme encourages us all to reach out, talk, and support one another, reminding our children that it is okay to ask for help and to share how they feel. Together, we can continue to spur each other on with love, ensuring that every member of our school community feels supported, valued and heard.

## Normal Magic Personal Wellbeing Service

Normal Magic offer free personal wellbeing conversations to the parents or carers of children in this school.



Normal Magic are here to discuss **any** concerns you may have for your child's emotional wellbeing.

*We are thrilled Normal Magic are in our school and working with us!*



Simply scan this QR code and complete the request for contact form. We will contact you within 2 working days to arrange an appointment.



### Keeping Your Contact Information Up to Date

Please can we remind all parents and carers to ensure that the school office is informed of any changes to your personal details. This includes:

- Home address
- Emergency contact numbers
- Family contact information
- Medical information (including any new diagnoses, allergies, or medications)

It is essential that we hold accurate and up-to-date information for every child. This allows us to contact you quickly in the event of an emergency, ensures that we comply with GDPR regulations, and helps us to safeguard all children effectively. If any of your details have changed, please contact the school office as soon as possible. Thank you for helping us to keep our records accurate and our children safe.



## Parent and Friends Association (PFA) Update

Following a successful AGM on 2nd October, we are pleased to share some exciting updates about our PFA team. First and foremost, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Michelle Sandell and Vicky Christian for their dedication and commitment over the past years. Their time and effort have made a real difference to our school community, and we are incredibly grateful for all they have done. We are delighted to confirm that Hannah Walsh will continue in her role as Chairperson, with Gemma Reed remaining as Secretary. We also warmly welcome our newly appointed members: Kerry Davies (Vice Chairperson), Gemma Waite (Treasurer), and Sally Prout (Vice Secretary). A huge thank you to everyone who attended the AGM and to all those who continue to support the PFA in raising valuable funds for our school. The PFA is always looking for parent volunteers to help with upcoming events. If you are interested in getting involved, please speak to a member of the PFA or contact the school office. This will allow us to arrange a DBS check in plenty of time before events take place.

Your involvement, no matter how big or small, makes a real difference to our school community – thank you for your continued support!

## Safeguarding Update – Spy Dog, Spy Pups and Spy Cat Series

It has come to our attention that several titles from the Spy Dog, Spy Pups and Spy Cat series by Andrew Cope contain a printed link to a website that has recently been compromised.

We would like to reassure parents and carers that these books are not held in our school library, as all our library stock is sourced directly from the Devon County Council Library Service, which maintains strict safeguarding and content checks. However, we will continue to remain vigilant in case any of these titles are brought into school through donated or second-hand books from the community. If any such copies are found, they will be removed immediately to ensure the continued safety of our pupils.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support in helping us maintain a safe and secure learning environment for all.