

'Spurring each other on with love'

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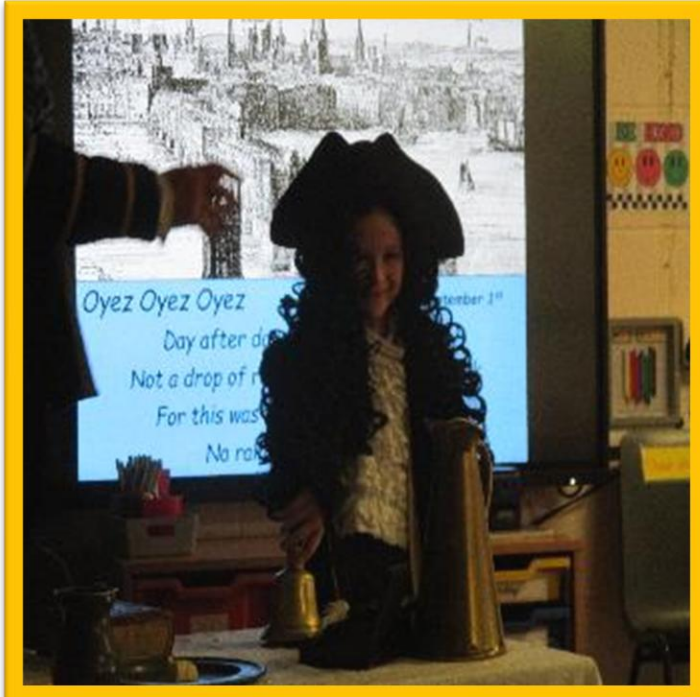
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Year Two Great Fire of London Workshop

On Thursday 9th October, our Year Two pupils were transported back to 1666 as they took part in an exciting *Blast from the Past* History workshop, bringing The Great Fire of London to life! The children were captivated by the lively storytelling and particularly enjoyed meeting the character of Samuel Pepys, who acted as a town crier, "broadcasting" the events of the fire as they unfolded. Through engaging role-play and interactive activities, the children learnt about this significant event in a fun and memorable way; an experience that truly sparked their curiosity about history!







High 5 Wraparound Care & Fun Inflatables 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 15th October, they had an exciting inflatable session on the school field and the children who participated had great fun.



Bickleigh's Harvest Celebration

This week, the children celebrated the good things that we have at our Harvest Service. During the service, we found out about the history of this festival and how Christians celebrate it today. The children all brought their harvest gifts to the service and donated them to our school collection whilst singing a range of harvest celebration songs. The Spirit Detectives and Worship Leaders did a wonderful job of collecting and organising the gifts so that they were ready for collection. Later in the afternoon, Kirsty from Shekinah Mission came to school to collect the donations. The Spirit Detectives and Worship Leaders enjoyed stacking up her car with tins, dried pasta and other food. We hope that these gifts will support Shekinah Mission with their wonderful work, caring for and feeding homeless people in our city. We would like to extend a huge thank you to parents and carers for the generous donations that the children have shared. It was truly wonderful seeing our school's Christian vision in action, the children are keen to continue to support Shekinah Mission and spur them on with love.



Bickleigh's Harvest Collection Continued...



Attendance Letters

As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting excellent attendance, we will be sending out attendance letters, after half term, to parents and carers of children whose attendance is currently 90% or below. This level of attendance is categorised nationally as *persistent absence*.

We are aware that some children have been reported as unwell but have later told us they were away on holiday. Please remember that family holidays during term time cannot be authorised, and unauthorised absences have a significant impact on your child's overall attendance.

The Headteacher will also be inviting some parents and carers to *attendance meetings*. These are *supportive discussions* designed to help improve attendance before any escalation to the Local Authority becomes necessary.

If you receive a letter and your child's absence has been due to genuine illness, please do not worry; the letter is a *statutory notification* to inform you that your child's attendance has fallen below the national standard.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and on time, giving them the best possible opportunity to succeed.



Important Dates and Events for Parents and Carers



October 2025 Black History Month & National Bullying Prevention Month

27th - 31st: Half Term Break 3.20 pm dismissal

November 2025 School Council Month

Tuesday 11th: Remembrance Day Scouts, Girl Guides, Cadets and St. Johns etc
can wear their uniforms in recognition of Remembrance Day.

Thursday 13th: PFA Autumn Disco for Foundation, KSI and KS2

Friday 14th: Pinning Ceremony for School Leaders: School Council, Mental Health
Ambassadors, Worship Leaders, Spirit Detectives, Head Boy/Girl, Deputy Head
Boy/Girl, Play Leaders, Library Monitors.

17th - 21st: Road Safety, Antibullying Week and Inter-Faith Week

Friday 21st: PFA Mufti Day - contributions to be confirmed

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

Friday 28th: PFA Mufti Day - contributions to be confirmed

December 2025 Gee Wee It's Christmas

Wednesday 3rd: PFA Movie Night

Friday 5th: PFA Mufti Day - contributions to be confirmed

Monday 8th: Non-Pupil Day

Friday 12th: PFA Christmas Raffle

15th - 19th: Pupils are allowed to bring in and exchange Christmas cards

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

Monday 15th: Foundation & Key Stage One Nativity @ 6 pm

Tuesday 16th: Foundation & Key Stage One Nativity @ 2 pm

Wednesday 17th: Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day (Food Bank Collection)

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

Friday 19th: Dismissal at 1.15 pm

Year Four Spirit of Adventure Race

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last week, 4BH and 4W intrepidly set off on their overnight adventure race. A short walk from the beautiful Shaugh Bridge led them to their overnight accommodation, meeting the leaders and top dog Bramble. After setting up their rooms and a quick lunch, they split into groups for river scrambling and tree climbing. The river scramble involved scrambling up the Meavy, over rocks, through eddies and even a slide into the water at the end! The tree climb session involved the group working as a team to belay for the climber and help lower them down. After all the adventures, dinner of pasta bake was very welcome as was the night walk around the area, followed by hot chocolate and bed. The next day brought the adventure race where the groups worked together to perform a number of tasks including: mud crawls, abseiling and river scramble, the "Tunnel of Tears!" and a reverse zip line. Afterwards, the teams raised their flags and ate tasty pizza before returning tired and happy to school after their overnight adventure. Thanks to all the staff who went along as well as stayed overnight to support the children.





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
- 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. 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.



Staffing Update

We are sad to announce that Mrs Worth, one of our valued one-to-one Teaching Assistants in Year Five, will be leaving us at the end of this half term to begin an exciting new role in another job.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank her for all her hard work, care, and dedicated contribution to our school community. She has been a wonderful support to both the children and staff and she will be greatly missed by us all. We wish her every success and happiness in her new role and future endeavours.

Foundation Unit - Toy Donations Needed

Our Blue Bears and Red Bears teams are looking to refresh some of the much-loved toys and resources in our Foundation Unit. Over time, many of these items have become worn or depleted, and we would be very grateful for any donations from families who may have outgrown them at home.

We are particularly looking for:

- **Small world toys** - such as Peppa Pig, Barbie, Paw Patrol, Fireman Sam, dolls' house items and people, etc.
- **Babies and baby accessories** - including clothes, bottles, prams, and similar play items.
- **Construction sets** - such as magnetic tiles, marble runs, gears, and other building resources.

If you have any of these items in good condition that you would be happy to donate, please bring them to the Foundation Unit (Blue Bears or Red Bears).

Your support will make a big difference to our youngest learners and help us keep their play and learning environments exciting and engaging. Thank you for your generosity! 😊

Have a restful half term break everyone! 😊