

'Spurring each other on with love'

School Drive, Woolwell, Plymouth PL6 7JW

Headteacher: Mrs Tameka Hue Hamilton

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Kerri Conday

☎: 01752 301837

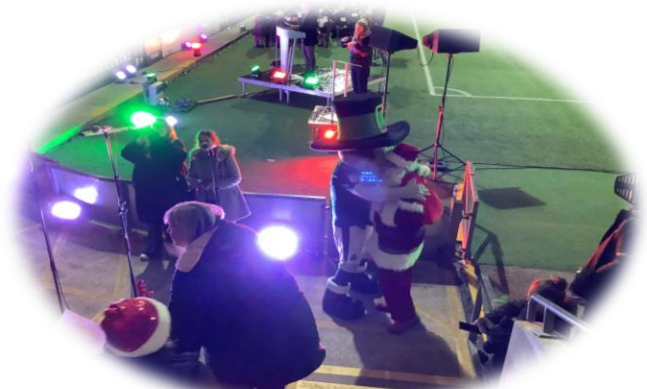
✉: admin@bickleighdown.devon.sch.uk

Spreading Festive Cheer and Hope in Our Community

Our School Choir, led by the ever-enthusiastic Mr Harding, has truly embodied the spirit of the season over the past few weeks. The children proudly represented our school during visits to Tesco Woolwell, Devonshire Care Home, and the Plymouth Argyle Carol Service, sharing a wonderful repertoire of Christmas songs with the wider community. Their joyful singing brought smiles, warmth and festive cheer to everyone who had the pleasure of hearing them, lifting spirits and creating some very special moments along the way. The choir's efforts also had a meaningful impact beyond our local community. Through their performances, they raised £60.07 for the British Red Cross, supporting people in Jamaica affected by Hurricane Melissa.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the staff, parents and carers who supported and encouraged the children at the events. Your presence and encouragement meant so much and helped make these performances such a success.

Well done to our fantastic choir for singing with such kindness, confidence and compassion; you have made us all incredibly proud.









Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day 2025

The children arrived at school proudly wearing their festive Christmas jumpers and enjoyed their Christmas lunches in wonderfully high spirits. The meal was made extra special as it was served by members of the Governing Body, alongside teachers, teaching assistants and mealtime assistants. A huge thank you goes to our fantastic kitchen team for preparing such delicious and generous meals for everyone to enjoy - it was certainly yummy!

In the true spirit of Christmas, the children also brought in food donations for Shekinah Mission, demonstrating great kindness and compassion for those who may be less fortunate at this time of year. Our Spirit Detectives played a key role in organising the donations and ensuring everything was ready for collection by the end of the day. We are incredibly proud of the generosity and thoughtfulness shown by our school community.



Do you like my Christmas jumper?





Governors served the children... Thank you!



Our Kitchen Heroes! Thank you 😊



Food Donations Collected for Shekinah Mission!





Rock Steady Band Autumn Concert

This term, our Rocksteady bands have made fantastic progress as they continue to develop their musical skills and grow in confidence. The children have been learning how to keep a steady beat together, exploring how dynamics, playing both loudly and quietly, can change the mood and feel of a song. They have also risen to the challenge of performing longer musical arrangements as a team. Creativity has been a key focus, with bands moving beyond the traditional verse-chorus structure and experimenting with exciting additions such as pre-choruses to build energy and anticipation. Throughout rehearsals, the children have truly embodied teamwork, supporting one another, celebrating weekly successes and ensuring that every band member has a valued role to play. This reflects our belief that Rocksteady is inclusive and is for everyone.

It has been wonderful to see the children's confidence flourish as they develop strong performance skills and play with passion and purpose. On Monday 15th December, St Barnabas Hall came alive as each Rocksteady band took to the stage, namely: *Chicken Jockies*, *Golden Candy Fire*, *Unstoppable Turtle Gang*, *Powerful Deadly Megaladons* and *Double Trouble*. Parents and carers watched with pride as the children performed their favourite songs with energy and enthusiasm.

If your child is in Key Stage Two and would like to be part of the Rocksteady experience, band lessons with Band Leader, Ash, begin again in January 2026. Sign up online at www.rocksteadymusicschool.com 🎵 🎸



Foundation, Key Stage One Nativity and Key Stage Two Carol Concert

Thanks to all our Bickleigh Down families for supporting our recent Foundation, Key Stage One Nativity and Key Stage Two Carol Service. The children performed with confidence and exuberance. As agents of change, they raised £515.00 to support the British Red Cross.

This charity was chosen by the children as, this Christmas season, they wanted to bring hope to the people of Jamaica who were massively affected by Hurricane Melissa.







PFA Christmas Raffle

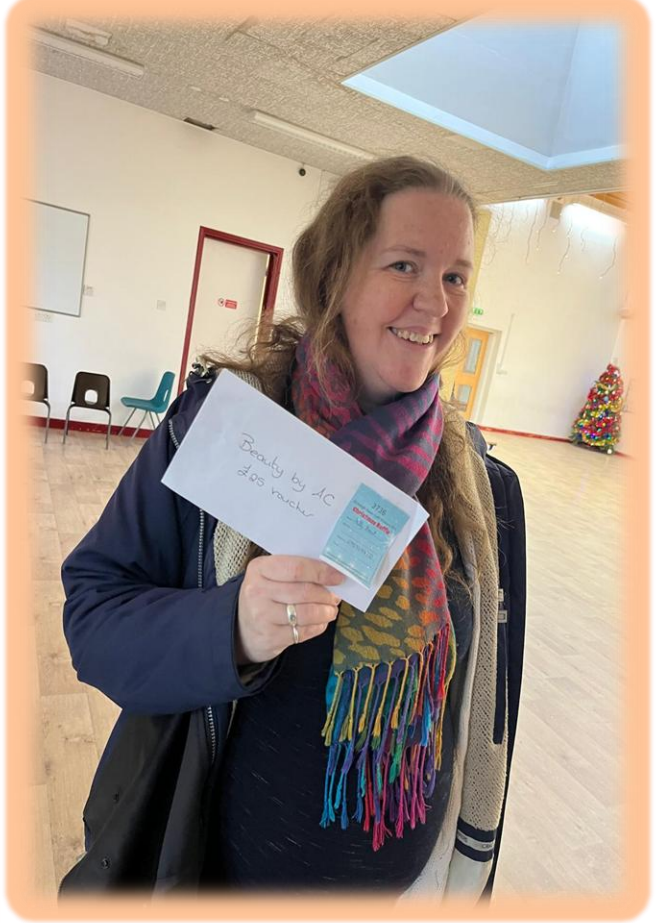
On Thursday 11th December 2025, our wonderful PFA hosted a hugely successful Christmas Raffle in St Barnabas Hall. This fantastic event was the result of many days and hours of careful planning and organisation by our dedicated parent volunteers. It was a joy to see the school community come together in such a festive spirit.

Parents and carers had the chance to win an incredible range of prizes, including a Nintendo Switch 2, Mario Kart World Console Bundle, EVO Scooters, a Samsung Tab A11, a Ninja Foodi Air Fryer, as well as wine, chocolates, hampers and a variety of vouchers. Congratulations to everyone who was lucky enough to take home a prize!

A heartfelt thank you also goes to all parents and carers for supporting the three Mufti Days leading up to the raffle. Your generosity truly makes a difference. Thanks to your support, the PFA raised an impressive £2,120.08 this autumn term. Of this, £1,291.72 was spent on wet play games featured in the previous newsletter and Christmas crackers, ensuring our children continue to benefit directly from PFA fundraising.

Finally, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the PFA committee and volunteers for their selfless commitment, time and energy. Your efforts ensure events are well managed, enjoyable and successful. Our school community would not be the same without you; thank you for everything you do. Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year! 😊







Important Dates and Events for Parents and Carers



December 2025 Gee Wee It's Christmas

Friday 19th: Dismissal at 1.15 pm

January 2026

Wednesday 7th: All pupils return to school

Monday 19th: Fire Rescue Service in - Collective Worship, Year 2 and Year 5

Tuesday 20th: High 5 Nerf After School Activity (contact High 5 for details)

Wednesday 21st: PFA Movie Night

February 2026

Wednesday 4th: PFA Spring Disco: Foundation, KSI & KS2

Thursday 12th: High 5 Inflatables After School Activity (contact High 5 for details)

16th - 20th: Half Term Break

March 2026

Thursday 5th: World Book Day Celebration - (Non-Uniform/Mufti)

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th: Foundation Balanceability Training Sessions

Monday 9th - Friday 13th: Year Five Bikeability Training Sessions

Thursday 12th - Friday 13th: PFA Mother's Day Present Room

Tuesday 24th - Thursday 26th: Parents' Evenings

Wednesday 25th: Class Photos

April 2026

Wednesday 1st April: Spring Music Festival for Foundation, KSI & KS2

Thursday 2nd: Last Day of Term Early Dismissal @ 1.15 pm

3rd - 17th: Easter Break

Monday 20th: All pupils return to school

Friday 24th: Military Family Breakfast @ 8.10 am (All pupils wear purple accessories (purple hair accessories, socks etc) in celebration of Month of the Military Child)

May 2026

Monday 4th: Bank Holiday

Monday 11th - Thursday 14th: Year Six SATs Assessment Week

Wednesday 20th: PFA Summer Disco for Foundation, KSI & KS2

Thursday 21st: New 2026 Foundation Intake Meeting @ 5pm

25th - 29th: Half Term Break

June 2026

Wednesday 3rd: All pupils return to school

Wednesday 3rd - Friday 12th: Year Four Multiplication Tables Check

8th - 12th: National Phonics Screening Check

Monday 15th: Foundation & Key Stage One Sports Day

Wednesday 11th: 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 @ 1.30 pm

Wednesday 24th: 1st Visit New Foundation Intake Induction Day @ 1.30 pm

Friday 26th: PFA Mufti Day

Tuesday 30th: New Foundation Intake Induction Day @ 1.30 pm

July 2026

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

Friday 3rd: PFA Mufti Day

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

