

It was lovely to see so many members of the school and wider community at our Harvest Festival last week. The children spoke with great confidence and sang beautifully.

Harvest is one of my favourite celebrations in the school calendar because I think the message is so important. The power of giving thanks. This alone can empower people, build positive emotions, shape strong relationships, and therefore gain positive experiences throughout life. If we can be thankful of our school community, sow the seeds of friendships and nourish the bonds we have, it will no doubt see all the children become ambitious, respectful and flourish - which is our school ethos.

All the staff would like to thank you for your support over the last half term and we hope that you have an enjoyable and relaxing break with your children.

Mrs Lammas



The Food Bank have sent a message "A BIG THANKS FOR THE DONATION it was really appreciated by everyone. Everyone enjoyed the variety of fresh products too."

Mrs Lammas

Dear families,

It is with regret that I write to inform you that Mrs Lammas has decided to step down as Lead Teacher. She will remain as full-time class teacher in the Tawny Owls as well as early reading and phonics lead.

After agreeing to trial the role from September, Mrs Lammas has found it to be an unsustainable burden on her family time, which we must respect.

After half term, I will base myself at Bridestowe on more days and provide leadership until a longer term Lead Teacher can be appointed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Lammas for her commitment to the role and the excellent work she has started this term.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Mr Hill

Stars of the Week



Last week:

Travis - flourished in all areas of the learning - lots of teachers have recognised this.

Joseph - flourished in your harvest performance at the church.

Evie J - flourished in maths showing great understanding of addition and subtraction.

This week:

Millie - flourished in phonics. Applying phonics knowledge in writing.

Bella - flourished in her learning especially of place value.

James - shown ambition in his writing.

Arthur - been a great role model to younger children at breaktimes.

Oak Team (Blue) had the most team points this half term and were rewarded with a non-uniform day today.

Open The Book

Our friends from Open the Book told us a Christian story from the bible - the moral of the story was to be grateful for our family and friends. We were very proud of William who volunteered to take the role of Jesus in the story.



Attendance



On Wednesday Mr Hill had the pleasure of sharing lunch with Elsie B, Elsie Y, Winston and Jacob G as part of our attendance reward. Lunch was very enjoyable at their special table and they chatted about half term plans and upcoming activities.

Whole School Attendance
97.6%

Attendance update

This year, we really want to work with our students and families to ensure that every child attends school as much as possible. Children with attendance over 97% will benefit emotionally, socially as well as academically.

We are committed to developing positive, open, and effective communication between home and school and providing support, advice and guidance for parents/carers and pupils when needed.

In order to do this, we will regularly be communicating with families about their child's attendance in several ways, including;

- Regular attendance focus on newsletters to share important information and updates.
- Every parent/carer will be informed about their child's attendance by email twice each half term - we would really appreciate your support in talking to your child about their attendance and celebrating with them when they have consistently been in school every day, or when they have tried really hard to improve their attendance.
- Your child's Class teacher will contact you to ensure everything is OK and offer support following any unauthorised absence, after 3 days of consecutive absence or after 3 incidents of absence within a 4-week period.
- In line with our policy, parents/carers will receive letters regarding their child's attendance should it fall beneath 95%. Where attendance is below 90% and either the family or school has identified any areas that need additional support, an attendance meeting will be arranged and in partnership, personalised and achievable targets for pupils will be developed, based on their individual needs and circumstances.
- Parents/Carers will be informed twice a year about the process for requesting absence during term time and the processes involved should an absence not be considered an exceptional circumstance.

The school level appendix of the Trust attendance policy contains details of relevant staff members who you can contact to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us so as we can support where possible.

Reminders

Now that the weather has turned colder and wetter, please ensure that your child has a warm waterproof in school every day. A spare pair of sock is also useful especially on PE days



Year 6 Secondary Applications.

Any families that still need to apply for a place at a secondary school, need to do so before the 31st October.

The easiest way to apply is online by visiting

www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline

Lunches

All lunches for the week after half term should be booked by midnight on Thursday next week.

Please can all balances for school lunches be paid via School Gateway. Thank you.

Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for Meal-Time Assistants for further information please visit the trust website.

- [Support Staff Vacancies | Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust \(dartmoormat.org.uk\)](http://Support Staff Vacancies | Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust (dartmoormat.org.uk))

Time to Talk

As part of our school focus on getting children talking and improving their Oracy, we have a topical, weekly question and picture for you to discuss as a family: -



Julia Donaldson, author of the popular children's books 'The Smeds and the Smoos' and 'The Gruffalo', developed her passion for writing at school. The first story she remembers writing was about a rabbit with orange ears that looked like carrots.

If you wrote a 500 word story, where would the story be set, who would be the main characters and what would be the main events in the story?

Our whole school 'Word of the Week' for after half-term is perseverance.

Small School Cross Country

It was a fantastic afternoon at Simmons Park Cross Country with our friends from the Moorland Hub. A brilliant effort from all the children that represented us. We won both the year 3 and 4 and the 5 and 6 cups!! Well done to all that took part and thank you to all the parents for your support!

The results were as follows-

Year 3/4 girls

🥇 Annie
🥈 Isabella
🥉 Isabelle

Year 3/4 boys

🥇 Arthur
🥈 Jack
🥉 Jack

Year 5/6 girls

🥇 Lucy
🥈 Mia
🥉 Josie

Year 5/6 boys

🥇 Henry
🥈 Alistair
🥉 Willoughby

🏆 Year 3/4 overall winners – **Bridestowe**

🏆 Year 5/6 overall winners - **Bridestowe**



Clubs

After half term after school clubs will be as follows –

Mondays – Cheer Club with Miss Spooncer

Wednesday – Drama Club with Mrs Dewsbery

Thursdays – Dance Club with Katie from Jess Squire Dance.

Friday – Rugby with Tallan from Brendon Worth Academy.

Clubs will run from 3.30 to 4.30pm. Please book via School Gateway.

Spaces are limited. If your child would like to attend a club which is full, please contact the school office and we will keep a list of pupils who would like to attend should any places become available.

Owlets

The Owlets enjoyed a morning in the Forest with Devon Wildlife trust learning about wildlife and in particular, Hedgehogs. They had to find different foods hedgehogs liked to eat and then made clay hedgehogs, using sticks they found for the spines.



Tawny Owls

For their English unit, Iggy Peck Architect, the children in Tawny Owls have been researching famous London landmarks. They have used information sheets and Chromebooks in small groups to gather key information that they will then use to create their very own fact files next week.



Snowy Owls

As part of PSHE, the Snowy Owls explored the feelings thermometer. They discussed how it feels to be at each of the numbers and what they can do in each stage. The children discussed that if we find ourselves feeling a number 4 or 5 (flipping our lid) then we can try strategies such as reading a book, taking deep breaths, drawing a picture or asking for a hug. The children were very aware of their own and others' feelings.



Over the last few weeks in Music, children in Snowy Owls class have been enjoying learning a Roman chant spoken in three different parts at the same time and singing a 'road building song'. They have learnt what a musical 'motif' is and can recognise the use of a motif in Beethoven's 5th Symphony. This week they composed their own musical 'motif' on a glockenspiel.



Barn Owls

Tuesday 10th October was World Mental Health Day. As a school we had an assembly from Ant and Dec discussing the importance of talking to others to help with mental health - 'Get Britain Talking'. We also marked the day by wearing something yellow.



FOBS

I'd firstly like to say a big thank you to everyone that came to FOBS (friends of Bridestowe school) annual general meeting.

Kirstie has done a wonderful job as chair on the committee but has now stood down. Thankfully, she has now taken the role of treasurer so still a vital part of the fobs team. Helen Proctor remains as secretary alongside Jennie Speirs, remaining as vice chair.

I'd like to introduce myself as the new chair, Jane Easterbrook.

I must also say a massive thank you to Ali Lane, our former treasurer, for all her time in the role previously. We have our next fundraising meeting on Thursday November 9th at 7.00 in the White Hart Bridestowe. This meeting is for anyone who'd like to get involved in upcoming fundraising events or anyone that has ideas for events for next year!

With Christmas parties creeping up, helpers are always appreciated.

Please do feel free to approach any of us on the committee with questions or ideas. Fobs really appreciate everyone's support and ultimately all the funds raised, goes towards the children. This could be for extra equipment that the school has no budget for, coaches to the Christmas pantomime, so parents don't have the extra cost, book bags, and so much more!

We hope to see you at the next meeting and do keep an eye on fobs Facebook page for updates on events.

Best wishes

Fobs

Diary Dates

October

23rd – 27th Half Term Break

30th Open Afternoon for September 2024 starters

November

9th Yr 5/6 Cross Country @Castle Drogo

13th Book Look – 8.40 – 9am
Whole School Forest School (TBC)

17th Open the Book

22nd Stay and Play Session

23rd Bouldering Experience – children TBC

27th Whole School Forest School (TBC)

28th Flu Vaccinations

30th Book Look – 3.15 – 3.30pm

December

1st Open the Book

7th Owlets Nativity and KS2 Christmas Carols, St Bridget's Church, 2.45pm

8th Christmas Jumper Day

11th Book Look – 08:40 – 9am
Whole School Forest School (TBC)

12th Tawny Owls Nativity, Methodist Hall, Time TBC

14th Homework Share, 3.30 – 3.45pm

15th Christmas Dinner

18th – 2nd Christmas Break

January

2nd Non-Pupil Day



Please join us at Bridestowe Primary School for an open afternoon to see our exceptional EYFS provision and whole school.

Discuss your child's entry to Primary School in September 2024.



All children, birth - 4 years are welcome to join us with their carer for a stay and play session in our Forest School Area at Bridestowe Primary School.

Wellies, coats and waterproofs are essential.



 Date: December 6th, 2023

🕒 Time: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Location: Ashbury Hotel,
Okehampton, EX20 4NL

What to Expect:

- Explore Diverse Career Paths
- Interactive Skills Workshops
- Meet Local Employers
- College and University Representatives

For more information, please
contact us at
careersfair@dmatschools.org.uk



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for **health protection in schools** or scan the QR code or visit <https://grco.de/minfec>.



**The Manor
&
Ashbury
Resorts**

Community News and Information

**The White Hart
Bridestowe**

2023 Charity Duck Race & Auction of Promises
Sat 21st Oct from 1.30pm

Full Afternoon Race Card
6 Races with Commentator

Only £2 per Duck Minimum Stake
Programme and Race Card only £1
available from the White Hart

Cash Prize for First across the line
in each race

Followed in the Evening by an Auction of
Promises with Fantastic Items including

- A free days outdoor work
- Meal for 2 at the White Hart
- Evening Fly Fishing with Host
- Weekend for 2 in Brixham
- Free Cut and Blow Dry

Don't drive yourself Quackers!!
Get yourself along for a fun day of
Alternative Sport
in support of
World Horse Welfare
&
2024 Bridestowe Ram Roast

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FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



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Parke Autumn Celebration

Seasonal Stories & Paper Lanterns

Thursday 26th October 2023
2.30pm - 5pm

Family friendly event in the beautiful Walled Garden at Parke: fun paper lantern making, Dartmoor stories, pumpkin selfie station and spooky offerings at the cafe. In collaboration with Dartmoor National Park.

More info: nationaltrust.org.uk/parke



**Brenden Worth
Cricket Academy**
1.8.1.2.0.1. Partners, Schools, & Festivals from our Award Winning Coaches
T: 07850 518 433

**BWCA
FOOTBALL
CAMP**

**HOLSWORTHY
YOUTH FC**

26/10/2023

9AM - 3PM

AGE 5 - 14 YRS

£15 A DAY

EMAIL
CRAIG.PENBERTHY@BRENDENWORTHCRICKET.COM
TO SIGN UP!

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Cricket Academy**
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MULTI-SKILLS CAMPS
HATHERLEIGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

23/10 & 27/10

£15 A DAY

EMAIL
CRAIG.PENBERTHY@BRENDENWORTHCRICKET.COM
TO SIGN UP!

Half-term Fun at Dartmoor National Park Visitor Centres

21st-29th October 10am-4pm



BRILLIANT Spooky Bats

Bats aren't scary or spooky, they are brilliant. And Dartmoor is a fantastic home for them.

Visit one of our visitor centres and discover more about these amazing creatures. There are lots of FREE activities to have a go at. Follow our Bat trail around the centre, colour in and make your own Bat mask or have a go at one of the Bat crafts with our visitor centre staff.

Activities taking place at Postbridge, Haytor and Princetown. For more details visit our website.



www.dartmoor.gov.uk

Big Day Out in the Woods

Saturday 28th October 11am-3pm
At Yarner Wood

Join us for some free woodland fun for all the family. Discover traditional woodcraft skills and hands on activities for children and find out what makes Dartmoor's woodlands so special. Drop in through the day.

Make your own witches besom broom ready to go haunting with

Whittle a wizards wand and cast an Autumn spell

Be a woodland protector and make your own champions medal

Use a shave-horse to carve a flower

Try wood turning on a pole lathe

Build a flat-pack dormouse house

Discover minibeasts, decay, and deadwood

And much more. Check our website for more details

Meet at East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve, Middle Trendlebere Car Park, on the road from Bovey Tracey to Manaton.

Grid Reference SX782793. What 3 Words ///market.song.raven

This event is organised by Natural England
and Dartmoor National Park Authority
www.dartmoor.gov.uk



BEARNES
&
HAMPTON
LITTLEWOOD

WAITROSE
& PARTNERS

Call My Bluff Evening - 23rd November in Lydford Village Hall 19.00 for 19.30

- An evening of laughter, bluffing and double bluff in aid of Friends of Lydford School – FoLS. Call My Bluff evening kindly hosted by Bearnnes Hampton & Littlewood Auctioneers and Valuers of Exeter. Come along and see how good you are at valuing antiques or fakes.
- Tickets £7 in advance or £8 on the night – children are free. Entry includes a plate of cheese and biscuits. Alcoholic and soft beverages available to purchase during the evening.
- Tickets from the Toy Shop in the Red Lion Yard Okehampton or call Jade on 07854 206 400.
- Everyone welcome. We look forward to seeing you for a fun evening of bluffing!

Event kindly hosted by Bearnnes Hampton & Littlewood
Cheese kindly donated by Waitrose, Okehampton



FOR YOUR FREEDOM AND OURS

Free Exhibition
on the 307 Squadron

13–15 November 2023

10:00–16:00

Exeter Guildhall
High Street

Raising of the Polish Flag
15th November 10:00

RAF Exeter Talk
by Chris Wiseman
15th November 14:00

facebook.com/307SquadronProject



Struggling to top up your prepayment meter?

You might be able to claim fuel vouchers

If you have prepayment meters and can't afford to top them up, we can help. We may be able to give you fuel vouchers, and our specialist energy team can help you find ways to save money on your household bills

Call 01237 879233, email fuelvouchers@ruraldevoncab.org.uk
or scan the QR code to request a call back



citizens
advice

Torridge, North,
Mid & West Devon



Registered charity number: 1068496



OCRA's [October Half Term Activity programme](#) runs 23rd-27th.

[Sport and Art](#) multi-activity days for 6-14yr-olds will run:

- **Tuesday** 24 October and
- **Thursday** 26 October.

Sibling discounts are available for family bookings.

Don't forget [Breakfast and Afternoon Clubs and All Day](#) tickets for an 8.15-5.30 experience.

[Activity](#)

[Camps](#) include [Gymnastics](#), [Hockey](#), [Taijitsu](#) and [Challenge Games](#).

You can book now at ocrasport.org.uk/holidays.

Book online now

Okehampton Community & Recreation Association,
“...helping children, young people and adults be more active, more often. For a lifetime in sport and activity.”

If you have any queries, please
contact holidays@ocrasport.org.uk.

*For GDPR reasons, we're again asking parents to complete a paper registration form on the day of each activity.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

AGE RESTRICTION
7
PEGI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATting

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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