



Newsletter—Friday 21st March 2025

Next week—W/C Monday 24th March 2025	
Monday:	Lunchtime Choir Club Arts Award Club 3.30-4.30 (Must have confirmed place)
Tuesday:	Class Three PE Year Six SATs Club 3.30-4.30pm
Wednesday:	Class One Woolley Animals Trip
Thursday:	Class Three PE Lunchtime Lego Club
Friday:	Class Four PE PTA Mother's Day Gift Sale 3.00 Celebration Collective Worship KS2 Sports Club 3.30-4.30pm

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy week this one has been!

Test week

Despite all of the comings and goings, the children in KS1 and KS2 have worked incredibly well on their summative termly tests this week. It is great to see the progress that children have made across the year being reflected in improved scores in the vast majority of cases. The outcomes of these tests help teachers to modify what is taught for the remainder of the year to try to ensure that as many children as possible have mastered the curriculum for the year group that they are in.

Comic Relief

What a magnificent cavalcade of outfits we had in school today! Not all red, but all looking fantastic. Thank you so much to everyone who donated something for wearing non-uniform. We will be passing over £100 on to Comic Relief as a result.

TEAM Schools' Prom

After weeks and weeks of auditions, practices, adaptations and rehearsals, it was all over in just two performances at the Queen's Theatre ... But what two performances they were! Wow! If you were able to get a seat and come along, I am sure you will have been captivated by the incredible talent of the children from HB and from schools across our trust! There were some stunning whole -school and individual performances with every child participating rising to the opportunity. Congratulations to those from HB who sang in the TEAM choir, who danced and played the steel drums. You all smashed it on the day! Special mention has to go to Grace who performed with some Umberleigh children from her dance club; to Jacob for a beautiful keyboard piece; to Freddie M, Jack and Isaac (otherwise known as Something About Something Else) for rocking the house and finally to Amaya for her performance of a poem she wrote that left not a dry eye amongst the adults in the theatre. You were all absolutely stunning! Huge thanks to Miss Trofa for all of the organising and input at rehearsals and to Mrs Kennard, Mrs Scowen and Mrs Vowden for their care for the children on the day.

Year Six SATs' parent session

The SAT's session last Monday was not well attended (thanks to Jenna for attending!), so I have attached some information with this letter. The dates for Y6 SATs this year are as follows:

- Monday 12th May - SPaG
- Tuesday 13th May - Reading
- Wednesday 14th May - Arithmetic. Reasoning Paper 1
- Thursday 15th May - Reasoning Paper 2

Neil Swait review of HB

As promised in last week's letter, here are some of the points from Neil Swait's visit report of his visit to HB last Wednesday:

Reading and phonics

Whole class story – Class 1

The class teacher dedicates purposeful time to exploring key vocabulary before introducing today's story ... with effective use of actions to reinforce understanding and recall. The teacher brings 'The Runaway Pea' to life with skilful expression, clarity, and enthusiasm, quickly capturing the children's interest and fostering a love of storytelling. The shared text serves as a valuable stimulus for today's Drawing Club focus, encouraging creativity and discussion.

EYFS continuous provision

Building on the shared story, children actively engage in developing their own ideas and selecting their own magic word. The teacher ensures a phonics-first approach, guiding children to apply their knowledge of letters and sounds while encouraging them to verbalise their ideas before writing. Staff skillfully promote language development through questioning, explaining, and verbalising children's actions. They introduce new vocabulary, correct language errors, and ensure that all children are actively engaged in conversations. Children display positive attitudes to learning, demonstrating high levels of curiosity, concentration, and enjoyment. They confidently discuss their learning and play, using age-appropriate language to express their thoughts and ideas. Interactions between adults and children are purposeful and productive, underpinned by strong relationships. Children show high levels of independence, self-confidence, and self-awareness, managing their feelings and behaviour effectively. Warm and caring peer interactions further reinforce the nurturing environment. Children benefit from well-designed activities that develop fine motor skills ... Their writing includes accurately formed letters, phonetically plausible spellings, finger spaces, capital letters, and full stops. The indoor learning environment is well-structured, balancing adult-directed and child-led activities within the continuous provision, all with a clear learning focus. Staff demonstrate strong subject knowledge, actively promoting children's oracy and language development by consistently modelling high standards of language use. Children exhibit exceptional behaviour, appearing content, secure, and well-cared for in a nurturing setting.

Phonics sessions across Reception, Year 1 & Year 2

Phonics sessions are well-paced, engaging, and interactive, ensuring that pupils remain actively involved in their learning. A strong emphasis is placed on revisiting and reinforcing previously taught letters, sounds, and common exception words ... Participation is high, with all pupils expected to engage in call-and-response, speaking, and listening activities. Learning is closely monitored, allowing adults to swiftly identify and address any misconceptions ... The books pupils read are closely matched to their phonics knowledge ...

Observations of guided / class reading

The school's approach to teaching guided reading is highly effective, ensuring that pupils develop strong comprehension skills, expand their vocabulary, and engage critically with texts. [In Class Two], the teacher asks probing questions to assess understanding as the story unfolds. Pupils read aloud with fluency, accuracy, and confidence, applying their phonics knowledge effectively to decode unfamiliar words. They demonstrate strong analytical skills, using inference and deduction to interpret the text ... In the Year 5/6 class, pupils apply their reading skills effectively ... They read aloud with fluency, accuracy, and strong comprehension, demonstrating confidence in using subject-specific vocabulary. The session emphasises understanding complex terminology, with pupils engaging in discussions about words ... The reading material is appropriately challenging ...

Reviewing pupils' learning in history - book scrutiny

Evidence from pupils' history books highlights a strong focus on subject-specific vocabulary, ensuring that pupils develop a clear understanding of key terms ... The vocabulary-rich

approach reflects high expectations for all learners. Units are structured around six key questions, carefully designed to build progressively on prior knowledge while making connections to previous topics. At the end of each unit, pupils complete a revision task, allowing them to consolidate and demonstrate their understanding. Evidence in books showcases a strong grasp of essential historical knowledge and skills, with pupils confidently applying subject-specific terminology. They exhibit good recall of key events, places, and significant historical figures and present their work clearly and systematically. The quality of learning recorded in books is exceptionally strong, with pupils benefiting from purposeful opportunities for extended writing to deepen their historical understanding ... Importantly, evidence demonstrates that pupils with SEND successfully access the same learning content as their peers, reflecting the school's commitment to inclusive and high-quality history education.

Pupil voice: History learning

Pupils ... confidently describe how historians use primary and secondary sources ... Pupils also have a secure understanding of chronology ... Pupils speak knowledgably and in detail about their current learning. For example, when discussing the Peasants, Princes, and Pestilence unit, they provide insightful explanations of key historical events. They understand that the Black Death originated in Mongolia, spread by rats, and wiped out a third of Europe's population. They accurately recall that 89% of Britain's population at the time were peasants, and they clearly articulate the differences between a serf and a noble ... Pupils also demonstrate a strong grasp of content from other recent units, including studies on Famous Arctic and Antarctic Explorers and Maafa (West African slave trade). They confidently use historical terminology when discussing significant events, people, and places, and they effectively integrate geographical knowledge when commenting on different locations. More able pupils use advanced historical terminology, such as Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic, when discussing Stone Age Britain, and they provide relevant insights into Roman Britain, the Vikings, and the Anglo-Saxons.

Have a lovely weekend,

Rob Norton
Head of School

Trips and Residential

Class One Woolley Animals - A reminder that this is on Wednesday 26th March.

Year Six Bude Residential - Please remember the balance payment is due by Monday 2nd May.

Notices

Nursery unfunded/additional hours increase

In line with Devon County Council funding, from 22nd April 2025 the cost for unfunded 2 year old hours will increase to £6.95 an hour, and 3 Year old unfunded hours will increase to £5.50. From 1st Sept 2025 2 Year olds will further increase to £7.42, 3 Year olds will stay at £5.50.

If you have a working entitlement code, please ensure that you renew this in good time when required. New codes for the summer term must be received by the school before 1st April.

School Meals

From 22nd April 2025 - KS2 meals will increase to £2.58, KS1 and nursery meals will increase to £2.00. Children in YR, Y1 and Y2 will continue to receive free meals under the UIFSM scheme.

School Uniform Discount Code

If you are in need of new school jumpers, MyClothing is running a 10% discount until 31st March - code needed is UNIFORM10%

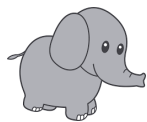
What happened at school this week?

These questions are about what has been happening in each class this week and are designed as 'conversation starters' for you to use with your child. We hope that they will provide a useful prompt to encourage conversations about school - talking for just three minutes each day about school has been shown to have a great impact on children's learning!



Learning Lions (Class One)

What can you tell me about the 4 parts of a plant?
Can you make a pattern using objects you can find at home?
Could you go on a walk and look for signs of spring?



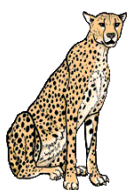
Exploring elephants (Class Two)

Can you paint a portrait of Queen Elizabeth I?
Can you retell the story of David and Goliath?
Can you practice catching, throwing and controlling a ball?



Inventive Impalas (Class Three)

What did you most enjoy about performing in the Proms?
Has the Proms inspired you to learn a new instrument?
What does Comic relief do?



Challenging Cheetahs (Class Four)

What do you need to recap on in Maths?
What do you know about veins and arteries?
What does the Tudor Rose symbolise?

Home Activities and Homework Tasks

Class One:

Please spend time reading with your child and practising their new phonic sounds, **recording this in your reading record.**

Class Two:

Please aim to read with an adult for 15 minutes each day and **record in reading records.**

Class Three:

Spellings (from test week, stuck in Home School Books), Reading log book (going through test reading/questions), times tables.

Class Four:

Year 6 - read for at least 60 minutes each day and up date your reading log carefully. Year 5 - read for at least 45 minutes each day and up date your reading log carefully. Times table Rock Stars. Complete your Maths homework sheets ready for Monday morning.



Next Week's Menu—W/C Monday 24th March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Beef Pasta Bolognese V – Quorn Pasta Bolognese Peas & Carrots Fruit Muffin	Pork Sausages V – Vegetarian Sausages Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Veg Fruit Jelly	Roast of the Day Chicken V - Vegetarian Roast Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Veg Fruit Salad	Chicken and Chunky Veg Casserole V - Quorn and Chunky Veg Casserole Crusty Bread & Sweetcorn Chocolate Sponge and Chocolate Custard	Cod/Salmon Fish Cakes V – Vegetarian Nuggets/Fingers Golden Fries and Seasonal Veg Homemade Cookie

Class One

In Class One this week, we developed 'green fingers' as we explored the different parts of a plant – from the roots that help it stay in the ground to the stem that helps the plant stand tall and the leaves that catch the sunlight. We also talked about what plants need to grow and how we can best look after plants. Inspired by the story *Anywhere Farm* by Phyllis Root, we imagined all the different places we could grow a plant: gardens, greenhouses and plant pots on windowsills. In Outdoor Learning, we looked carefully for signs of spring and created beautiful spring pictures. We also got our hands busy making box plant pots and building flowers in many creative ways. In Maths, we extended last term's learning about repeating patterns to include complex patterns. We practised making patterns with shapes, colours, natural items and even sounds and movements, and our teachers were so impressed with how well we did to copy and create repeating patterns. We also really enjoyed spotting and fixing mistakes in repeating patterns! We enjoyed a lovely – sunny but breezy – picnic on Thursday followed by some exercise on the school field. It was the perfect way to welcome in the new season and notice how it makes us feel. This week, we continued to practise our songs for the Easter service. It's exciting to think about Easter and what it means. In Religions and Worldviews, we started talking about the different symbols of Easter, like eggs and flowers, and how they represent new life, and will continue with this theme next week.



Class Two

This week, Class Two have been working hard to complete their Reading, Writing and Mathematics assessments. Year One and Two have taken part in a series of tests to assess their learning so far. The children have been amazing at practicing the skills needed to complete their assessments and many have enjoyed the process, finding it positive and fun! In RE this week, we have built on our learning about Judaism. We have recapped our learning about the Mezuzah, Shabbat and this week found out about the story of David and Goliath. We looked at how this story teaches Jewish people about trust and faith in God.

We have been excited in topic to learn about our next monarch Queen Elizabeth I. We have found out where she sits on our historical timeline and where this is in comparison to Queen Victoria I. We have also discovered many facts about her and we have presented this beautifully in our sketchbooks. We were very lucky this week to have a visit from the fire service. They taught us all about how to stay safe in the event of a fire and ways in which we can be sensible and protect ourselves at home. We enjoyed our visit - some of us even got to try on some of the fire service clothes! We were all very excited to take a trip to The Queen's Theatre where we had a brilliant time being inspired by KS2 with their performance in the Arts.



Class Three



Last week we went on residential, On Wednesday the year 4's went canoeing, it was my favourite activity! (Maddison) We also went on the beach and had a big play, that was my best part! (Frank). We loved St George's House!

Yesterday we had our Proms concert, it made me feel really happy to be on stage, I loved watching everything! (Imogen)



Class Four - by Jacob



On Thursday this week, Class 4 and Class 3 made their way to the Queen's Theatre to perform, in front of our parents, our Proms concert. The whole academy took part in the show and many incredible acts could be seen. We completed the show twice for all to see. One was the afternoon performance (1.30pm-3.15pm) and the later evening performance. Some of the High Bickington acts include Freddie, Isaac and Jack with their band, Amaya with her wonderful poem, the Class 4 Jumbie Jams, Class 3 and 4 joint dance, and Jacob (myself) with his incredible piano solo. It was an absolutely jam-packed day.

We also had an excellent visit from the fire service this week.

Spring Term Dates

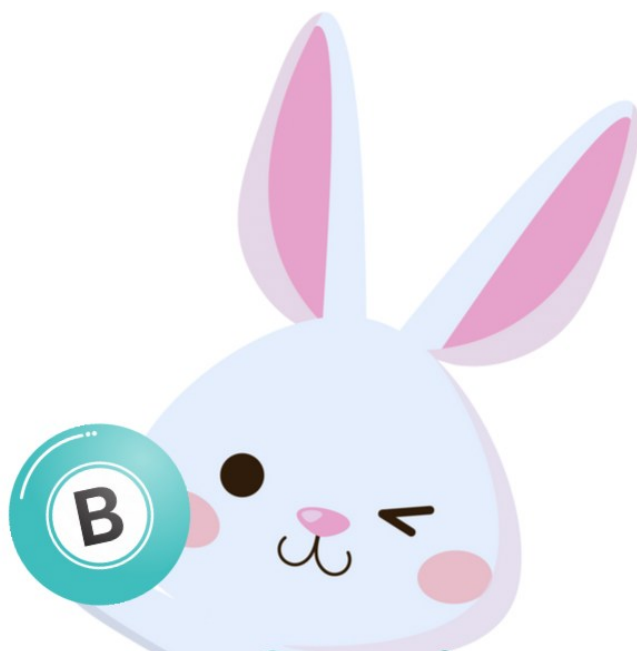
- Wednesday 26th March - Class One Trip to Woolley Animals
- ***NEW* Friday 28th March - PTA Mother's Day gift sale, church hall (details next week)**
- Tuesday 1st April – Book and a biscuit 3:30-4:30pm.
- Wednesday 2nd April – Easter Service 2:00pm in the church.
- ***NEW* Friday 4th April - PTA Non Uniform Day in exchange for Easter Egg**
- Friday 4th April - Last day of term.
- **Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April inclusive - Easter Holiday.**
- ***NEW* Tuesday 8th April—PTA Easter Bingo**

Summer Term Dates

- Tuesday 22nd April - children return to school.
- **Monday 5 May - May Bank Holiday - no school.**
- Week beginning Monday 12th May – KS2 (Y6) SATs week.
- Sunday 18th May to Friday 23rd May – Y6 Residential at Bude.
- Wednesday 21st May - After School Church Club (Limited Spaces)
- **Week beginning Monday 26th May - Half term week.**
- **Monday 2nd June - Non Pupil Day.**
- Tuesday 3rd June to Friday 13th June – Y4 Multiplication check SAT.
- Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June - Y1 Phonics check SAT.
- Tuesday 10th June – Book and a biscuit 3:30-4:30pm



High
C of E Academy
Bickington



Kid's Easter *Bingo*



Tuesday 8 April 2025

Doors Open 2 PM
Eyes Down 2.30 PM

High Bickington
Church Hall

Children must be supervised by an adult

Supporting High Bickington School PTA

High Bickington academy

Have you got the skills to lead a
committee of active and
dedicated volunteers?



We are reaching out to the
community, to see if anyone
would be interested in the
above voluntary post

*Contact Nikki Pearce or Jemma Sanders
for more information*



The parents lottery

Support your school with every ticket



WIN £25,000 and SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL


Various prizes up for grabs each week! Buy your tickets at theparentslottery.org



The Parents Lottery is a weekly lottery promoted by Parentkind Enterprises Ltd (PEL Company no: 3884281), a wholly owned subsidiary of Parentkind. It is run under our remote operating licence (Licence no: 057904). The Parents Lottery is strictly 18+ only. Playing a lottery is a form of gambling. If you, or someone you know, needs information and/or help with a problem gambling, please call the National Gambling Helpline on 0808 8020 133.

GambleAware GAMBLING COMMISSION THE LOTTERIES COUNCIL

Parentkind The parents lottery



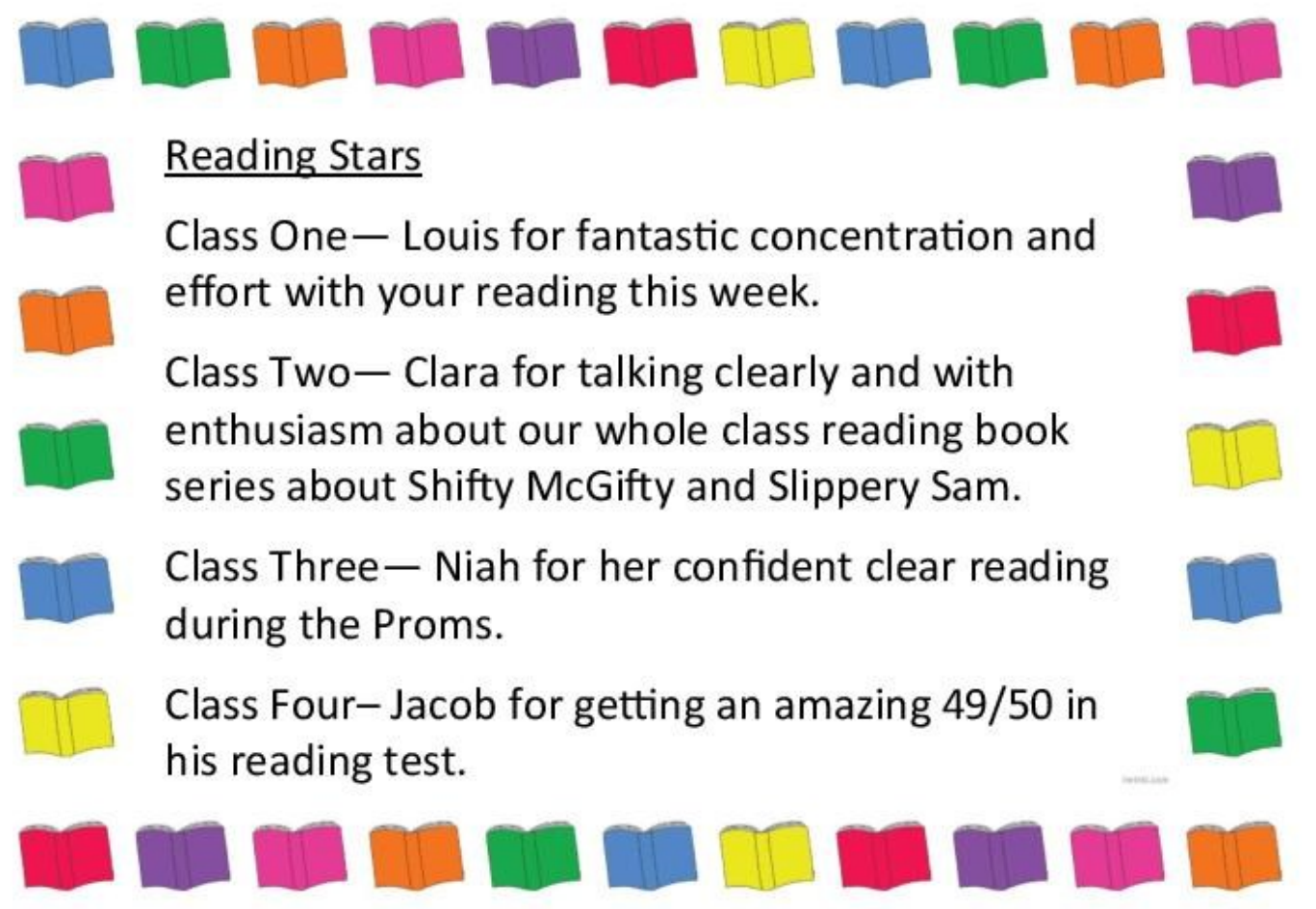
Stars of the Week!

Class One— Marnie for engaging so well with our spring hunt and outdoor art.

Class Two— Dylan for furthering his learning in Art and History at home and for sharing it enthusiastically with the class.

Class Three— Oscar for his continuous fantastic learning behaviour and attitude.

Class Four— Class 4 for great effort in tests and amazing performances at the Proms.



Reading Stars

Class One— Louis for fantastic concentration and effort with your reading this week.

Class Two— Clara for talking clearly and with enthusiasm about our whole class reading book series about Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam.

Class Three— Niah for her confident clear reading during the Proms.

Class Four— Jacob for getting an amazing 49/50 in his reading test.

TEAM Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies



Working in partnership with



Life, Love and Learning to the Full

Part of **TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST**

APPLY NOW DIRECT WITH **mynewterm**

For more information and how to apply directly with My New Term please visit our website

<https://www.teamacademytrust.com/vacancies>

We currently have 3 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

Breakfast Club - Playworker at Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

1.1 SEND Teaching Assistant at Pilton Bluecoat Church of England Academy

1.1 SEND Teaching Assistant at Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School





WE NEED YOU.

We are looking for keen and enthusiastic volunteers to join our Local Governing Bodies (LGB) as a school Governor and/or a Trustee.

Governor

The role of a School Governor is key in ensuring the school offers high standards of education for all children.

Each school within TEAM Multi -Academy Trust has its own Local Governing Body. The LGB meet once or twice a term and are encouraged to join in with our school visits and learning walks throughout the school year. This is a voluntary position and training is available for this role.

Trustee

Our Trustees oversee the strategic direction of the Trust schools along with holding the senior school leadership to account and monitoring the trust's finances– amongst many other aspects of school performance.

They can draw on their own expertise from all aspects of business and industry and have specific interests as part of their role such as – Curriculum, Personnel, Admissions, Finance, Safeguarding, Premises or SEND. They meet approximately 6 times a year as a whole group and are active within a range of committees and individual portfolios.

VOLUNTEERING IN THIS WAY BRINGS MANY REWARDS. YOU WILL ENJOY WORKING ALONGSIDE LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE AND GET REAL SATISFACTION AT USING YOUR SKILLS TO CREATE A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR CHILDREN.

If you are interested in volunteering or to find out more about being a local governor at your school or a TEAM trustee, then we would love to hear from you. Please email vacancies@team-mat.org.uk



For more information, please visit our Governance section on our website: www.teamacademytrust.com