

Enabling children to be the best that they can be!

HORWOOD AND NEWTON TRACEY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



This week's
whole
school
attendance
rate is
92.1%

Friday 6th December 2024

Dear parents/carers,

This week the children are in full swing preparing for our Christmas Nativity performance in class 1 and 2 and the children across years 3 to 6 have been practicing their singing and organising their parts for our Christingle Service towards the end of term. We have enjoyed hearing about the 'naughty elves' who have arrived in some homes and the things that they have been up to whilst the children have been sleeping! Our Christmas post box has been placed in the front lobby and children are welcome to post their cards for friends in the letter box which will be delivered by the school council in the afternoons.

Multiplication Parents Information Session

A huge thank you to those parents who came along for our information session on our year 4 multiplication check. For those parents who were unable to come along, Mrs Hopkins has prepared a handout with useful links and relevant information she shared in the meeting – this will be emailed out to all parents of children in Key Stage 2. The link to the government website about the expectations for the multiplication check, which takes place in June is below:



[Multiplication tables check: information for parents - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents)

[Multiplication tables check: information for parents - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents)



Christmas Card Competition

I have spoken to the children this week about our Christmas card competition. We would like to invite all our children to take part. The winners from each class will win a small prize as well as having their design printed onto a card to be delivered to our neighbours in our local community. Please can we ask that designs are completed on A5 paper (half of A4) with your child's name and class written on the back and returned to school no later than **TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER**. Winners will be announced in our Celebration assembly on Friday 13th December at the Gospel Hall. All entries can be given to class teachers.

Lunch Bunch Visit

On Wednesday 11th December, the School council group and I will be visiting Lovacott Village Hall to meet the local residents that come together to share a delicious cooked lunch and have a catch up. To bring some festive cheer, the children will be singing some Christmas songs and spending some time talking with the group about what Christmas means to them.





Nativity – Evening performance arrangements

Arrangements for drop off and pick up for our Nativity performance next week are as follows:

- **Monday (Dress Rehearsals):**
Nursery, Class 1, and Class 2 children should be dropped off at school as usual at **8:50am**, wearing their school uniform. Please send their costumes in a named bag - this will stay in school until Tuesday.
- **Tuesday (Performance Day):**
 - Please bring all Nursery, Class 1, and Class 2 children to the Village Hall at **8:50am**, wearing their school uniform. Children will bring their costumes home at **3:30pm** and should be collected from school at that time.
 - In the evening, children should wear their costumes and return to the Village Hall at **4:45pm** ready for the performance. Family members can take their seats at this time.

If you have any questions or need assistance with costumes, please speak to your child's class teacher.

We're looking forward to seeing you all next week!



Hamper Donations

A huge thank you to our parents and wider community for their generous gifts for our family group Christmas hampers. Our staffroom is stacked with several boxes of food, toiletries and other Christmas goodies that have already been delivered to the school. Please can we ask that all donations are sent to school by the end of the day next Friday 13th December. This will allow time for the hampers to be prepared and ready for the draw to take place on Wednesday 18th at our Christingle Service in the Gospel Hall. For every item your child brings in, they will have their name entered into the draw to win the child's Christmas Hamper, kindly put together by our FRIENDS of HNT.

Creative Christmas Clay

Over the past few weeks, the children have been working alongside Mrs Woollacott to create some beautiful clay Christmas decorations to take home for Christmas. The children's fantastic masterpieces will be on sale for parents to purchase via a ParentPay link from today until Friday 13th December at a cost of £2.00 per child. All proceeds will go towards a theatre performance in school during the spring term for all the children to enjoy.



Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Cook



Attendance: Every Day Counts

Our aim is for all children to have attendance of at least 96%

Our attendance this week is 92.1 %

Our attendance this school year is 95%

This week, 82 children have 100% attendance

Why is attendance so important?

According to the Department for Education's data:

Pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to develop positive relationships with peers and teachers, enhancing their overall emotional resilience and mental health.

Pupils with good attendance records are more likely to achieve better grades.

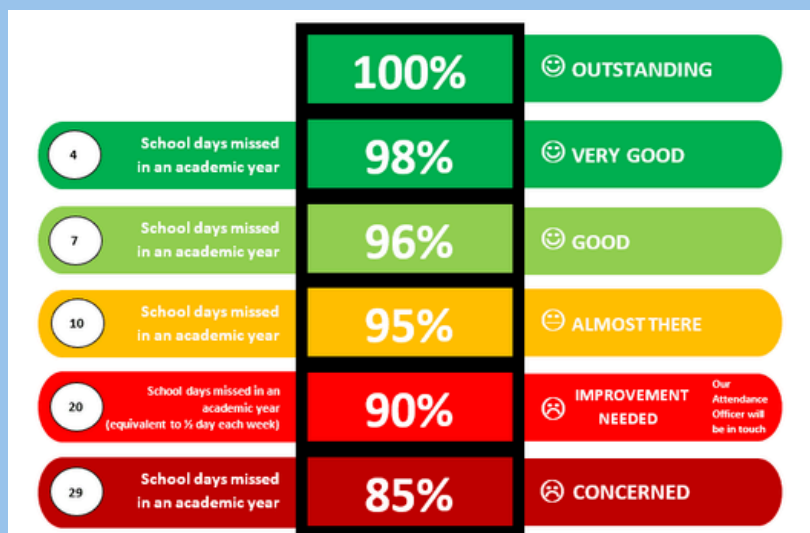
Pupils who consistently attend school are more likely to pursue higher education and ultimately secure better employment opportunities.

Pupils who are chronically absent are more likely to feel isolated and disengaged as well as being at higher risk of not continuing their education after secondary school.

Regular school attendance fosters a sense of belonging and connection within the school community.

Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as pupils have more opportunities to learn, join discussions and receive feedback from teachers

HNTPS - Attendance Ladder



Reporting Absence: If your child is unwell, please phone or email the school before 9.15am to report your child's absence. We kindly request that you contact us on each morning of the absence. Tel: 01271 858373/admin@hnps.org

Reminders...



Come and join us at our Celebration Assemblies, every Friday morning at 9:00am in Lovacott Gospel Hall, opposite the school. Everyone is welcome!



Year 5 London Trip payment instalments have been set up on Parentpay. Please log into your account to see the payment plan.



Please note, class teachers are not available in the mornings as they are busy preparing for the day ahead. If you would like to arrange a meeting with a teacher, please contact the School Office via email admin@hntps.org or telephone 01271 858373. Thank you for your understanding.



Reception and Year 6 parents/carers have received an email about the National Child Measurement Programme taking place in the Spring Term. The letter includes an OPT OUT link - all opt outs need to be received by Friday 20th December.



Please note that starting after the half-term holidays, if your child experiences a bump or medical incident during the day, we will log the details on our new online platform, MEDICAL TRACKER. You will be notified via email through the Medical Tracker system.



Please ensure that children remove earrings and other jewellery for PE and have their long hair tied back for safety reasons.



**10% Discount Code for school uniform
from MyClothing**



Here's a 10% discount code for parents to save money on uniform from MyClothing.

**Code = UNIFORM10
Expires 20/12/2024**

<https://myclothing.com/collections/horwood-and-newton-tracey-community-primary-school-23238/>



What's on...?

Next Week: W/C 9th December 2024

Please note our autumn term afterschool clubs have now finished.

Monday

Tuesday

- 9.30am Nativity Performance (Foundation Stage Class and Class 2)
- 5.00pm Nativity Performance (Village Hall) (Foundation Stage Class and Class 2)
- Year 5: Forest School (please ensure kit is in school)

Wednesday

- Class 3: PE (please come to school wearing kit)
- Lunch Bunch: School Council reps at Village Hall 1.30pm -2.30pm

Thursday

- Nursery: Forest School (AM)
- Reception: Forest School (PM)
- Class 2: PE (please come to school wearing PE kit)
- Class 4: Year 6 - Swimming (please bring kit)

Friday

- Celebration Assembly at 9:00am in Lovacott Gospel Hall - parents and carers welcome to join us
- Class 1: PE (please ensure PE kit is in school every day)
- Singing lessons with Rhiannon Wright (private music lesson for those parents that have signed up)
- Last date for Hamper prize draw donations



Celebration Assemblies on Fridays

If you are attending our Celebration Assemblies, please ensure that any photographs you take are only of your own child or children and are not shared on the internet or social media platforms. Thank you.

Advance Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 18th December

- Hamper prize draw
- Christingle Service (Classes 3 and 4) at 2.45pm

Thursday 19th December

- Wear a Christmas jumper to school day!
- Christmas lunch (Classes 1-4 - we will assume your child is having a school dinner unless you inform us otherwise).

Friday 20th December

- Christmas Party Lunch (Classes 1-4 - we will assume your child is having a school dinner unless you inform us otherwise).
- Father Christmas will be visiting school



Dates for your diary....

School Term Dates 2024/2025 - Autumn Term

Last day of school: Friday 20th December 2024

Christmas holiday: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025

Inset Day: Monday 6th January 2025 - NO SCHOOL

School Term Dates 2024/2025 - Spring Term

First day of school: Tuesday 7th January 2025

Half-term holiday: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025

Last day of school: Friday 4th April 2025

Easter holiday: 7th April to 21st April 2025

First day of school: Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Children's Sporting Successes



Well Done Archie!

Last weekend, Archie won 2 tennis matches!! There is no stopping this young sportsman. He's only 5 and playing older boys. Well done Archie!



Well Done Ayden!

Ayden came 2nd in the first round of the schools trampolining championship. He goes onto the next round now and we wish him the best of luck.

Road Safety In Our Village

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the importance of respecting our village parking facilities, grass verges, and the surrounding environment. The village looks especially beautiful when the spring bulbs are in bloom, and it is essential to protect the verges around the car park and along the roadside to ensure these flowers thrive. Please also ensure that children do not play on these grass verges.



We kindly encourage all parents and carers to park inside the Village Hall car park rather than along the main road or near the school. This helps keep our roads safe and clear of traffic, allowing families to walk to and from school safely.

PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF OUR VILLAGE GRASS VERGES AND SPRING BULBS

PLEASE PARK SAFELY IN THE VILLAGE HALL DURING DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

ELF ON THE SHELF



We have a magical 'school' Elf on the Shelf. Please can we kindly request that all of the mischievous 'home' elves that have been making their way into school, remain at home.

Thank you for your understanding.

THANK YOU!

DON'T FORGET TO POST YOUR XMAS CARDS!

in the HNTPS Xmas postbox!



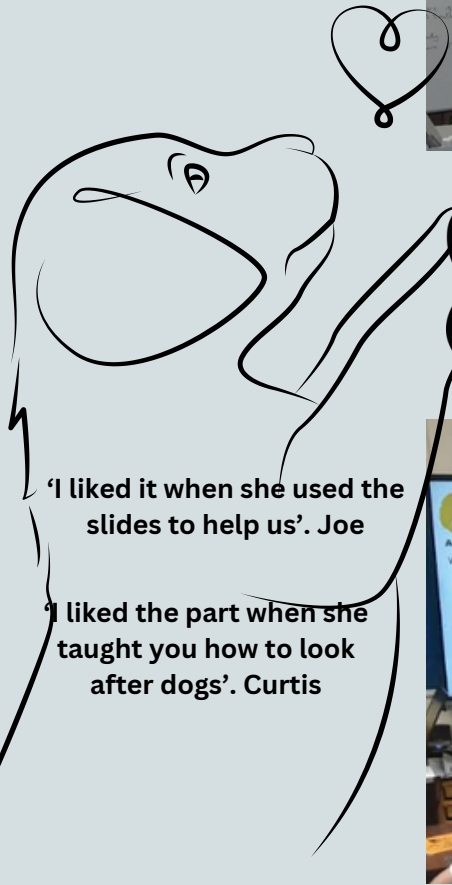
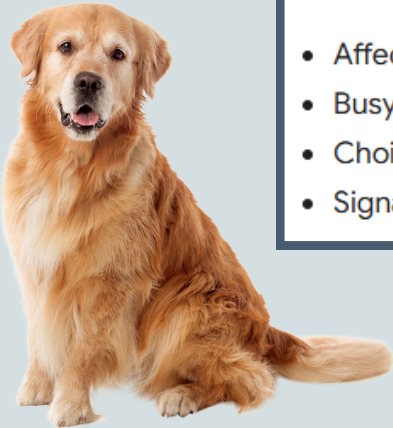


The Dogs' Trust Visit for Classes 2, 3 and 4 Friday 29th November 2024



Here is a summary of the ABCs and why they are important!

- Affection – Show dogs affection in ways that they understand.
- Busy – When dogs are busy, we give them space.
- Choice – At all times we should give our dogs choice.
- Signals – Recognise how dogs communicate using signals.



'The lady was really nice!' Jude

'I liked it when she used the slides to help us'. Joe

'I liked everything'. Imogen

'I liked the part when she taught you how to look after dogs'. Curtis



'I liked everything because it was really fun'. Elise



'I liked that she was joyful and helped us'. Seraphine



Pupil Learning Awards This Week

STAR LEARNER OF THE WEEK

THIS AWARD IS PRESENTED TO

Class 1	Ayda for careful observation in maths game
Class 2	Hugo for staying focused this week
Class 3	Willow for making fantastic connections with her mixed fraction learning
Class 4	Alfie for working well all week, well done!

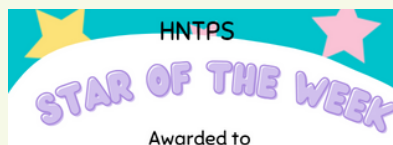


LEARNING BEHAVIOUR

THIS AWARD IS PRESENTED TO

MAKING LINKS

Class 1	Rocco for super cooperative play in construction
Class 2	Alasdair for showing great teamwork across your learning
Class 3	Hattie for carefully considering the thoughts and feelings of others
Class 4	Thomas B for showing great teamwork in your maths



HNTPS

STAR OF THE WEEK

Awarded to

Nursery	Alexander for trying really hard with his listening and sitting during circle time
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Bronze award
Alasdair (Class 2)



Silver award
Joe J (Class 2)



Lunch menu: W/C Monday 9th December 2024

Our meal price is £2.55 per day for Class 3 and 4 children. Classes 1 and 2 children qualify for Universal Free School Meal funding.

Jacket Potatoes with a choice of toppings are available every day.

Fresh fruit, salad & wholemeal bread are available daily. Gentle reminder: we are a nut free school.



Menu - Week 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meat/ Fish	Cod Fillets or Salmon Fishcakes	Chilli Beef Fajita	Cheese & Tomato Pizza Baguette	Roast Chicken	Hot Dog/Ham Roll
Vegetarian	Veggie Fingers/Filled Jacket Potatoes	Quorn Chilli/Filled Jacket Potato	Cheese or Tuna Wrap/Filled Jacket Potato	Quorn Chicken Fillet/Filled Jacket Potato	Cheese, Ham or Tuna Roll/Filled Jacket Potato
Side	Chips/Pasta/Baked Beans/Sweetcorn	Garlic Bread/Mixed Veg	Potato Wedges/Coleslaw	Roast Potatoes/Veg & Gravy	Garlic Potatoes/Fruit & Salad Selection
Dessert	Sprinkle Cake/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt	Scotch Pancakes & Strawberry Coulis/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt	Gingercake and Custard/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt	Ice Cream & Peaches/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt	Chocolate Cracknell/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt

Our Reading Baskets this week.....

have been awarded to:

Class 1 & 2: Curtis

Class 3 & 4: Isabelle F



Children who are awarded the reading basket will have the opportunity to take the basket home for the weekend and enjoy the range of lovely books, snugly blanket, hot chocolate and marshmallows with their family. We ask that the reading basket is returned to school on Tuesday so we can prepare the basket for the following weekend. The draw for the winners will take place each week in our celebration assembly which we invite our parents to join us for in Lovacott Gospel Hall at 9:00am.



FRIENDS OF HNTPS

Friends of HNTPS **Christmas Hampers**

Family Group Christmas Hampers have begun!!

DART - RED

TAW - GREEN

YEO - PURPLE

TORRIDGE - GOLD

We ask children to make a small prize donation in the colour allocated to their family group - e.g. food, drink, toiletries, Christmas items etc.

For each donation children will receive a raffle ticket to be in with a chance of winning their own mini hamper! Last date for donations will be

Friday 13th December

Raffle ticket books are being sent out in bookbags this week. Please return any ticket stubs & money to t Class Teachers in the mornings.

There is no obligation to purchase, therefore please return any unsold tickets to school as above.

Please return all tickets by

Friday 13th December.

Tickets will also be on sale at drop off & pick up times at school by FRIENDS volunteers from **Monday 2nd December** - payment by card will also be available for purchases over £5.

The Raffle Draw will take place on
Wednesday 18th December

Team Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies



Working in partnership with
 SWIMBRIDGE
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Life, Love and Learning to the Full

Part of **TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST**

APPLY NOW DIRECT WITH 

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

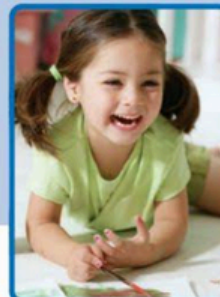
<https://www.teamacademytrust.com/vacancies> or <https://mynewterm.com>

Was your child born between
1st September 2020 and
31st August 2021?

How to Apply for a Primary School Place in Devon

You can apply online at
www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline
from 15th November 2024 to the 15th January 2025

If you cannot access the school
admissions website you can get
more information by calling our
Education Helpline on
0345 155 1019
or email: admissions@devon.gov.uk



Even if you have already given details
to a primary school, you must apply
for a place through the Admissions
Team. This is the only way to apply;
other forms or lists held by schools
will not count.

Devon
County Council 

Community Information

Any articles which appear in the school newsletter, that have not been organised by or on behalf of the school, have not been verified by TEAM Multi-Academy Trust as to the suitability for children. The news items are for parent information only.



Exciting festive events at Barnstaple Pannier Market!

Flourishing Barnstaple is delighted to bring festive cheer to the community with an incredible line-up of entertainment at the Barnstaple Pannier Market from Tuesday, 10 December to Saturday, 21 December. Here are two special events we think you'll love:

- **Teachers Rock Choir:** Friday, 13 December at 7pm – Be inspired by a fantastic choir performance from Teachers Rock, joined by their Academy Choir and the newly formed TRY Torridge Choir.
- **Kids Silent Disco:** Friday, 20 December at 6pm – A fun-filled event where children can dance to their heart's content with music, laughter, and festive vibes!



Lovacott Little Library
Your Community Honesty Library

THE FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH
from 2pm – 3pm in Lovacott Village Hall

MONDAY 4th NOVEMBER

SPONSORED BY
LOVACOTT MOTORS
OPEL GIBBS

There are also some books in Horwood and Newton Tracey churches, which will be rotated regularly. Both churches are open daily.

THE WOODCOTT PLAYERS
proudly announce their 2025 Panto...

Jay the Jiant

There will be three performances:
Saturday 22 March 2025 – afternoon and evening
Sunday 23 March 2025 – afternoon only

First read-through is on October 25 in The Hunters Inn, thereafter every Friday in November in the Village Hall from 7.30 to 9.00, before breaking for Christmas. We start up again on January 17, and will then meet every week through to the week of our performances.

We're always on the lookout for new people to join us, particularly children, so if you, and/or your children, would like to get involved
please contact Pat Ford on 07452 833222

LIBRARIES UNLIMITED TORRINGTON LIBRARY

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND NEWS
Join us in the children's library for these lovely activities and events.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS
We have all the Christmas children's books out! Board books for the little ones and lots of picture books including some classics, as well as craft books and stories for older children.

Saturday 7th December 10 - 12.30
SATURDAY CRAFTS - CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
Join us for a morning of festive making in the children's library.
Make a pretty light-catcher decoration and help us decorate the library Christmas tree.
FREE drop in event. Donations welcome.

Thursday 19th December 4pm
CHRISTMAS STORIES BY THE TREE
Join us in the children's library to hear some classic and new Christmas tales. Come along in your festive jumpers or pyjamas, and get cosy around the tree for the stories. Stay afterwards for Hot Chocolate and Gingerbread Men! FREE drop in event. Stories start at 4pm.

Pop in and see us soon. Everybody is very welcome!

Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information and events
01805 622107 | torrington.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

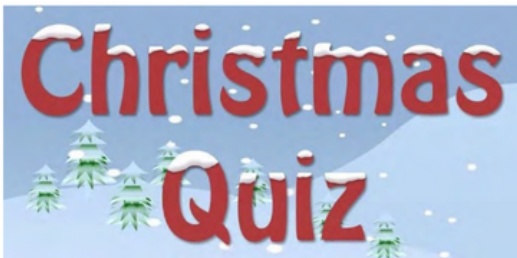


Parent / Carer Newsletter - December 2024

Each month we will share with you information, advice and top tips on a number of themes, as well as fun things that you and your family can do in and around Devon, and much more!

[Devon Family Hub Newsletter link - click here](#)

Alverdiscott Community Hall and Friends of All Saints Church



Saturday 7th December
7pm for 7:30pm

Teams of up to 6 people – £5 per head
Includes refreshments, with licensed bar

Book your place with Liz White 01271 858441 or bulworthy@aol.com

HAF CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY DAYS

Ofsted
DEVON HAF
Primary Sports and Education North Devon

DATES:
- MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER
- THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY
- FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY

STICKLEPATH COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

9.00AM - 1.00PM
Extended options available

5-11 YEAR OLDS

PRIMARY SPORTS & EDUCATION

HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK!
For More information, contact us :
north.devon@primary-sports.co.uk
www.primary-sports.co.uk
07531530131



BABY AND TODDLER STAY & PLAY

Held every Friday during term time at Little Learners, Newton Cross.

9.30am - 11.00am

These are free sessions giving children a chance to meet new friends and for parents to catch up.

Contact Lynda on 01271 858881 for more information



Spark's
FREE
SELF CARE WORKSHOPS

Mondays 5pm-7pm
YES Centre, The Strand, Barnstaple
Drop-in for 11-18yr olds

HOW TO SUPPORT YOURSELF DIGITAL DETOX
COMMUNICATION WHERE TO GO FOR HELP
HOBBIES COOKING TAKE A REST EXERCISE
EXPRESS YOURSELF

more info at sparkuk.co.uk
@sparkteens



FOUNDATION HUBS

TASTER SESSION 5 DECEMBER 2024
PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
EX32 9AX
5:30 - 7 PM

WEDNESDAYS
8 JANUARY - 5 FEBRUARY 2025
8 5 MARCH - 2 APRIL 2025
7PM - 9:30 PM

Open to all state school girls Years 6 - 10*
*Players in the Devon Cricket Performance Pathway are NOT eligible

Sign Up
For more information contact:
marlin.bellor@devoncricket.co.uk
01392 262509 / 07939 016663
or visit www.devoncricket.co.uk/hubs

NORTH DEVON GIRLS' HUB
VENUE
Pilton Community College
Chadford Ln
Barnstaple
EX31 1RB

WOMEN'S

DROP IN

Children welcome

"We amplify the voices that fight to be heard elsewhere"

An opportunity for women to access some support and make referrals to other services

Every other Wednesday 12-2pm
starting 18th September
Yeo Valley Hub (access via Sunflower Road)

Contact Brave Spaces: 01271 371499 or
bravespacesnd@encompass-sw.org.uk

Supported By:



HELPING WITH:
HOMELESSNESS
UNSTABLE HOUSING
TRAUMA & ANXIETY
EXPERIMENTATION
ADDICTION
SEX WORK
POOR MENTAL HEALTH

03300415493 for more info or follow QR codes

Year's 6+7 Girls Rugby

Barnstaple Rugby Club

Friday's @6:30pm

Rugby is a game for all shapes, sizes and abilities

We are a new, friendly and welcoming girl's team.
You can play with us even if you currently play for another team or club

No experience needed, just turn up and give it a go!

Info: barnstaplerugby@gmail.com for more information...
...or just turn up on Friday and play!



Christmas at Arlington Court

Opening times:
Open Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, 10am-4pm, from 16 November until 15 December.
Then open daily, 10am-3pm from 16 December to 5 January, excluding 24, 25 & 26 Dec

Experience Christmas at Arlington as never before. The house will be dressed to impress with each room themed on a Victorian Christmas carol, from ships sailing down the dining room table to sheep taking over the drawing room, an exciting display awaits in every room.

Evening openings

Thursday 5, 12 & 19 December, 10am- 7pm

Discover Arlington after dark, when the Christmas magic comes to life. Pick up a tasty festive treat from the tea-room, take part in family crafts or browse a selection of artworks and gifts from local artists in the Activity Room.

Last entry to the house is 6:30pm. Tickets cost £8 for adults and £4 for children, members can enter for free and pre booking not required.



WICKETZ

STARTING SEPTEMBER 25

Free Cricket Sessions

OPEN TO BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 8-16 OF ALL ABILITIES

COME ALONG TO YOUR LOCAL WICKETZ HUB FOR FUN CRICKET GAMES, ACTIVITIES AND COACHING!

Pilton Community College, Barnstaple EX31 1RB
Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm

CONTACT
Damian Price
damian.price@devoncricket.co.uk

www.devoncricket.co.uk/wicketz