This week's whole school attendance rate is:
97%

Enabling children to be the best that they can be!

HORWOOD AND NEWTON TRACEY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 14th November 2025

Dear parents and carers,

This week in our whole school assembly we explored the resilience shown by all those who had sacrificed their lives for others during the war. We talked about the significance of poppies and why we wear them and how the children had been involved in many parades last Sunday with their scouts and beavers' groups. The children conducted themselves beautifully in our remembrance service in the Gospel Hall on Tuesday morning, their prayers, poems and singing were beautiful and demonstrated respect throughout the school. A huge thank you to those parents who came along to join us for our 2 minutes silence on Tuesday.

Book and Biscuit Session

We would like to invite all our parents to our first book and biscuit of the year. The children are excited to share their maths books with you and discuss the learning they have been doing in class. Please do come along on Wednesday 26th November from 2:24-3:30pm to find out what your child has been learning in maths and how you can best support them at home.

Time tables Rock Stars

Thank you to those year 4 parents who came along to our parents' information session this week regarding the multiplication check for year 4 in June 2026. This week the children in class 3 have been given log in details to access TTRS at school and at home. Mrs Dorrell has been using the program to access what the children already know and the times tables they need to work on. The log in details will be shared with parents so that children can continue to practice at home and at school.

Children in Need

Our School Council group were busy producing an abundance of rice crispy cakes for the children to enjoy for Children in Need. They also had a range of games and activities for the children to participate in during their lunchtime. A big well done to our school council team for putting their great ideas into practice to make it an enjoyable day for everyone! A massive thank you to our parents for their generous donations too. We hope to share more details from the school council in next week's newsletter.

Changes to Lunchtimes

With the weather changing (and mostly being wet) we have taken time to reflect on how our lunchtime play is organised and structured. Staff have come together to share their ideas, and from Monday we will be introducing a staggered lunchtime for all year groups to enable children to have more space on the playground. This will provide the space for the children to play with our new equipment purchased by the sports leaders at the end of last year. We will try, when possible to bring children to the field, weather dependent, so please can we ask that all children have a pair of named wellies that can be kept at school for them to change into. The new structure and timetable have been shared with the children in an assembly this afternoon in preparation for Monday.

New Reception Places for September 2026

On Thursday evening I attended St Michael's Nursery open evening for parents seeking information about reception places for next September. If you do have friends or family who have children ready to start school next year, please encourage them to come along to our open morning and afternoons over the next couple of weeks, to look around the school, meet the children and the staff. Our sessions are:

Wednesday 19th November	2-2:30pm or 2:30-3pm
Tuesday 25th November	11-11:30am or 11:30-12pm

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Cook

What's on...?

W/C 17th November 2025

Monday	• Breakfast Club: 7.45am or 8.25am session - sign up on Arbor to book a place • Class 4: PE • Football After-School Club: 3.30pm to 4.30pm • After-school wrap-around care club sessions - sign up on Arbor to book a place
Tuesday	• Breakfast Club: 7.45am or 8.25am session - sign up on Arbor to book a place • Year 6 Forest School • Year 3 & 4 PE • Xmas Craft After-School Club: 3:30pm to 4:30pm • Ring Games After-School Club: 3:30pm to 4:30pm • After-school wrap-around care club sessions - sign up on Arbor to book a place
Wednesday	• Breakfast Club: 7.45am or 8.25am session - sign up on Arbor to book a place • Class 2: PE (please come to school in PE kits) • Reception Open Day • After-school wrap-around care club sessions - sign up on Arbor to book a place
Thursday	• Breakfast Club: 7.45am or 8.25am session - sign up on Arbor to book a place • Reception and Nursery: Forest School • Class 2: PE (please come to school in PE kits) • Year 6: Swimming • After-school wrap-around care club sessions - sign up on Arbor to book a place
Friday	• Breakfast Club: 7.45am or 8.25am session - sign up on Arbor to book a place • Tempest Photography (individual portraits) - if you would like sibling photos, please take your children to village hall at 8.30am • NO CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK • Reception and Nursery: PE • After-school wrap-around care club sessions - sign up on Arbor to book a place

Future dates for your diary....

25th November	Reception 2026 intake OPEN DAY 11.00am to 11:30am or 11:30am to 12:00pm
26th November	Flu Immunisation Team in school
26th November	Book and Biscuit Event with a focus on maths. All parents and carers are welcome to attend from 3.00pm
9th December	Nursery and Class 1 (only) : Nativity Performance at 1.30pm
10th December	Nursery and Class 1: Nativity Performance at 9.00am Class 2: Xmas Performance at 10.00am, following Nursery & Class 1 performance Class 2 (only) Xmas Performance at 5.00pm
11th December	Friends Christmas Fair with Santa's Grotto in the Village Hall at 3.30pm
16th December	Rescheduled Netball club session - in place of cancelled 11/11/2025 session
17th December	Christmas Jumper Day, including Christmas Dinner and a special visit from Santa and his Elf
19th December	Christmas Party Lunch - party clothes
16th January	Class 3 trip to the Roman Baths

Admissions policy for 2027-28: Annual Consultation

Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2027-28. The Local Authority is also consulting on its arrangements – the admissions schemes through which you can apply. You are invited to look at the proposal new policies which are based on policies for this year and next year and to have your say on them.

Our proposed policy is on our admission page and you can see all policies at http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy Further information is here: www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements

The consultation runs between 1 November and 16 January 2026.

Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March 2026 next year. You can comment at schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk or by emailing the school.

No changes are being proposed.

What have we been learning in class this week?

Foundation Stage Class (Nursery & Class 1)

This week the foundation stage class have been exploring space. We have our own space station and we are learning about our solar system by building a super big floor puzzle. In our art area we have made our version of "Starry Night" by Van Gogh.

Class 2

This week in class 2 we have been exploring missing number problems and using our understanding of our part-part whole models to demonstrate our understanding and support us to write our addition and subtraction calculations for the problem. The children have also been creating their own worded problems for others to solve. We have started learning the songs for our Christmas performance and been reading through our scripts. Information about costumes will be shared with parents next week!

Class 3

We have been very busy this week exploring life in a Roman villa and the role that Gladiators played in Roman times. In maths we have been learning column addition and in literacy we have been writing character descriptions based on our text ‘Seen but not Heard’ Today we are beginning to construct our Roman villas in the style of Antoni Gaudi.

Class 4

This week class 4 explored making music online using the Devon music hub. In particular, we were looking at the hip-hop genre of music and trying to make a beat in that style. The children explored layering different instruments and listened to our creations to see what they would sound like.

We have also been exploring space in science and learning about all of the planets. We've even written our own mnemonic to remember them:
My Very Excited Monster Just Said Umbrella Now - Bella W

Martial Arts' Workshops for Classes 1, 2, 3 and 4
Monday 10th November 2025

I thought it was really good. I liked when we had to jump over the swords and duck so we didn't get bashed on the head. Theo N

I liked it when he was making us jump over the red stick! Darcey

I liked playing musical statues. Emilia

I liked it because when we were playing granny's footsteps we had to do different poses: The Snake, The Mantis, The Horse and The Crane. Abel

I thought it was really fun. The instructor taught us some helpful self-defence techniques. Elise

I liked doing all of the poses and when you had to put your hand up to block an attacker. Max

as very cool especially when he used the nunchucks. Remi

I loved the music. Maddie

I liked jumping over the red stick. Adam

I enjoyed martial arts - the man was fun. I enjoyed the games and doing all the poses. Edie

I liked it when Richard was waving the blue stick above my head! Dolly

I liked learning all the different poses and playing the fire and ice game. I think I would like to try a club! Ayden

Remembrance Day 2025

Tuesday 11th November 2025

Theo N: I loved the two minute silence because it was very peaceful in the chapel.

Curtis: I liked the two minute silence - it helped me remember everyone who died in the war.

Bella W: There was a two minute silence to remember all the soldiers.

Elise: I liked the song that we did - it had 4 different parts and each class sung one of the parts.

Charlie W: I liked the bit where Mrs Cook said a few words and Imogen read out the 'In Flanders' poem.

Louis: It helped me to remember all my family members who got lost in the war.

Pupil Learning Awards This Week

STAR LEARNER OF THE WEEK

THIS AWARD IS PRESENTED TO

Nursery/ Class 1	Harper-Leigh for amazing sentence writing in literacy.
Class 2	Kara for fantastic contributions to whole class discussions and completing her learning with great focus.
Class 3	Nico for being ready to learn and very helpful to others.
Class 4	Oscar for a lovely piece of writing this week.

LEARNING BEHAVIOUR

THIS AWARD IS PRESENTED TO

Nursery/ Class 1	Alexander for being so persistent working on and completing the 60 piece 'Our Galaxy' floor puzzle of the Solar System.
Class 2	Rocco for continuing to demonstrate fantastic listening and managing distractions on the carpet.
Class 3	Daniel for not giving up and taking risks in Maths.
Class 4	Sofia for working well all week and not giving up!
Reading Basket - KS1	Charlie C
Reading Basket - KS2	Emily

50 Dojo points

Jude, Lilian, Harper, Ronnie T, Teddy, Nico, Hugo,

100 Dojo points

Penelope, Clara, Ayda, Morwenna, Martha, Laith, Kara, Aiden, Flo, William, Nancy, Blake, Amon, Austin, Reemy, Wilfred, Elise, Isabelle, Reuben, Ayden, Isaac, Louis

200 Dojo points

Bella G,

Lunch menu: W/C Monday 17th November 2025

Our meal price is £2.58 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.

03/11, 17/10, 01/12

Menu - Week 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meat/ Fish	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fishcakes	Sweet Chilli Fajitas	Cheesy Wheels	Roast Gammon	Ham Panini/Ham Roll
Vegetarian	Veggie Fish Fingers/Filled Jacket Potato	Quorn Fajitas/Filled Jacket Potato	Cheese/Tuna Wrap or Filled Jacket Potato	Veggie Burger/Filled Jacket Potato	Cheese or Tuna Roll/Filled Jacket Potato
Side	Chips/Pasta/ Baked Beans/ Peas	Garlic Bread, Mixed Vegetables	Potato Wedges and Sweetcorn	Roast Potatoes/ Vegetables/ Gravy	Garlic Potatoes, Fruit and Mixed Vegetables
Dessert	Chocolate Cake & Chocolate Sauce/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt	Oat Crunchie/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt	Fruit Crumble and Custard/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt	Peaches and Ice Cream/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt	Australian Crunch/Fruit Bowl/Yoghurt

HNTPS History Corner - taken from our Headteacher log books over the years

16th April 1943

5 children took advantage of this week's exemption from school for potato planting or other seasonal farm work.

11th May 1943

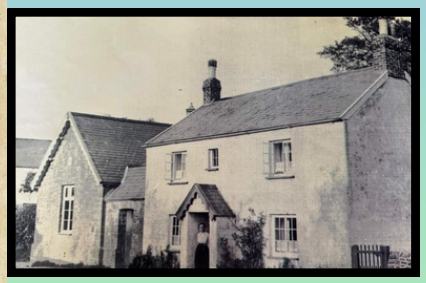
Rev. C.S. Powell called this a.m. with the chain for the drinking mug to be attached to water tap in playground.

29th January 1947

Snowy conditions today - only 5 children in school, lessons as usual.

30th January 1947

Still snow covered roads. Only one child present so afternoon school abandoned.



FRIENDS OF HNTPS

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

11 DECEMBER 2025

LOVACOTT VILLAGE HALL

Join us for a festive celebration to include:

Santa Visit Experience
Make your own reindeer food
Decorate biscuits
Teddy Tombola
Make your own Christmas decoration
Temporary tattoos

Refreshments available - Cash Donations

£5 PER CHILD

Booking details to follow

WANTED

Christmas Decorations

Do you have any unwanted Christmas decorations you no longer use or need?

I'm looking for donations of anything festive from Christmas trees, baubles, lights and even tinsel, or other decorations in the hope this helps bring some holiday cheer to families within your child's school and across the Trust.

Some of our families are facing difficult times and for many, Christmas can be a stressful and challenging time which can then affect our parents' and children's mental health. My aim is for us to help ease that burden and bring a little joy into their homes to make the festive time a little more comfortable and enjoyable and I am hoping with your support we can all do our bit for our families in need.

I'm sure many of us have decorations tucked away in the attic that we no longer use perhaps because we've changed our colour scheme or theme or just no longer need. If you're able to donate any of these items, it would make a real difference to some.

If these donations can be brought in as soon as possible to the school office and I will then pop around all schools and collect all bits donated. I will then box up some of these bits and deliver them to our families in need.

Thank you so much for your support and your generosity towards this situation.

Between us all let's make a difference to someone this Christmas.

Carrie-Anne Sprenger

TEAM Family Support Worker

Community News...

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.

Welcome to

LOVACOTT GOSPEL HALL

Sunday Morning Service at 11am

Taking of Bread & Wine and Gospel Message

For any other Meetings please contact Trevor Milton on 858665

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

FRIENDS OF HNTPS

We have a new Facebook Page!!!

Like and Follow our page for updates on events and news:-

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61581474455176

We have welcomed some lovely new faces to our fundraising group this week - but continue to look for more volunteers.
For more info contact Lisa :-

friendsofhntps@gmail.com
07720277077

Be a part of ...

Horwood and Newton Tracey Primary School

"Life, Love, and Learning to the Full"

OPEN DAYS For Reception 2026 Intake

Wednesday 19th November
2:00pm-2:30pm
2:30pm - 3:00pm

Tuesday 25th November
11:00am - 11:30am
11:30am - 12:00pm

Call or email the school office to book a time slot:
01271 58373/admin@hntps.org

Apply for a primary school place

Was your child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022?

Apply online at:
devon.cc/admissionsonline
or scan the QR code. Applications open from **15 November 2025** to the **15 January 2026**

If you can't access the school admissions website you can get more information by emailing **admissions@devon.gov.uk** or call our Education Helpline on:
0345 155 1019

You must apply through the Admissions Team, even if you've already given details to a school. Applications made directly to schools or on their lists will not be accepted.

Devon County Council

Saturday 29 November 2025 11am- 12.30pm

WINTER TALES AND WILD WOOD WONDERS

with CLAIRE BARKER

AUTHOR OF KNITBONE PEPPER AND PICKLEWITCH AND JACK

Calling all young hedgewitches, boys and girls..

You're invited to a magical seasonal event with author Claire Barker. She will be telling some of Hettie Nettle's stories for us and introducing her latest novel, 'Hettie Nettle's Handbook for Hedgewitches'.

Books will be available to purchase at the event.

FREE DROP-IN
TORRINGTON LIBRARY
Suitable for 6 to 11 year olds

TEAM Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies

Life, Love and Learning to the Full

Part of TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

APPLY NOW DIRECT WITH mynewterm

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

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

Trustee with Financial Expertise

EDV/2025/TMT/20736

Team Multi-Academy Trust

TEAM Multi Academy Trust are seeking a Trustee with Financial Expertise – Help Shape the Future of Education in North Devon

Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU
Permanent | Part-Time
£ Voluntary

55 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Wednesday 31st Dec, 2025

Meal Time Assistant

EDV/2025/UPA/14675

Umberleigh Primary Academy

The appointed person will work as part of a team of Meal Time Assistants managed by the Head of School. In-service training will be provided where appropriate.

Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD
Permanent | Part-Time
£ £12.65 Hourly
3 Hours per week| (12PM – 1PM TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY EACH DAY)

New • Apply by Midday, Friday 28th Nov, 2025 • Job start: ASAP

SPECIALIST TEACHING ASSISTANT

EDV/2025/BCPS/19692

Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

We're looking for a caring, motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our school community and play a key role in supporting our pupils' learning and development.

Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ
Fixed Term | Full-Time
£ £13.90 Hourly
Grade D | 30 hours per week (08:30AM – 3:30PM MONDAY – FRIDAY) | We understand that availability varies, if you're only able to only commit to a few days per week, we're open to appointing two candidates to share the role.

15 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Friday 28th Nov, 2025 • Job start: ASAP

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEVELOPING HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS

Quality sleep is paramount for wellbeing as it impacts our cognitive function, emotional balance and overall health. A World Health Organisation study highlighted that **44%** of young people reported difficulty sleeping – potentially affecting their mood, concentration and immune system. Our guide offers expert tips for helping children to sleep more healthily.

1 MINDFUL TECH USE

Encourage a balanced approach to screen time. While phones, laptops, tablets and so on can serve as a helpful means of stress relief, it's advisable to minimise their use right before bed. These devices can keep the mind racing long after they're switched off, impacting how easily and how well a person can sleep.

2 EFFECTIVE SLEEP PRACTICES

Offer practical advice on reinforcing certain habits that have a positive influence on sleeping patterns. Children could start keeping a diary which they add to each evening, for example – or they could use up excess energy by exercising during the day.

3 HYDRATION HABITS

Underline the importance of drinking plenty of water throughout the day, while limiting drinks close to bedtime to prevent disruptions during the night: it's a lot harder to switch off if you keep needing to get out of bed for the toilet. Avoiding caffeinated drinks later in the day also allows the body and brain to slow down naturally, without any chemicals firing them back up.

4 CONSISTENT BEDTIME SCHEDULE

Assist children in developing consistent bedtime routines that tell the body it's time to wind down, promoting a more relaxed state. Establish specific activities for young ones right before going to bed – such as brushing their teeth – to set up an association between that action and falling asleep.

5 OPTIMAL SLEEP ENVIRONMENT

Ensure that the bedroom is comfortable, dark and free from distractions, fostering an ideal space for quality rest. The room's temperature should also be suitable for sleeping – that is, not too hot and not too cold – while rooms should be kept as tidy and free of clutter as possible.

6 RELAXING EVENING ACTIVITIES

Recommend activities that have a calming effect on the mind – such as reading or gentle stretching – in the lead up to bedtime, to prepare the mind for a peaceful night's sleep. Doing something quiet, relaxing and low intensity signals to the brain that it's time to rest and makes falling asleep much easier.

7 PRIORITISING ADEQUATE SLEEP

Emphasise the crucial role of sleep in maintaining physical and emotional wellbeing. It's especially important to sustain a healthy sleep pattern during challenging and intensive periods in our lives: during the exam season for children and young people, for instance.

8 NUTRITIONAL BALANCE

Highlight the significance of a healthy, balanced diet – and its role in establishing a more consistent sleep pattern. Try to lean towards preparing meals with plenty of fruit and vegetables, served in reasonable portion sizes: not only is this a lot healthier, but it also reduces the chances of feeling too full to be comfortable in bed.

9 PARENTAL SUPPORT

Parents and carers, of course, are uniquely situated to support their children in establishing and maintaining healthy sleeping habits. Parents can review their own sleep habits (incorporating anything from this list that they don't do already) to model a balanced bedtime routine and reinforce the importance of self-care.

10 MILITARY SLEEP METHOD

Look up 'the military sleep method': it's a technique for falling asleep quickly, which incorporates deep breathing exercises. You could encourage children to try it or even use it yourself. While it can take a good deal of practice to perfect, eventually it will start to feel natural – and the results are often extremely impressive!

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. Winner of the Social Enterprise UK 'One to Watch' award, the charity provides training and support to education organisations and local authorities. This guide has been written by Adam Gillett – a learning and development specialist who is also Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at a large secondary school.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

@wake_up_weds /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

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