

Friday 24th October 2025

Dear Parents

What a half term! It's been longer than usual, and I know the children have been tired this week, but they have settled into the new school year admirably. It's been so nice to have parent consultations this week and to see how supportive you've all been. Like the children, the staff are also feeling the effects of a busy half term, and your kind words at parents' evening have lifted us all. Thank you for recognising the hard work of the staff in supporting your children, and for raising any issues or concerns politely and constructively. What better way to round off the half term than with the Friends of Beaford Halloween Disco! I'm looking forward to seeing all the children's costumes tonight — and I'll be awarding bonus points to any parents who dress up too!

Early Years Grant

There is a government grant available for schools to increase their Early years provision. I've discussed this with the governors, trust, staff and Devon Early years team and we all feel this would improve our offer to our current children by providing more places and space for 2 year olds. Should our application be successful, it would mean we are able to have space on site to care for children from 9 months+. Our Early years was rated outstanding by Ofsted and Torridge is one of the worst places in the country for early years spaces for children so we felt that this was a step that would serve our community and improve the school. Attached to this newsletter are details about the consultation period and how you can share your views on the proposal.

Wraparound Care

Thank you to all those that responded to my survey on wraparound care for Nursery children. I have been exploring different options this week to see how we can increase our offer to include Nursery children in breakfast club but unfortunately at this current time there is no capacity without a big overhaul to our current offer. Should our application for the EYFS grant be approved we would extend the current EYFS building to include another room and it would likely give us the capacity to be able to provide wraparound care for younger children.

Fidgets and Toys

You'll also find attached to this newsletter a message on fidgets and toys. This is to provide clarity to the children and parents that they're not to be brought into school and also to free up staff time from having to resolve issues around toys being brought in from home.

This Week

Pumpkin Carving Competition

We had so many incredible entries to this year's pumpkin carving competition. This year, it was free to enter, as both myself and the Friends of Beaford feel it's important to have some events that are purely about engaging the children and creating opportunities for families to come together. Awarding the prizes was no easy task! The ambassadors shortlisted entries from each class, and from those, I chose the winners. Thank you to the Friends of Beaford for donating the prizes, and congratulations to the winning entries:

- Ladybirds – Honey
- Hedgehogs – Una
- Otters – Rose
- Owls – Alice

Gardening

The ambassadors were also busy this week sorting out the class planters. They worked with children from across the school to weed the beds and plant bulbs ready for the spring term. A big thank you also to our governor, Victoria Hodder, for coming in to volunteer and lead the gardening activity.

Otters' Assembly

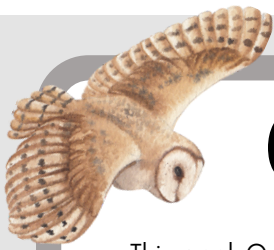
I was blown away by the Otters' class assembly on the Romans. They put so much effort into every aspect of their performance and taught us all about life in Roman times. Thank you to everyone who came along - I know how hard it can be to juggle work and other commitments, and I'm sure those who couldn't attend would have loved to see it. The next class assembly will be Hedgehogs on the 14th November.

Thank you all for your support this half term.

Have a wonderful break - and I'll see many of you at the Disco tonight!

Mr Myers





Owls

This week Owls have been writing their reports from Watson to Sherlock Holmes about the suspicious items and acts they have noticed at Baskerville Hall. They have really impressed us with their formal language and features such as relative clauses to give extra information. In science, we made playdough which later used in our water resistance investigations where we explored how the shape of the playdough changes the way it moves through the water and thought about the reasons for this. In maths, we focused on arithmetic and continuing to work on times-tables recall.



Otters

Otters have put in a fantastic effort this half term and even over the course of a few weeks it has been possible to see amazing progress. All the children should be extremely proud of their efforts this half term. The year 3s have stepped up brilliantly to the new class and the year 4s have shown maturity and leadership. There has been hard thinking, hard work and also a fair amount of fun. We are all looking forward to a good break before returning for next half term for more learning. Mr Wright, Zenna and Jo are very proud of the performance of all the children at the class assembly. Well done Otters for a fantastic half term!

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs have learned about Diwali this week. They have read information, looked at photographs and watched videos about the Hindu festival. The children have retained lots of interesting facts and have made rangoli patterns with shapes. The children were able to think about the similarities between the festivals that we celebrate. The children have been assessed in Read Write Inc. this week and it has been an absolute joy to see the progress that has been made. The children have been composing creative writing pieces on dinosaurs and monsters this week. Well done on all of your efforts Hedgehogs!

Ladybirds

What a wonderful week we've had in Reception! Our story of the week was 'Where's My Teddy?', which had everyone joining in with actions, voices, and lots of laughter as we helped Eddie find his lost teddy. In phonics, we reviewed the sounds we've learned so far and practised reading simple words during Word Time lessons. The highlight of the week was learning all about Diwali, the Festival of Light. The children loved making their own Diya lamps from clay and exploring colourful rangoli patterns with rice. We ended the week with some creative Halloween fun making wonderful cards for the children's families. It's been a busy, creative, and colourful week full of storytelling, celebration, and fun!





CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE



This week awarded to

<i>Ladybirds</i>	<i>This is a special week because the whole class has received the celebration award for a wonderful first half term. Well done everyone for your incredible determination and progress, we are very proud of you all.</i>
<i>Hedgehogs</i>	<i>Benji for working really hard to present his work clearly and neatly and for taking pride in his learning.</i>
<i>Otters</i>	<i>Charlie for his effort and progress in his writing and maths this half term. Charlie listens hard, thinks hard and works hard to do his best writing. He has taken his maths to the next level and should be very proud of his efforts. Well done Charlie!</i>
<i>Owls</i>	<i>Lily for working so hard on her presentation in her English book. Lily wrote an absolutely fantastic report to Sherlock Holmes this week and we could see such a difference in her handwriting! Well done Lily!</i>

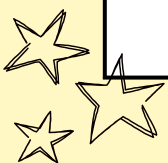
Contribution Certificates

Awarded to

<i>Ladybirds</i>	<i>Rosie for brilliant tidying after Opal play. It's great to see you setting such a wonderful example to the other ladybird children, Rosie. Well done!</i>
<i>Hedgehogs</i>	<i>Phoebe for always being kind, helpful and aiming for our class to be the best that it can be.</i>
<i>Otters</i>	<i>Benji for his fantastic home learning effort this half term. Benji has made links between his home learning and his learning in school and this has helped him to produce some excellent writing. Well done Benji!</i>
<i>Owls</i>	<i>Kit for his positivity to his peers during learning this week. Kit is fantastic at recognising other children's achievements and praising them for this which really helps to build a positive classroom. Thank you Kit.</i>

Special Mentions

Ella and Rala, for helping Mr Wright prepare books for parent meetings in their lunchtime. Thank you!



Friends of Beaford WhatsApp Group

If you would like to join the school PTA What's App group please send a message to Sam on 07891 183 650 and she will happily add you.

This group will allow you to stay in the loop with events and will provide other organised PTA information.



We are excited to let you know that Zenna will be holding an Art Club after the half term break for our children in Key Stage 2.

This club will be held on Wednesday afternoons between 3.30pm - 4.30pm and will start on 5th November and finish on the 10th December.

Please sign up through your Arbor account from 7pm this evening.

Bike Donation

If you have an adult-sized bike in good condition that you no longer use, please consider donating it to the school. It will be put to great use to accompany our SEN children while they are cycling.

Donations can be brought to the school office.

Fidgets and Toys

After half-term, we ask that children do not bring fidgets or toys into school.

Where a fidget is needed for learning or focus, it will be provided by the school at the teacher's discretion.

Comfort toys and personal items from home should also stay at home, as we have plenty of resources in school to help children feel settled.

This change helps us maintain a calm, focused environment and avoid lost or damaged items.

Thank you for your support and understanding.



Now that the Autumn term is half way through, we have managed to acquire a large amount of lost property!

We would be very grateful if you could spare a moment to come and have a look through our lost property items in the reception area and retrieve any of your children's belongings.

All lost property will be donated to the Friends of Beaford for resale at the end of the Autumn Term.

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 [Add a little bit of body text](#) Further information is here:

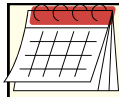
www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements

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.



DATES

for your diary

27th October

First Day of Half Term

4th November

Lego Club starts

5th November

Cross Country at High Bickington

12th November

Nursery School Starters and Reception to RHS Rosemoor

13th November

Year 1,2 & 3 Football Club starts

14th November

Hedgehogs Assembly

18th November

Flu Immunisations

2nd December

No Lego Club this week

10th December

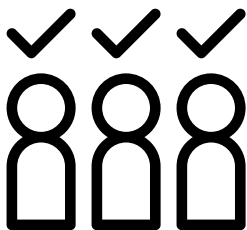
Nursery & Reception Christmas Nativity

11th December

Christmas Play

Attendance

This Week



Reception - 95%
Hedgehogs - 96%
Otters - 98%
Owls - 96%

Support for Parents of SEND Children

We wanted to share a helpful resource for families of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The TTS SEND Family Support website offers:

- Step-by-step guides for parents and carers
 - Signposting to a range of support services
 - 30% off SEND resources to support learning at home
- You can explore these resources here:

[TTS SEND Family Support](#)

It's a great place to find ideas and guidance to help you support your child's learning and wellbeing at home.



Year 6 Secondary School Applications

A reminder to our Year 6 parents that it is time to apply for your child's secondary school placement.

The application period began on September 1st and will end on October 31st.

To secure a place at their preferred school, it is strongly encouraged to begin the application process promptly.

All necessary information and the application submission can be accessed via the following link: [Devon School Admissions](#).

The Application Deadline is the 31st October
National Offer Day is on the 2nd of March, when you will be informed of your child's allocated school.

For any questions or assistance needed, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Wrap-around Care

Breakfast Club

Available every day from 8:00am – 9.00am

8:00am sessions are charged at £3 per session (Pupil Premium: £2 per session)

Free Breakfast Club is available from 8:30am onwards

After School Club

Running Monday to Thursday from 3:30pm – 5:00pm

Sessions charged at £4 per session (Pupil Premium: 50% discount)



PE Days

Monday - Ladybirds **Tuesday** - Owls

Wednesday - Otters **Thursday** - Hedgehogs

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Arbor House-Keeping

It's time for a little housekeeping!

Please can all parents and carers log into Arbor to:

Check and update your contact details, please review the following and update anything that may have changed:

- Home address - have you moved and forgotten to give the office your new address?
- Mobile & home telephone numbers
 - Emergency contacts
- Medical conditions and allergies

If you have any questions, please contact the school office. Thank you.

Snacks

Please remember that only healthy, nut-free snacks are allowed in school. This supports student wellbeing and helps protect children with severe nut allergies.

Allowed Snacks:

Fresh fruit or vegetables
Cheese sticks
Yogurt
Nut-free granola bars
Crackers or pretzels
Plain popcorn

Not Allowed:

Any snacks containing nuts or nut products
Crisps
Chocolate bars or sweets

Menu

Monday

Sausage Rolls
V – Vegetarian Sausage Roll
Potato Wedges, Baked Beans and Sweetcorn Sorbet

Tuesday

Corned Beef Hash
V – Cheese and Broccoli Bake
Cubed Potatoes, Seasonal Veg
Fruit Jelly

Wednesday

Roast Chicken
V – Quorn Bites
Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Veg
Doughnut and fruit slices

Thursday

Homemade Pizza
V – Homemade Vegetarian Pizza
Rice 'n' peas and Corn, Ginger Cake and Custard

Friday

Fish Fingers
V – Cheese Wheel
Golden Fries and Seasonal Veg
Shortbread Biscuit

Children in Reception, Year 1 & 2 receive Free School Meals

Don't forget we're a nut free school!

Owl's Race Day Experience

On Tuesday, the Owls Class enjoyed an exciting and educational trip to Exeter Racecourse. The day was full of hands-on activities that gave pupils a fascinating look into the world of horse racing.



After a health and safety briefing, the class split into groups to explore different areas of the racecourse. In the Weighing Room, pupils learned how jockeys prepare and why weight matters. The Parade Ring showed how horses are presented and race tactics discussed, while the Final Furlong highlighted how horses are trained and cared for.

Following lunch, the children learned how to read a racecard, before gathering to watch live racing – the highlight of the day!

It was a fantastic day of learning and fun at Exeter Racecourse.

Part of TEAM Multi Academy Trust





Team Trust Vacancies

Apply now direct with my  **newterm**

If you're interested in joining our team we currently have vacancies across the TEAM Trust.

Please click on the link below to find out more...

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



Specialist SEND Teaching Assistant



Beaford Primary

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.



Trustee with Financial Expertise

Board of Trustees

We are seeking someone with financial expertise. You do not need previous experience in education, just a commitment to our vision and values.

Cover Supervisor



Witheridge Primary

We are seeking an enthusiastic and committed individual to join our team, working closely with class teachers to support pupils in engaging meaningfully with their learning. The successful candidate will also provide classroom cover during teacher absence and PPA sessions.

Cleaner



Pilton Bluecoat


The appointed person will be managed by the Premises Manager and Head of School. In service training will be provided where appropriate.

Cleaner



Pilton infants


The appointed person will be managed by the Premises Manager and Head of School. In service training will be provided where appropriate.



SEND 1:1 Teaching assistant

Horwood and Newton Tracey

The appointed person will work in close partnership with the relevant class teachers and will help to support 2 children in year 3 to supervise throughout the day.



SEND 1:1 Teaching assistant

Pilton Infants

The appointed person will work in close partnership with the relevant class teachers and will help to support children with SEN



Community News and Events



FREE

GIRLS ONLY HOLIDAY CLUB



SPONSORED BY GARAGE PRO AUTOMATIVE LIMITED




FREE

Tarka 3G, Barnstaple
Monday 27th 10am - 1pm

SPONSORED BY GARAGE PRO AUTOMATIVE LIMITED

SCAN ME



FREE

Kingsley School 3G, Bideford
Tuesday 27th 10am - 1pm

SPONSORED BY GARAGE PRO AUTOMATIVE LIMITED

SCAN ME



School holidays adding to your energy costs?



Our energy team can help

citizens
advice

Torrige, North,
Mid & West Devon

Call us on **01237 879 233** to see if you're eligible for help with fuel vouchers and grants, and to receive tips on how to cut your bills



FREE OR

Spread Kindness, Pay It Forward

LEGO Workshop

31st Oct

Bideford – Juniper Room
Library

3:15 – 5:15

Stemengineering
With Nick





STEMGINEERING WITH NICK

Learning Growing Connecting Through Play

WE USE LEGO® TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER




HATHERLEIGH
• COMMUNITY •
MARKET

LEGO FEST

30TH OCT - 10:00 TO 4:00

FOLLOW ME ON FACEBOOK - @STEMGINEERINGWITHNICK