

Dear Parents

This week Christmas fever has properly hit Beaford...

In Monday's assembly we explored the origins of winter festivals linked to the solstice and the importance of Christmas to Christians. I challenged the children to give the gifts of Joy, Love, Peace and Hope to others this Christmas. So if you notice any unusually enthusiastic helpers at home this week - I'm claiming the credit!

We also talked about our Beaford Christmas traditions. The tree is up in the hallway, and children have made decorations for it and their classrooms. Posty the Snowman has also returned to the entrance hall. The children can post their Christmas cards in his box, and the Owls will deliver them on Friday afternoons.

Christmas plays next week

On Wednesday 10th December at 2pm, the Nursery school starters and Reception children will perform a classic nativity at Beaford Church.

On Thursday 11th December, Year 1 to Year 6 will perform their Christmas play at 2pm and again at 5pm in the Village Hall.

If you wish, you can leave your child at school for free between 3:30 and 5pm and meet us at the Village Hall for the evening performance. If you choose this option, please send them in with a packed dinner. Use the form in [This Link](#) provided to let us know if your child will be staying at school on Thursday 11th.

EYFS expansion grant bid unsuccessful

Unfortunately, we cannot proceed with our EYFS expansion grant application because Devon County Council have not supported it. We had very positive discussions with Devon CC while drafting the proposal, but they have decided not to support it in this round of applications. We will look at applying again in the next round and hope we can demonstrate that this is something Beaford and the surrounding area needs.

Even if our next bid is successful, the timeframe needed to build and staff the

additional space means that changing our age range will not be possible until at least September 2027.

Next week

Rev Ally will be in on Monday to make Christingles with the Ladybirds, and on Tuesday I will be interviewing candidates for our new SEN support role.

Teachers will also deliver the NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe programme. Full details were attached to last week's newsletter, including the option to withdraw your child and links to the resources used.

Christmas fair reminders

We will be walking the children up to the Village Hall this afternoon to enjoy the Christmas fair. Please remember to collect them from the hall, and do come in for a mince pie and some festive fun.

See you there!

Mr Myers





Owls

This week in Owls, the children have been fantastic during our play rehearsals - they have been giving feedback about about any bits that could be added or amended and have really helped improve it each time we've practised. In science, we have been thinking about the movement of the Earth and other planets. The children have been continuing with their projects on the chromebooks and added pages about the heliocentric model of our solar system and how this compares to the geocentric model. We had a discussion about how beliefs about this have changed over time and why it was difficult to get these theories heard and what the consequences might have been. In maths, the children were exploring fractions and what the numerator and denominator represent. As part of an art and craft activity, the Owls have also managed to squeeze in some festive Christmas decoration making! They look great and can be spotted on our Christmas tree in the entrance hall.



Otters

Otters have been multi-tasking this week with preparation for the Christmas play as well as doing their "day job" of carrying on being amazing learners. We have had a big focus on times tables and will continue to do this through the year as this is such an important element of learning for year 3 and 4. We have started our new writing sequence which is to write instructions for "how to be mischievous" - something that I expected the Otters find tricky as clearly they are such well-behaved children! They were surprisingly good at coming up with devious plans for causing chaos and mayhem! In maths we are just starting a short sequence on area and measurement before moving back to multiplication next term. For our history, we are finishing off the long Romans topic by staging mock interviews with different Roman characters. The children have worked hard to present these interviews in their books in imaginative ways. Otters are proving themselves very resilient, showing that they keep working hard even when things get more challenging. Well done Otters for another great week!

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs started the week looking at 'Twas The Night Before Christmas'. They watched, listened and joined in with the traditional poem. We looked at key vocabulary which helped us to understand the meaning of the poem. Each morning we have had two mischievous elves come to visit. We have been so excited to see what they will do next! The children sketched robins and have been learning their part in the play. In amongst the Christmas festivities, the children have been finishing their space learning and have been showcasing what they have learned. This will tie in nicely with our space workshop on Friday. In maths the Y2 children have looked at ten more and ten less and adding and subtracting tens. Year One have continued to develop their confidence with subtraction. Well done for continuing to work so hard, Hedgehogs, despite the fact that it is such an exciting time of year.

Ladybirds

This week in Reception, we loved exploring our book of the week, Room for a Little One, and learning our new wow words: gentle and welcome. In phonics, the children continued to build their reading confidence and are getting really good at blending their sounds into words. In literacy, they enjoyed sharing their weekend news, discussing the theme of kindness in the story, and retelling the tale using props in our tuff tray. This story linked beautifully with our Nativity play practice, which has been a big focus this week. The children have been working incredibly hard and are very excited to share their performance with you soon. To help us get into the festive spirit, the children also made their own Christmas cookies and carefully decorated them with icing. A busy festive week in Ladybird class!





CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE



This week awarded to

<i>Ladybirds</i>	<i>Ozlo for trying so hard with his singing, and learning all of the words to our nativity play songs. Well done Ozlo.</i>
<i>Hedgehogs</i>	<i>Daisy-May for going above and beyond to learn lines and songs for our class performances.</i>
<i>Otters</i>	<i>Harper for engaging so well in all aspects of our learning. Harper thinks hard from the moment she comes in. She is thoughtful and respectful of the classroom environment. Well done Harper!</i>
<i>Owls</i>	<i>Cody and Roo for just giving everything a go, supporting each other and giving each other the confidence to fully involve themselves in every aspect of the Christmas play! Well done boys - you have really stood out this week!</i>



Contribution Certificates



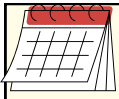
Awarded to

<i>Ladybirds</i>	<i>Henry for helping his friends know when to come onto the stage and where to stand in the play. Thank you for helping and being kind Henry.</i>
<i>Hedgehogs</i>	<i>Charlie for making everyone feel happy and jolly in the class. Charlie keeps us all smiling.</i>
<i>Otters</i>	<i>Sienna for being creative and imaginative in the way she approaches her learning. Sienna is very good at identifying fun and engaging ways to extend and deepen her thinking. Well done Sienna!</i>
<i>Owls</i>	<i>Alice and Sophie for being such brilliant role models in choir and leading a group when singing in a round. They have also played a crucial role in Owls class by helping figure out the steps to the dance and teaching this to the group. Thank you!</i>

<i>Opal Award</i>

<i>Heidi Z, Cora and Felicity for great team work when den building.</i>
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DATES

for your diary

27th October

First Day of Half Term

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

5th December

Hedgehogs Space Workshop

5th December

Friends of Beaford Xmas Fair

10th December

Nursery & Reception Christmas Nativity

11th December

Christmas Play



This Week's Spellings

A B C D

Hedgehogs

Otters

Owls

Year 1 - Words with the digraph 'ai' - rain, wait, train, paid

Year 2 - Words ending in al - Metal, petal, capital, animal, equal

Words where '-ing', '-en' and '-ed' are added to multisyllabic words

forgetting, forgotten, beginning, preferred, regretting, committed, forbidden

Words ending in '-able' and '-ible'

comfortable, dependable, enjoyable, horrible, incredible, possible, reasonable, reliable, terrible, understandable

Hedgehogs, Otters and Owls Class Proudly Present....

THE CHRISTMAS PLAY!

AT BEAFORD VILLAGE HALL, THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER

2PM MATINEE PERFORMANCE

5PM EVENING PERFORMANCE

Nativity Play

We are delighted to invite Nursery and Reception families to this year's Nativity Play.

Event Details

- Who: Nursery (School Starters) & Reception Class
- When: Wednesday, 10th December
- Time: 2:00pm
- Where: St George & All Saints Church, Beaford

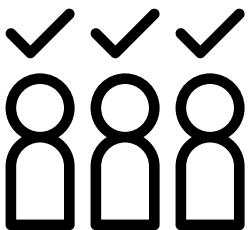
Parents, grandparents, and siblings are all welcome to attend. Please come along to support the children as they tell the Christmas story in their own wonderful way. We look forward to seeing you there!

PE Days

Monday - Ladybirds
 Tuesday - Owls
 Wednesday - Otters
 Thursday - Hedgehogs

Attendance

This Week



Reception - 93%
 Hedgehogs - 95%
 Otters - 95%
 Owls - 97%



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 (Year 1-6) £6 (3 Year Olds)

(Pupil Premium: 50% discount)

Menu

Monday

Toad in the Hole

V – Vegetarian Sausages
Crispy/cubed Potatoes,
Seasonal Veg and Gravy
Specialty Icecream

Tuesday

Minced Beef Soft Taco
V – No meat Mince Taco
Sweetcorn and Wedges
Strawberry Jelly &
Strawberries

Wednesday

Roast Chicken
V - Homity Pie
Roast Potatoes and
Seasonal Veg
Apple Crumble and
Custard

Thursday

Katsu Curry
V -Hidden Veg Quorn
Curry
Naan Bread, Rice, salad
sticks
Pineapple Sponge and
Custard

Friday

Oven Baked Fish
V – Quorn Nuggets
Golden Fries and
Seasonal Veg
Fruit Pancakes

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

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

School Christmas Dinner Menu

Wednesday, 17th December 2025

Please complete the Google Order Form by
clicking
this link

Main Course

Roast Turkey
Roast Gammon
Quorn Roast (Vegetarian)

The Trimmings...

Pigs in Blankets or Vegetarian Pigs in Blankets
Stuffing Balls
Peas & Carrot Medley
Brussel Sprouts
Cauliflower
Yorkshire Pudding
Rich Gravy

For Dessert

Alcohol-Free Christmas Pudding with Cream
or
Christmas Ice Cream

To Drink

Cranberry Juice
Orange Juice

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.



Team Trust Vacancies

Apply now direct with mynewterm

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>



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

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

Cook
EDV/2025/WCEPA/75406

Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy
Witheridge C of E Academy are looking for someone special to lead our school kitchen and provide nutritious, delicious meals for our pupils and staff.

📍 Fore Street, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 8AH
🕒 Permanent/Term Time Only | Full-Time
£ £13.26 Hourly
GRADE: C | 32.5 HPW (MONDAY - FRIDAY) | 38 Weeks

AFTER SCHOOL PLAYWORKER LEAD
EDV/2025/U/PA/05738

Umberleigh Primary Academy
Do you have a few spare hours during the week and love working with children? Are you local to Umberleigh and/or can reliably commute? Then we want to hear from you!

📍 Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD
🕒 Temporary/Fixed Term | Part-Time
£ £13.26 Hourly
Grade C | 7.5 HPW (15:30PM – 17:00PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY)

New • Apply by Midday, Friday 5th Dec, 2025 • Job start: 6th January 2026

Administrative Assistant
EDV/2025/HBCEPA/44963

High Bickington Church of England Primary Academy
We are seeking to appoint a flexible and committed administrative assistant to support the Head of School and Trust Business Manager in the daily operation of our school front office and reception...

📍 High Bickington, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AY
🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
£ £13.26 Hourly
Grade C | 20 HPW (MONDAY TO FRIDAY 08:30AM -12:30PM)

New • Apply by Midday, Friday 5th Dec, 2025 • Job start: 6th January 2026

AFTER SCHOOL PLAYWORKER
EDV/2025/U/PA/66770

Umberleigh Primary Academy
Do you have a few spare hours during the week and love working with children? Are you local to Umberleigh and/or can reliably commute? Then we want to hear from you!

📍 Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD
🕒 Temporary/Fixed Term | Part-Time
£ £12.84 Hourly
Grade B | 7.5 HPW (15:30PM – 17:00PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY)

Community News and Events

The Tale of Three Trees

DECEMBER 7
9:30 AM

CROISSANTS AND
HOT DRINKS

BEAFORD CHURCH
THIS SUNDAY



Join us for crafts, carols, and prayers for all ages!

Everyone is welcome, with activities suitable for all abilities and ages.

www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER | 10AM - 2PM



CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY



The Ashleigh school
Bevan Road
Barnstaple
EX32 8LJ



<https://eequ.org/book/romar-sports-haf-holiday-club-barnstaple-with-romar-sports-devon-limited-14408>

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