

Hennock Primary School Newsletter

Message from the Head

Attendance Update and Tips for the Coming Weeks

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to share that our current whole-school attendance stands at 96.5%, which is excellent - especially considering the number of seasonal bugs that have been circulating recently. Thank you for working closely with us to keep attendance high. Your efforts make a real difference to your child's learning and progress.

Why Attendance Matters

Every day in school counts. Research shows that good attendance is strongly linked to better academic outcomes, social development, and overall wellbeing. Even small amounts of missed learning can add up over time, so maintaining strong attendance is essential.

Top Tips to Keep Attendance High as We Approach the Christmas Break

- **Partial Attendance Counts:** If your child feels unwell in the morning but improves later, please consider sending them in for the afternoon session. Every hour of learning matters.
- **Plan Ahead:** Avoid booking holidays or appointments during school time wherever possible.
- **Stay in Touch:** If your child is unwell, let us know early so we can support you and advise on when they can return.
- **Healthy Habits:** Encourage good handwashing and healthy routines to help prevent winter bugs.
- **Positive Mindset:** Remind children that school is fun and valuable - even in the last few weeks before the break.

We know the festive season is approaching and everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved rest, but keeping attendance strong right up to the end of term ensures children finish the year on a high and start January ready to learn.

Thank you for your continued support in making attendance a priority.

Have a lovely weekend,

Anthony Arnold.

Ash Class



We have had a fun and busy two weeks in Ash Class!

Last week, the children travelled to Exeter University Sports Park to take part in the Link Fitness Festival. The children competed to complete a challenging circuit as many times as they could. It was lovely to see the children so motivated, and very cool to see the university campus.

In Science, we have continued our investigation of materials and their properties. Last week, the children became true scientists and worked in teams to plan and conduct their own experiments to investigate how different factors affect the rate of dissolving. I was so impressed with how well they planned and executed their experiments, showing consideration of reliability and conducting a fair test.

In Art, we have been exploring painting and sketching different landscapes. The children have been mixing different colours to create colour palettes reflective of some famous artwork, and have been working on thumbnail sketches that they will be developing into their own final piece.

In Outdoor Learning this week, the children had lots of fun creating Christmas crafts. Their creations included tin lanterns, Christmas cards and coloured leaves! We then enjoyed some yummy spiced apple juice and toasted marshmallows.

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Fraser





Birch Class



It's been another busy couple of weeks in Birch. KS2 has been working hard preparing for our performance at South Dartmoor on Monday 8th December as part of the Link Singing Project. We've been polishing our songs and getting performance ready. We're looking forward to seeing those are signed up on Monday evening.

We've continued to work on our poetry writing and embedding the key features ready for our Final Write. We're also starting lots of Christmas crafts ready to decorate the church window in time for the Carol Service next weekend. Our theme is The Holly and the Ivy.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Maugan

Willows and Reception Class



We've had a fantastic and festive couple of weeks across Reception and Year 2.

Year 2

We have begun our new writing unit based on the instructions for *Pretty Paper Lanterns* by Shirley Hughes. The children loved following the steps to make their own colourful lanterns. They also explored how to use verbs to write clear command sentences, giving each other instructions to follow — with plenty of fun along the way! In Maths we have been recapping some of the key concepts from Year 1, including doubles, near doubles, and part-whole models. We've been applying this knowledge to tackle some trickier problems, and the children have shown great resilience and problem-solving skills. Our focus on the five senses in science continued this week, with a special look at how our senses help to keep us safe. The children impressed us with their thoughtful ideas and examples from everyday life. In computing, we have been learning all about pictograms. The children carried out a survey on people's favourite fruits and used the iPads to create clear and colourful pictograms to show their results.

Reception

Last week, Reception created a beautiful piece of shared work all about different celebrations. They drew houses decorated for special occasions and added words and

sentences to describe their pictures. This week, we have begun learning more about Christmas and enjoyed sharing *The Jolly Christmas Postman* together. In free flow, lots of the children have enjoyed writing their own cards and letters as well! In maths, we have been exploring the numbers 4 and 5, including how each number is composed, and what *one more* and *one less* mean.

Altogether we are getting into the festive spirit! The children are loving our digital advent calendar. We have also been creating some decorations for the classroom. Lots of the children have enjoyed creating colourful paper chains, and Reception had great fun measuring their chain to see whether it was taller than Mr Arnold (a very exciting moment!).

It was a frosty week at outdoor learning, but that didn't stop us! We warmed up by cooking delicious popcorn on the fire. The children then used their sense of taste to decide whether the popcorn was sweet or salty — a perfect link to our science learning







Saplings



This fortnight we've had a wonderfully festive couple of weeks in preschool as we dive into the magic of the Christmas season!

The children have been full of excitement, imagination, and curiosity, and we're delighted to share some of the lovely things we've been up to.

The school has been buzzing with Christmas cheer. The children have been chatting enthusiastically about all things festive—Christmas trees, sparkling lights, presents, snowmen, and of course Father Christmas! It has been lovely to hear their stories and see their imaginations come alive. Our craft table has been busy with little hands creating wonderful Christmas-themed artwork. A particular favourite has been making colourful paper chains, which now decorate many of the school rooms! The children have taken great pride in their creations!

We've enjoyed reading ***The Jolly Christmas Postman***, which has captured the children's attention with its fun characters and exciting festive deliveries. The story has sparked lots of lovely conversations about Christmas cards, letters, and the joy of giving.

This Wednesday, we wrapped up warm and headed outside for our **outdoor learning session**. The weather was cold and misty, creating a magical atmosphere that the children found very exciting. Despite the chill, everyone had a wonderful time exploring, playing, and enjoying the fresh air. We also had a special treat—delicious popcorn and warming hot chocolate, which was a huge hit!

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to more festive fun as Christmas approaches!

Warm wishes,
Debbie

Toddler Group!





Toddler group joins the Preschool in their classroom and outside. Activities include painting, mark making, playdough sand and water play. Plus plenty of glitter and pumpkins!

All are very welcome, join us for a chat, some craft, and very importantly, tea for your adult!

Running from 9.15-10:30am every Tuesday morning.

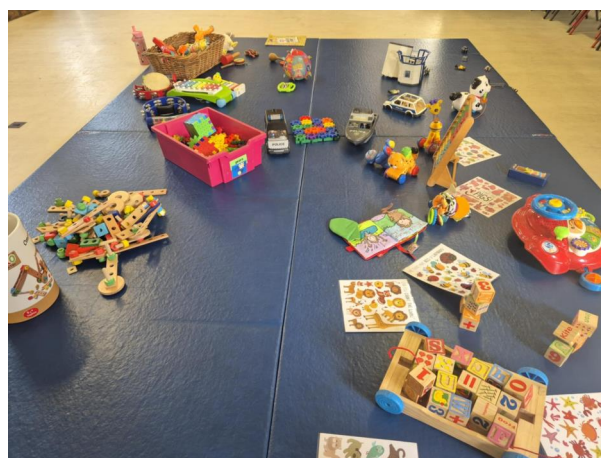
Tell your friends and family to spread the word.

£1.50 a session. Hennock Primary school. Please call or email if you have any questions;

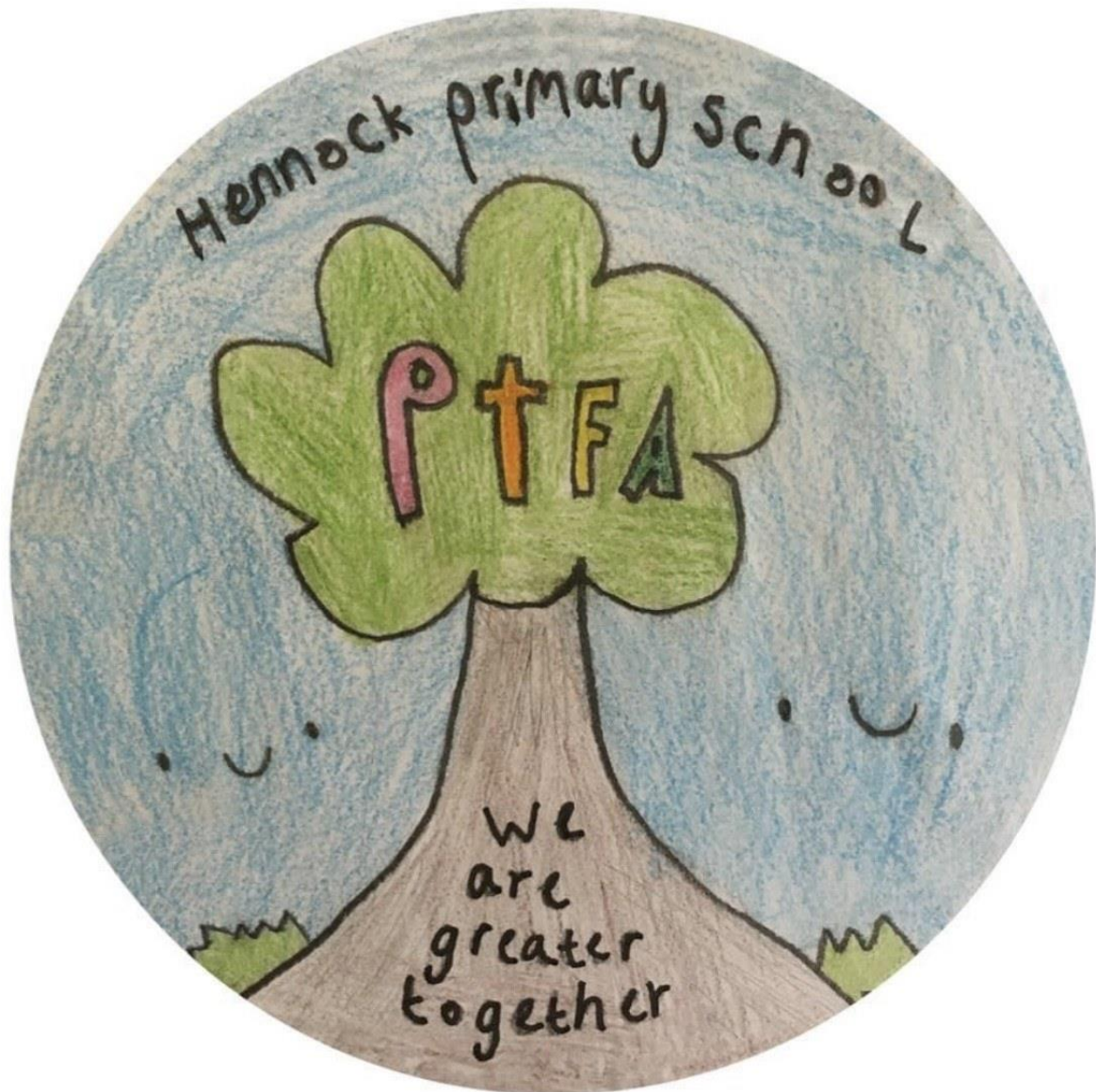
adminhennock@thelink.academy

01626 833233.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school.



PTFA Message



Dear all,

Fast move forward towards Christmas! I hope you (who partake) are managing your “Elf on the Shelf” antics so far 😊

PTFA are looking forward to supporting the School on the 17th December joining in around the KS1 Nativity play and welcoming Father Christmas to the School.

We look forward to seeing you all there, with then only 2 days left before end of term!

We also are really excited to announce the PTFA Xmas Float will be travelling through Hennock Village again this year, date for diary Saturday 20th December at 6pm bring the children to see New additions to the float! We will pop up some posters soon showing the route the Float will take very soon.

John, as always has been busy looking after our monies this time with the HMRC – and finally we can reclaim gift aid which will also be a bonus towards all the hard earned monies for the School, great result thank you John.

As always a huge thank you to everyone for being so supportive, and just to also say thank you to Mr Arnold and all the staff at Hennock Primary who listen and support us endlessly.

Hope to see everyone before we break up,

Deb, John, Alison

Hennock PTFA



This week we interviewed some Year 2s who had been on a school trip this week.

Q: Where did you go on your school trip?

A: We went to a church in Newton Abbot to learn more about the Nativity.

Q: What did you get up to whilst you were there?

A: We made cards that look like crowns and some tiny sheep and presents!

Q: What was your favourite part?

A: We loved the singing and seeing a real baby!





Star of the Week



28th November

Star of the Week:

Ash: Ralph **Birch:** Eli **Willows:** Eloise

BC: Finn **ASC:**

Dojo Points:

Ash: Agnes **Birch:** Finn, Jess, Lucy

Achievosaurus:

Values Star: Ronnie

Pride of School: Rafferty

Playground Hero: Peigi

5th December

Star of the Week:

Ash: Thomas **Birch:** Lucy **Willows:** Ronnie

BC: Eloise **ASC:**

Dojo Points:

Ash: Agnes **Birch:** Frank, Benji

Achievosaurus: Alma

Values Star: Peigi

Pride of School: Finn

Playground Hero: Billy

Key Dates

PE with Mr Pierce Every Monday, Whole School

Willows, extra PE on alternative Friday (not same wk as Outdoor Learning)

Ash and Birch, extra PE on Wednesdays

- Monday 8th Dec Singing Celebration at South Dartmoor Collage. KS2
- Wednesday 10th Dec, Christmas Dinner Day!
- Late Night Shopping at Mole Valley Farmers with singing from 6pm, please join in, if you want.
- Wednesday 17th Dec, KS1 Nativity and Christmas Fair!
- Friday 19th Last Day of Term.

Outdoor learning dates:

Saplings and Willow (am), Birch and Ash (pm)

Wednesday 17th December

For Your Information

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

Christmas Card Competition

with
Cool Milk



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS
www.coolmilk.com

DESIGN A MILK-THEMED CHRISTMAS CARD!
Cool Milk is holding a competition for children, ages 4-11, to design their official Christmas Card for 2025

ENTRY DEADLINE:
Monday, 15th December 2025
SUBMIT ENTRIES TO:
marketing@coolmilk.com



School Attendance

Attendance this fortnight:

Whole School 97.5%

Ash 97.5%

Birch 98.5%

Willows 97.5%

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 admission arrangements. 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 until 16 January 2026. Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March next year. You can comment at schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk or by emailing the school

Attendance Matters



PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ARE CHANGING

1 FIRST OFFENCE
The **first** time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: **£160 per parent, per child. This will be reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.**

2 SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)
The **second** time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance, the amount will be: **£160 per parent, per child, to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.**

3 THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)
The **third** time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court.
Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate due to failure to safeguard a child's education.



Safeguarding



Key contacts and useful links

Front Door (formerly MASH) main number: 0345 155 1071

Children's Social Care Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) – 0845 6000 388

Front Door email: mashsecure@devon.gov.uk¹

Our Safeguarding Lead is Anthony Arnold and our Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Issy Fraser. If you are concerned about a child's wellbeing, please contact the school or in non-school hours contact Front Door (formally known as MASH) on

0345 155 1071

¹<mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk>