

# Hennock Primary School Newsletter

## *Message from the Head*

Dear Parents,

What a lovely way to finish our autumn term! Our Nativity performance, Christmas Counts, was a truly magical experience. The children shone brightly on stage, reminding us all of the joy and meaning of Christmas. Alongside this, our pupils in school enjoyed an incredible theatre experience – Ernie and the Sea of Ice and Beauty and the Beast – which have sparked imaginations (and provided inspiration for future pathways, I'm sure!)

One of my personal highlights was sharing Christmas Dinner with our Year 6 pupils after they had so professionally waited on tables for the whole school. Their maturity and teamwork were excellent, and it was a privilege to celebrate with them.

A huge congratulations to our choir from Ash and Birch, who performed in front of a packed audience (over 200 adults!) earlier last week. They composed their own song and joined forces with four other schools for an unforgettable musical experience. We are so proud of them!

Finally, a heartfelt thank you for all your support this term. It has been a busy and joyful time, and we couldn't do it without you. Wishing you all a peaceful, festive season and a happy, healthy New Year!

Festive wishes,

Anthony Arnold.

## Ash Class



We have had a wonderful end to Autumn Term in Ash Class.

In English, the children completed their Final Write of a Christmas-themed poem based on Carol Ann Duffy's *Bethlehem*. I loved reading all the effective poetic devices that everyone included in their work.

Last week, some of our wonderful singers performed at the Choir Concert at South Dartmoor Community College. It was great to see the children sing with such confidence and talent.

We also had our annual Christmas Dinner take place last Wednesday. We were so incredibly proud of our Year 6 helpers, who served food and drinks with big smiles and brilliant manners.

In PE, the children worked hard with Mr Pierce to create some delicious, healthy smoothies to round off their PE unit all about health and fitness.

Due to a horrendous weather forecast, Outdoor Learning was moved indoors this week and the children had a fantastic afternoon with Gin baking gingerbread, designing Christmas tree decoration and creating Christmas candle holders using evergreens.

Finally, we ended the term with a visit to Teign School to watch their production of Beauty and the Beast. It was lovely to see some familiar faces in the cast this year!

Have a lovely and restful Christmas and New Year!

Miss Fraser









Birch Class



It's been a magical, albeit busy, couple of weeks. It was such an honour to support our singers at South Dartmoor last week. They performed not only with heart and power, but also showed real technical ability and we're excited to continue our singing journey after Christmas with all our children at Hennock.

Birch have been extremely busy completing their final write in English for our poetry sequence based on A Good Weekend by Theresa Lola, planning, writing and editing a poem based on their favourite weekend or holiday memory. They all showed how they could embed the technical features we have been learning this term and each created unique and beautiful creative writing pieces. The children also used their creativity to write a separate poem about the woodland at Christmas to display at the Church for last weekend's Carol Service. The children engaged in a craft morning last week where they sewed felt holly and ivy leaves to create a garland for the window, based on the Holly and the Ivy carol, and fashioned a textured rising sun. I was so impressed with their resilience and precision when learning the stitches to sew their leaves; they all asked to do more!

We have also completed our Maths unit on times tables and the children have developed their fluency in using times table facts up to the 12 times table and are developing their reasoning skills when solving problems using multiplication and division. We'll continue on to the next multiplication and division unit after Christmas.

Although inside, Birch thoroughly enjoyed Outdoor Learning this week to create beautiful candle decorations and tree decorations ready for Christmas. They loved making and eating gingerbread cookies too.

As the term draws to a close, Birch have also had the opportunity to explore the Winter Solstice and Yule, learning about how some cultures celebrate the events and the symbolism of the plants often used as decorations. They also had the opportunity to make a glass lantern as a symbol to welcome the return of the light after the solstice on Sunday.

If all this wasn't enough, Birch also stepped up in a big way to support KS1 and Reception in the Nativity. They were incredible whether on stage, narrating or making sound effects. It was a pleasure to watch them shine.



Birch have been absolutely fantastic this term and it is a real pleasure to be their teacher. I wish everyone a restful and Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Maugan

## Willows and Reception Class



We have had a wonderfully busy and festive week.

In Year 2 English, we have completed our final piece of writing for the term. The children wrote clear and creative instructions on *how to create Christmas trees*. Everyone did a fantastic job and should be very proud of their efforts. In Art, they have finished their final self-portraits using collage. The results are truly impressive and show great attention to detail and creativity.

In Reception, our learning has been focused on the story *The Jolly Christmas Postman*, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. We also partnered with the Reception class at Widecombe, where the children created and wrote Christmas cards for one another. We then walked together to the postbox to send them, which was a lovely shared experience.



We have had a brilliantly Christmassy week all round! The children thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Exeter to watch *Ernie and the Sea of Ice*—it was a real highlight for many. The children have also been working incredibly hard rehearsing for their Nativity, and I was completely blown away by their performance on Wednesday. They sang, spoke and performed with such confidence—well done to all involved!

Forest School looked a little different this week, but the children still had a fantastic time enjoying a range of Christmas-themed activities, including baking gingerbread and making tree decorations.

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas!

Miss Parsons





## Saplings



As the festive season approaches, the children are filled with excitement for the Christmas holidays to begin. Their joy and anticipation have brought a wonderful energy to our days together. Over the past few weeks, we have enjoyed making beautiful Christmas crafts. From sparkling decorations to creative cards, the children have poured their imagination and enthusiasm into each project, and the results have been truly delightful.

Alongside these festive activities, we are proud to see the children developing strong, positive relationships with their peers. Their kindness, cooperation, and growing friendships have created a supportive and happy environment that makes our community shine. I am super proud of how well the children looked after each other in the Nativity and wow! what a wonderful performance that was, thank you all for coming and supporting and we very much hope you enjoyed it.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome the new term next year. With fresh opportunities for learning and growth, we can't wait to see what the children will achieve.

From all of us, we wish you a joyful Christmas and a wonderful New Year, and can't wait to see you in 2026!

Merry Christmas

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.

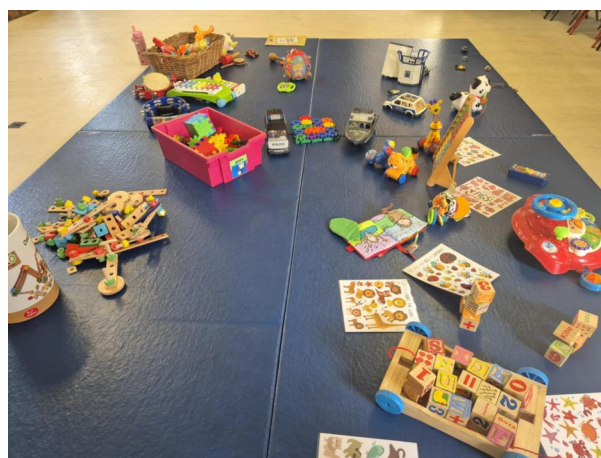
Tell your friends and family to spread the word.

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

[adminhennock@thelink.academy](mailto:adminhennock@thelink.academy)

01626 833233.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school.



## PTFA Message



We would like to extend a huge thank you to our wonderful PTFA for everything they have done throughout the year. Your time, energy, and generosity make such a difference to our school community, and we are incredibly grateful for all your hard work.

A special mention must go to the PTFA for organising such a magical Christmas Fair, which supported the Nativity. It was a truly festive, especially with Santa on stage, delighting the children. Parents enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies while soaking up the Christmas cheer. The atmosphere was warm, joyful, and full of community spirit.

Thank you once again to our amazing PTFA for helping to create such special memories for our children and families — we couldn't do it without you.

From the Hennock Team





This week we interviewed some children who were in the school Nativity this week:

**Q: What was your favourite part?**

A: I loved playing the role of a king.

A: I loved getting to sing all the songs.

**Q: Did you enjoy being a part of the Nativity?**

A: Yes, it was so good!

**Q: Did you like performing to big groups of people?**

A: It was a little scary, but I felt really proud of myself afterwards.





## *Star of the Week*



***12th December***

***Star of the Week:***

***Ash: Mabel Birch: Rupert Willows: Alana***

***BC: Rose ASC: Mila & Agnes***

***Dojo Points:***

**Ash:** Ro, Thomas **Birch:** Jess

**Achievosaurus:**

**Values Star:** Peigi

**Pride of School:** Year 6

**19th December**

**Star of the Week:**

**Ash:** Albert **Birch:** Eli **Willows:** Sophie

**BC:** Lucy **ASC:** Peigi

**Dojo Points:**

**Ash:** Agnes **Birch:**

**Achievosaurus:**

**Values Star:** Winston

**Pride of School:** Nativity Performers

**Playground Hero:** Dusty

## 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

- 6th January - First Day of Term! Welcome back!
- First Outdoor learning Date: 14th Jan!

Outdoor learning dates this half term:

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

Wednesday 14th January

Wednesday 28th January

Wednesday 11th February

## 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](https://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](mailto: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.



## BOVEY POOL FESTIVE DIP

**26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
- 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

**BOOK NOW**

## School Attendance

### ***Attendance this fortnight:***

**Whole School 94.5%**

**Ash 94.4%**

**Birch 98.7%**

## **Willows 92.3%**

### *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](http://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](mailto: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.**

IF YOUR CHILD IS JUST 15 MINUTES LATE FOR SCHOOL EVERY DAY, IT ADDS UP TO

## 2 WEEKS

of the school year being missed



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.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk)<sup>1</sup>

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**

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<sup>1</sup><mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk>