

Hennock Primary School Newsletter

Message from the Head

It was lovely to welcome so many parents into school recently to hear about the exciting residential experience we have planned for Ash class this year. We are really looking forward to offering pupils a residential that blends a city experience with adventurous outdoor activities, reflecting our longer-term vision for enriching learning beyond the classroom. Thank you to everyone who attended and shared their enthusiasm - further correspondence will be sent shortly to parents in that class with more detailed information.

We are also delighted to share some excellent news regarding our Wimbledon Ballot application. We were successful in securing a small number of tickets, which we will be

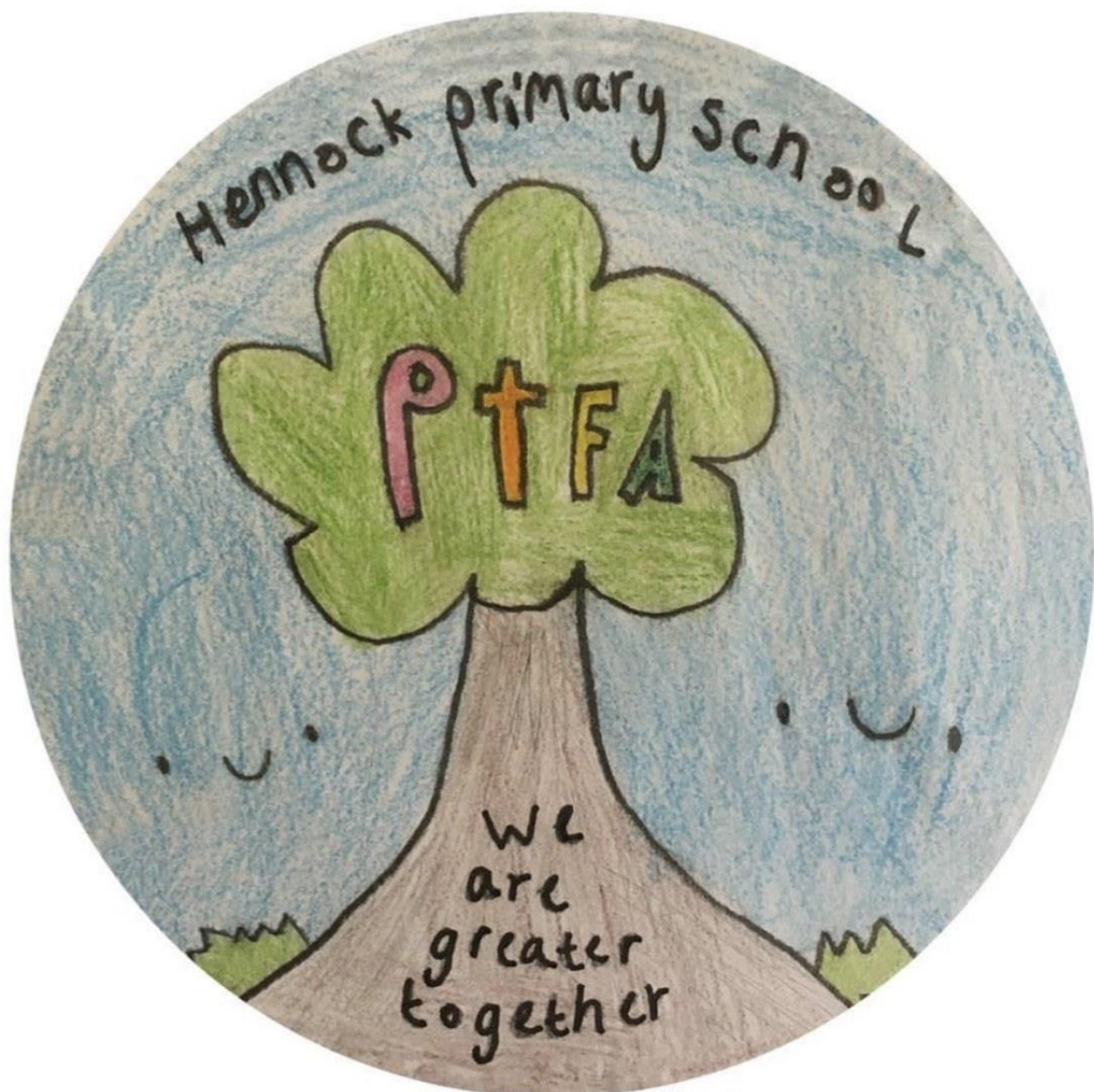
directing to Year 6 pupils. We very much hope this opportunity continues in future years, allowing more children to benefit from such a unique and memorable experience.

Finally, I would like to extend a huge thank you to both the PTFA and the Parish Council for working together to fund a table tennis table for the school. This was something pupils had specifically asked for as part of their wish list in the autumn term, and we are thrilled to see it becoming a reality. We can't wait to get it set up and into action!

Have a lovely weekend,

Anthony Arnold

[PTFA Message](#)



Big Playground Announcements from the PTFA!

Table tennis comes to the Netton!

We're delighted to announce that a top-of-the-range table tennis table has arrived at school! It will soon be installed in the Netton, providing a fantastic new play and sports activity for children across the school.

A huge thank you to **Hennock Parish Council** for funding the table, and to **Jon Hole** for carrying out planned repair work to the Netton to ensure this special space is in tip-top condition.

Next phase of playground plans – we need your help!

Our playground plans are really taking shape, and we'll soon be sharing more information about the renovation of the preschool and garden areas. A key next step will be seeking community support with fundraising and work.

To maximise the impact of our efforts, we'd love to hear from any parents or relatives/friends who work for, or have links with, companies that offer **match funding**. This is where a company agrees to match donations pound for pound, which could make a huge difference in helping us close the remaining funding gap and get work started sooner. Please speak to John or email hennockptfa@gmail.com¹.

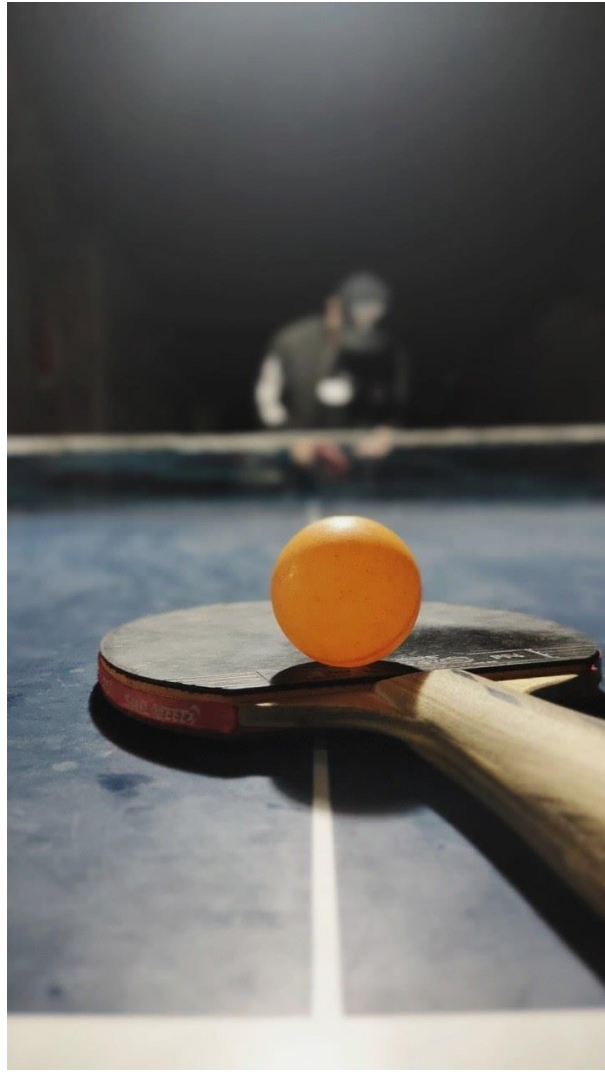
More information is coming soon!

We'll shortly be sharing details of a planned launch event for the new table tennis facility, along with more ways to get involved in the playground project—so please stay tuned!

Have a great weekend!

Hennock PTFA Team

¹<mailto:hennockptfa@gmail.com>



Ash Class



It has been a lovely two weeks in Ash Class!

Last week, the children took part in some First Aid training delivered by a representative from Jay's Aim. They learnt the signs of cardiac arrest, how to use a defibrillator and had a go at some CPR!

In English, we have been working on completing our Shared Write based on Michael Morpurgo's *Where My Wellies Take Me*. The children have spent lots of time developing a detailed explanation of the walk down to the Outdoor Learning site and back to school. It has been lovely to read their fantastic work and see how well they have been applying the skills they have learnt in this sequence.

In History, we have continued our learning about the ancient Egyptians! The children have been looking in depth at what it would have been like to live in an Egyptian city, and how this would differ depending on whether you were rich or poor. We have also looked at the Egyptian hierarchy and compared it to the ancient Sumerian civilisation that we learnt about in the Autumn term.

In Science, the children have been looking at classification. Last week, they spent their lesson researching information about an animal they were interested in. This week, they created a classification key to identify this animal through its key physical features.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!





Birch Class



As ever, the children in Birch have been so busy! They have immersed themselves in the story of Tom Thumb, practising writing complete sentences using the story (and often their interests) as a foundation for some pretty epic sentence work! In maths, the children have been furthering their multiplication and division understanding, using their times table knowledge to solve calculations which involve multiplying a two or three digit number by a one digit number.

They are loving the whole class read, *The Abominables*, which they read with Miss Fraser and team in the afternoons and we're using this text to support our guided reading sessions each week, developing comprehension skills including inference, predication and explanation.

Have a lovely weekend.

Maugan

Willows and Reception Class



We have had a very busy and enjoyable time in school recently.

Year 2:

In English, we have completed our poetry topic. The children explored rhyming words and rhythm to create their own winter poems, inspired by the poem '*Cold*' which we read together. They worked incredibly hard to develop rhythm and effective rhymes, and we were very impressed with their creativity and effort. In Maths, we have been learning about the properties of 3-D shapes. The children counted faces, edges and vertices and enjoyed sorting different 3-D shapes in a variety of ways. Our focus in science has been on seasonal changes. The children learned how different animals change throughout the year and drew a yearly cycle to show this. We also explored apple trees and how they change with the seasons. The children have been learning how to program Beebots in computing to follow routes they designed themselves. They also learned how to 'debug' their programs when things did not work as planned, showing great perseverance and problem-solving skills.

Reception:

In Literacy, the children chose another animal to 'add' to the story *Dear Zoo*. They drew a picture and wrote a caption for their animal. The children also orally created a sentence and added a flap to their page, helping to turn their work into a lift-the-flap book. We have

continued our topic by learning about nocturnal animals. In Maths, we have been exploring mass and capacity. The children compared the weight of different objects and investigated how many items could fit into a range of containers.

Together, we have enjoyed watching live zoo webcams to explore animal habitats, which sparked lots of curiosity and discussion. We have also continued reading *The Enchanted Wood*, and the children have been enjoying learning about the different lands at the top of the Faraway Tree. At Forest School, we made the most of the frosty weather by creating playdough snowmen and making snowman snacks using rice cakes and cream cheese – a fun and tasty experience!







Saplings



We've had a lovely and busy fortnight at preschool and are excited to share some of the wonderful learning your children have been enjoying.

Our outdoor learning sessions have been full of creativity and fun. The children made snowmen using white playdough, carefully shaping and moulding their own chilly creations.

We also enjoyed making (and eating!) snowman snacks using rice cakes and raisins — a great mix of fun, fine motor skills, and a tasty treat.

In maths, we have been sorting and ordering our teddies by different attributes such as size and colour. The children have also been exploring repeating patterns, using a variety of resources and learning to recognise what comes next.

Our current topic is *Woodland Animals*, which has sparked lots of curiosity and creativity. Through arts and crafts, the children have been busy making owls and hedgehogs, using different materials and textures to bring their woodland friends to life.

We have been enjoying the story *Owl Babies*. The children loved looking at the pictures, listening to the story, and joining in with familiar words and sounds. It has been a lovely, calm story to share together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another fun-filled fortnight ahead!

Toddler Group!



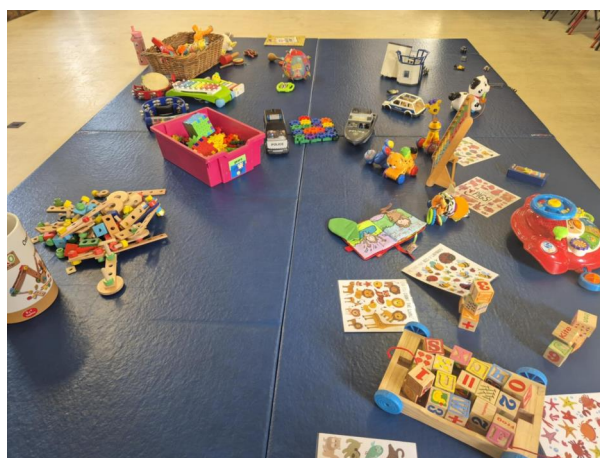


All are very welcome, join us for a chat, some craft, and very importantly, tea for your adult!

Tell your friends and family to spread the word.

adminhennock@thelink.academy

We look forward to welcoming you to our school.





This week, we interviewed some children in Willows about their learning this week.

Q: What have you been learning this week?

A: I made a frog flap.

A: We read *Dear Zoo*.

Q: What have you enjoyed this week?

A: Playing with my friend Billy.

A: Playing with a toy monster truck.

Q: What is your favourite subject at school?

A: Maths and phonics!

Star of the Week



16th January

Star of the Week:

Ash: Mabel **Birch:** Frank **Willows:** Winston

BC: Oliver **ASC:** Amelia

Dojo Points:

Ash: Thomas **Birch:** Jessica

Achievosaurus:

Values Star: Phoebe & Monty

Playground Hero: Finn

Pride of School: Jessica L

23rd January

Star of the Week:

Ash: Ralph **Birch:** Lucy **Willows:** Ronnie

BC: Millie **ASC:** Finn

Dojo Points:

Ash: Ralph **Birch:** Eli and Alison

Achievosaurus: Millie and Emmie

Values Star: Roanna

Playground Hero: Billy

Pride of School: Phoebe

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

Outdoor learning dates this half term:

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

- **Wednesday 28th January**
- **Wednesday 11th February**

For Your Information



All young readers & families are invited to Bovey Tracey's new book festival just for kids, **Bovey Book Fest**, on 14 March 2026. Join us for a full day of events that celebrates the joys of reading, featuring sessions with award-winning authors & illustrators Neill Cameron,

Reeve & McIntyre, Mike Please, Zohra Nabi and Serena Patel. Plus, stop by the free community space to enjoy all-day story time with local authors, craft activities and more. Learn more and book your tickets at <https://firstdraftbooks.co.uk/bovey-book-fest-2026/>.

Trees of Hope



Next half term we are delighted that the children in Ash and Birch will be working with Trees of Hope - a local organisation that raises awareness of the value of trees and a thriving ecosystem for our healthy lives. 3 other local schools will join us in a programme that includes

- Studying plants and and creatures found in local woodland
- An introduction to a school in Zimbabwe which is also studying woodland life
- Music / arts activities to support children's engagement

As part of the programme you and your children are invited to join activities during a '**Woodland Celebration**' on Saturday 21st March as advertised in the attached poster. You can book tickets which are free for children and £6 per session (AM/PM/EVE) for accompanying adults via the QR code linking to Eventbrite or through the link <https://treesofhopeinzimbabwe.org/woodland-celebration-day>

School Attendance

Attendance this fortnight:

Whole School 91.4%

Ash 97.3%

Birch 86.4%

Willows 87.2%

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.

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.uk²

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

²<mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk>