



Hennock Primary School Newsletter

[Message from the Head](#)

As we reach the midpoint of the spring term, I wanted to share some very positive developments from across the school. We've recently welcomed several external visitors who spent time in classrooms, spoke with children, and reviewed our provision. Their feedback has been both affirming and energising.

Strengthening Teaching Through Expert Support

This year, our staff have been working closely with our Trust's maths and English advisors to refine and strengthen our teaching. We've also been supported by the Ilsham English Hub,

whose external monitoring - particularly around early reading - has helped us further improve our offer and unlock additional funding for new resources.

Positive Feedback

This week, two senior Trust leaders spent a full day in school as part of a Learning and Challenge Support Day. They observed lessons, spoke with children and staff, and saw Hennock in full flow. Their feedback was extremely positive. They praised the high quality of teaching and the dedication of our team, as well as the children's excellent learning behaviours. They also commented on how enthusiastic the children were when talking about their learning and how calm, consistent and caring our school is as a whole.

I want to acknowledge what an exceptional team we have here at Hennock and how, working together, our children continue to flourish.

Strengthening Communication After Half Term

After half term, we'd like to increase our face-to-face communication with you by reviewing our end-of-day dismissal routines. This will help create more opportunities for those small but important 'little and often' conversations with class teachers.

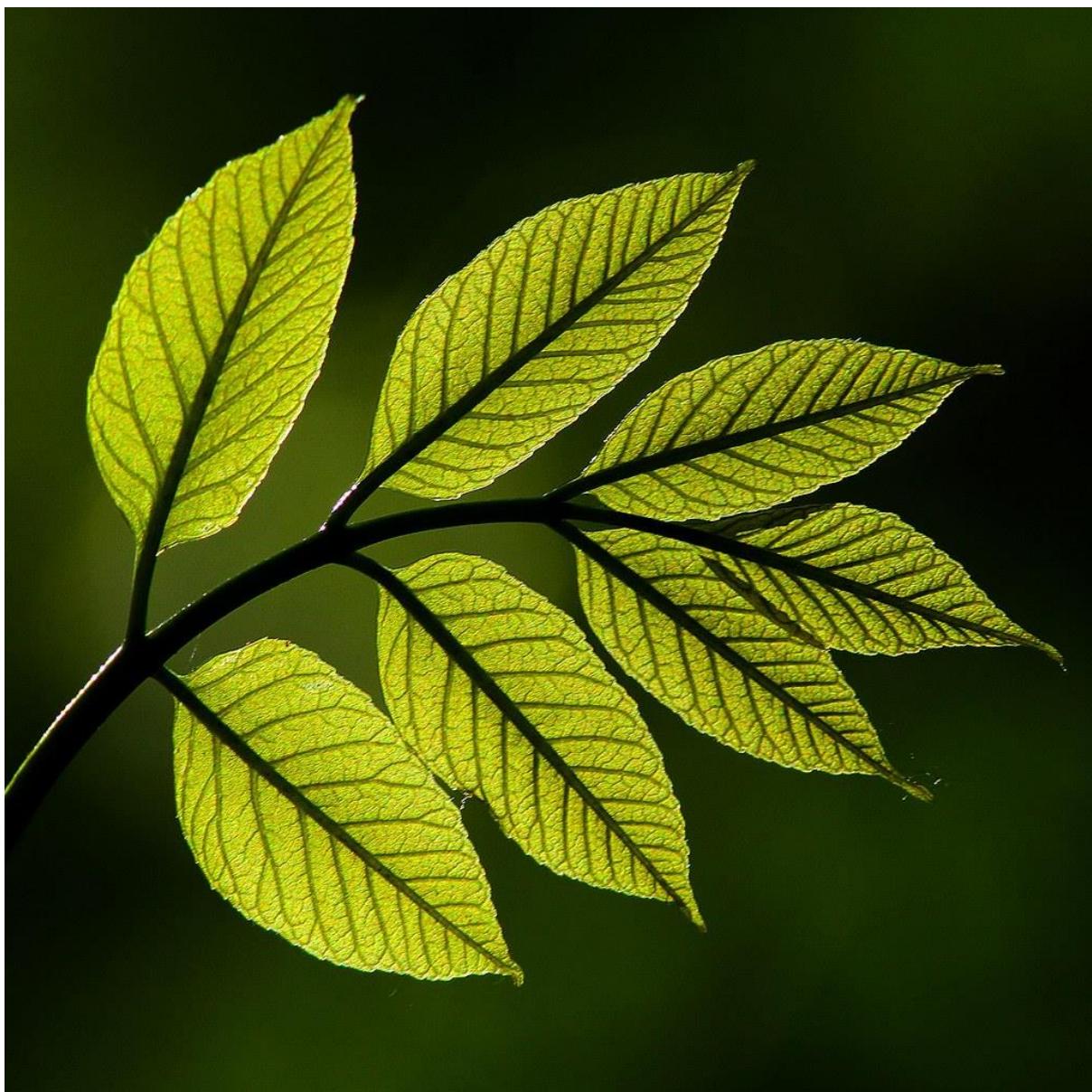
We ask for your support with this. If you have concerns, celebrations or questions, please try to share these with the class teacher in person where possible. We know this isn't always easy, and we are very happy to arrange a bespoke meeting when needed.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Together, we are ensuring that Hennock remains a place where everyone thrives.

Wishing you a lovely half-term break when it arrives.

Anthony Arnold

Ash Class



We have had a lovely couple of weeks in Ash Class!

In English, we completed our writing unit based on Michael Morpurgo's *Where My Wellies Take Me*. I was so impressed with how well the children applied the skills they have learnt in class to their writing. We have now begun looking at traditional tales that explain the way things are in the world, starting with different stories about the origin of fire. Together, we have explored the structure of these stories and their similarities and differences.

In Maths, we have finished our work on Fractions! The children did a fantastic job at multiplying and dividing fractions by integers and other fractions. We are now moving on to explore ordering and rounding decimals.

In Science, KS2 have been exploring fossils. We looked in depth at the fossil record and the work of Mary Anning. The children then looked at different fossils and identified what they could tell us about different organisms in the past.

In History, we have continued our work on Ancient Egypt. We listened to a podcast with a historian that told us all about the role of the pharaoh in Ancient Egypt society. Then, we read a newspaper article all about Howard Carter and his discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb! The children explored different artefacts that were found in the tomb and identified what each one could tell us about life in Ancient Egypt.

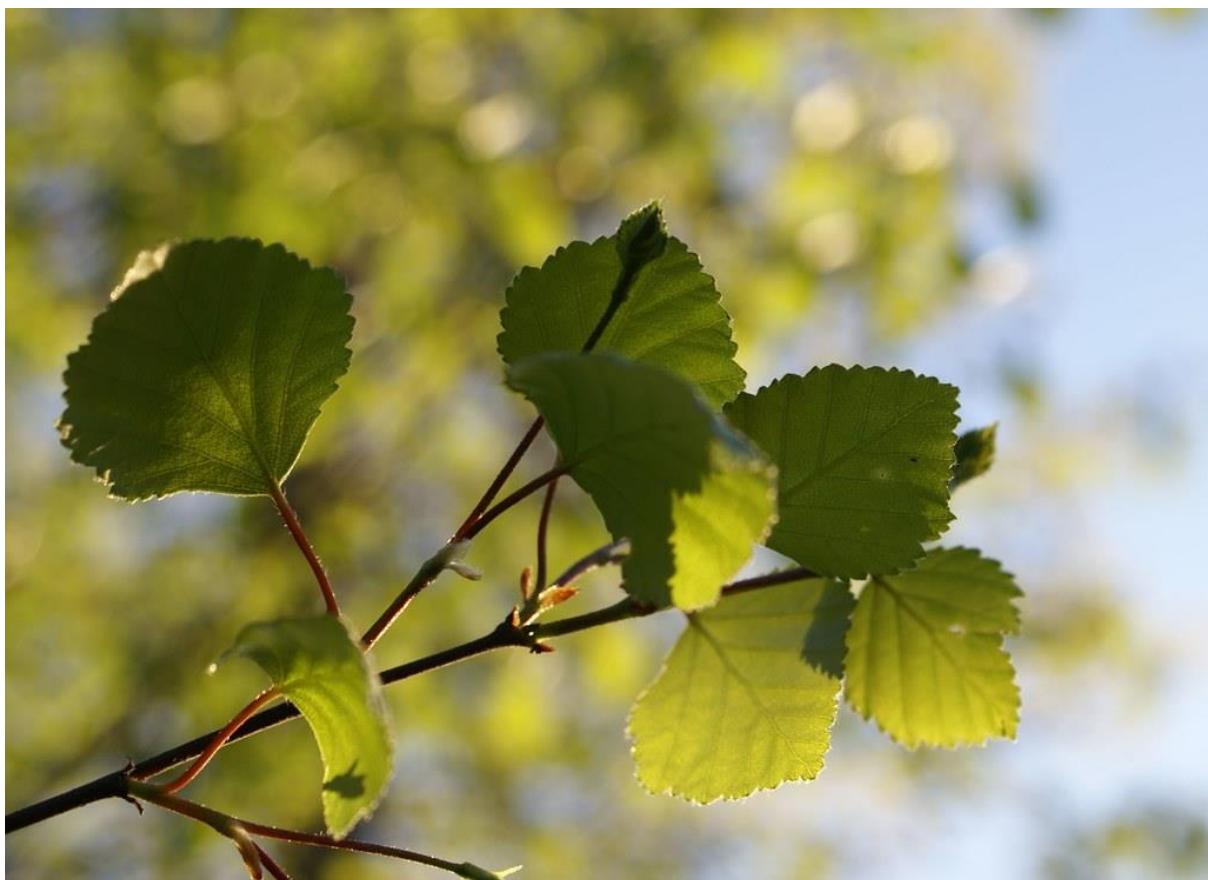
In Outdoor Learning, we had a great time making boats to race down the stream, making bird feeders, and yummy chocolate bananas!

Finally, KS1 and KS2 went on a school trip to Plymouth Aquarium! We loved seeing all the different sea creatures and taking part in a workshop using classification keys to identify different animals.





Birch Class



The children in Birch have been studiously working on their shared and final writes. We've been thinking up-levelling vocabulary to make sentences more exciting and concentrating joining two ideas or clauses with a conjunction. Some have gone deeper and focused on adding direct speech into their writing.

We have adapted the spelling lists this week to ensure we are securing the children's foundational knowledge of spelling patterns. If your child is a Robin or Swallow (they'll know who they are!), we have been focusing on homophones to explore words which sound the same but have a different meaning and spelling. If your child is a Puffin, they are focusing this week on 'sion' words and next week on 'ous' words.

We have continued to explore division, focusing on dividing a two or three digit number by a one digit number with an exchange. The children have been using their problem solving and reasoning skills, using concrete resources and pictorial representations to share their answers to division calculations.

The aquarium trip was absolutely awesome. All children were so respectful of other visitors to the aquarium and of the animals we got up close to. They asked thought provoking questions and shared their knowledge of marine life. It was such a pleasure to watch how engaged and enthused they were throughout the whole day.

Have a lovely weekend.

Maugan

[Willows and Reception Class](#)



What a busy fortnight we have had!

Yesterday, we thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Plymouth Aquarium, where the children learnt so much about the different sea creatures. It was a fantastic opportunity to see marine life up close and deepen our understanding of ocean habitats. We were also lucky to take part in a storytelling workshop on Tuesday with Annemarie Anang to celebrate National Storytelling Week. The children had a wonderful time dancing, singing, and listening to Annemarie read one of her stories.

At Forest School last week, we talked all about seasonal changes in animals. The children then made bird feeders, using a saw to carefully cut wooden rounds before scooping the bird food mixture on top.

In Year 2 the children have begun learning about multiplication in Maths this week. They have been making equal groups, writing these as repeated additions, and representing them as multiplication sentences. In English, we have read *The Three Little Pigs*. We explored different versions of the traditional tale before learning and discussing the version that will inspire the children to write their own stories. We also had a visit from Peninsula Dental this week to discuss the importance of looking after our teeth.

In Reception, we have shared the story *Owl Babies* and learnt lots of interesting facts about owls. In Maths, the children have been learning about the numbers 6, 7, and 8—looking at how they are composed and whether they are odd or even.







Saplings



This week our topic has been **Dinosaurs**, and the children have been thoroughly enjoying it! We have created a lovely dinosaur-themed area for the children to explore, which has inspired lots of curiosity and imaginative play.

Outdoor learning has also been a big focus. The children had the opportunity to use a saw, with support and guidance, to make bird feeders. They showed great concentration and enthusiasm while developing new skills.

In maths, we have been exploring patterns through nursery rhymes and by using loose parts to create their own patterns. The children enjoyed experimenting and sharing their ideas with one another.

One day this week, Saplings had the whole school to themselves! They had great fun exploring the other classrooms and playing games in the big playground — a very exciting and special experience for them.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

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



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 N

PTFA Meeting – 3:25pm Monday 9th February 2026 - OK to bring kids
- Big playground updates!

Parents and friends of the school are encouraged to come to the PTFA meeting at the school on Monday 9th February at 3:25pm, to get involved in our ongoing work. **If you have children it is fine to bring them along, arrangements have been made for childcare.**

We're moving into a new phase on the playground project and look forward to sharing updates and more images of plans... By working together as a school and wider community, we can rapidly make this image a reality!

Any questions about the meeting or other PTFA work, please speak to John Harvey or Alison Wonnacott, or email hennockptfa@gmail.com¹.



¹<mailto:hennockptfa@gmail.com>

Communications Team



This week, we interviewed some Year 6 children who visited the aquarium!

Q: What was your favourite part?

A: The fish and the eels!

Q: What was your favourite animal?

A: I loved seeing the sharks and the money eel.

Q: What was the best tank?

A: The shark and eel tank.

Star of the Week



30th January

Star of the Week:

Ash: Asa **Birch:** Eli **Willows:** Maddison

BC: Alana **ASC:** Aiden

Dojo Points:

Ash: Thomas, Mabel, Ro, Sophie, Asa **Birch:** Eli, Frank, Jess

Achievosaurus: Millie

Values Star: Millie

Playground Hero: Freddie

Pride of School:

6th February

Star of the Week:

Ash: Albert **Birch:** Benji **Willows:** Dusty

BC: Aiden **ASC:** Rupert

Dojo Points:

Ash: Thomas & Rudy **Birch:** Lucy

Achievosaurus: Emilia, Maddison

Values Star: Freddie

Playground Hero: Rupert

Pride of School: Lucy

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

- **Tuesday 24th Feb, Fairtrade Tea Event**
- **Wednesday 25th, Trees of Hope**

Outdoor learning dates this half term:

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

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

For Your Information



APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

AGED BETWEEN 9-15 AND WANT TO GIVE
YOUR BAKING SKILLS A GO?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



LAST CHANCE TO APPLY 15TH MARCH 2026

4

DO YOU WANT TO
TRY COMPETITIVE
SWIMMING?

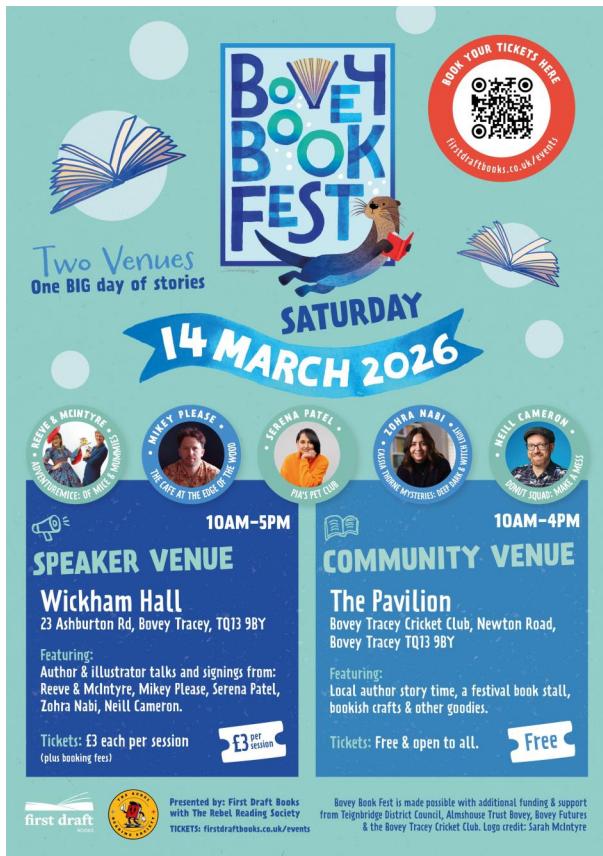


NEWTON ABBOT SWIMMING AND WATER POLO CLUB
CURRENTLY HAS SPACES AVAILABLE!
WE ARE BASED AT NEWTON ABBOT LEISURE CENTRE
& RUN SESSIONS MOST EVENINGS.
GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE!

- Try a fun new sport which is great for fitness
- We welcome swimmers aged from 5 upwards
- Email: secretary@naswpc.co.uk to book
- Find out more at www.naswpc.co.uk

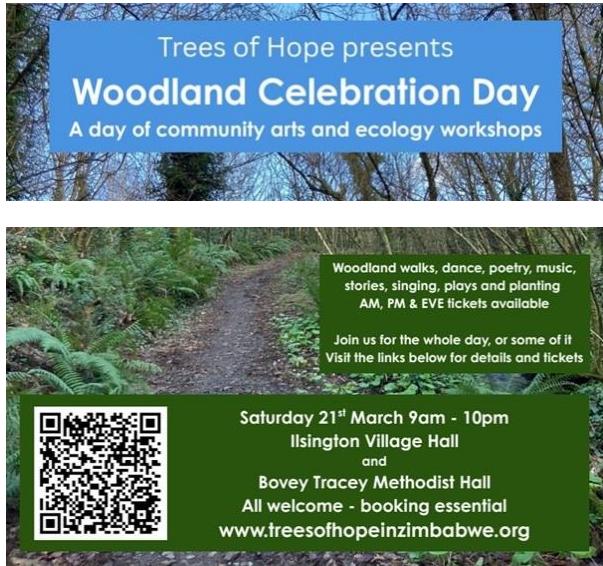






All young readers & families are invited to Bovey Tracey's new book festival just for kids, **Bovey Book Fest**, on 14 March 2026. Join us for a full day of events that celebrates the joys of reading, featuring sessions with award-winning authors & illustrators Neill Cameron, Reeve & McIntyre, Mike Please, 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 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 97.2%

Ash 99%

Birch 97.2%

Willows 92.9%

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>