

Hennock Primary School Newsletter

Message from the Head

It was absolutely lovely to see so many members of our community in school this week, exploring the exciting future plans for our playground development. Your enthusiasm and support mean a great deal to us as we collaborate to create even better outdoor spaces for the children. A particular highlight, of course, was the grand opening of the new table tennis table in the Netton. It has already become a huge hit with the pupils - there's been a steady stream of eager players every breaktime! Staff are quickly realising they may need to polish their own skills if they're to stand any chance of keeping up...

You will also have noticed the parent survey that went out this week. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete it. Your voice is extremely important to us, and your feedback helps shape the decisions we make moving forward.

It has been wonderful hearing what a success World Book Day was this year. We hope your child(ren) enjoyed the celebrations and the special author visit - there was certainly a lot of excitement around school throughout the day.

Looking ahead, Ash and Birch classes have a professional dance workshop to look forward to next week. It promises to be an energetic and inspiring experience, and we're all looking forward to hearing all about it from the children. Hopefully we get to see some of the moves too!

Have a lovely weekend,

Anthony Arnold

Ash Class



It has been a wonderfully busy and enriching couple of weeks in Ash Class! We have now completed our Maths unit on Area, Perimeter and Volume and begun exploring the second part of our Decimals unit. The children have shown great perseverance and curiosity as they build on their existing knowledge and tackle new challenges with growing confidence.

In Outdoor Learning, the children were able to make an exciting link to their DT topic by creating nettle pancakes. After carefully foraging stinging nettles, they added them to a pancake batter they mixed themselves—and the results were delicious! This hands-on experience was a brilliant way for the children to apply practical skills while learning about safe foraging and cooking outdoors.

We were also delighted to welcome Jane and Nick from Trees of Hope, who helped us launch our woodland project. The children recorded woodland-inspired sounds using

musical instruments and took part in detailed observational drawing, developing both creativity and environmental awareness.

Finally, we ended the week with a fantastic celebration of World Book Day. The children arrived in amazing costumes and enjoyed a wonderful workshop led by local author Becca Rogers, along with a range of book-themed activities throughout the day.





Birch Class



The children had a blast during World Book Day! Their costumes of their favourite characters were wicked, quite literally in some cases! The creative ideas really flowed during the workshop with author, Becca Rogers, and the children thought up some exciting adjectives and character traits for a potential story.

During English this week, the children have fully immersed themselves in writing 'bossy' command sentences, thinking about the structure of the sentence to ensure it provides a clear instruction. They've gone deeper by designing their own monster and creating expanded noun phrases with adjectives to describe their monster, fusing these with command sentences to provide extra clarity in their writing. Birch have incredible imaginations and it's been brilliant to see this reflected in their writing.

We have been using the work we have been doing on length and perimeter to solve problems and as we draw to the end of this sequence, the children have a stronger understanding of how to calculate the perimeter of a closed 2d shape. Next week...fractions!

We have also been further exploring how *Times Tables Rock Stars* supports children in developing quick, confident recall of their times tables. Although the platform includes lots of fun features—such as games and a shop where pupils can personalise their rock star character—we have set the expectation that children use the **'Garage'** mode only while in school, as this is the most effective area for targeted practice.

To make the most progress, it is recommended that children use the programme for around 21 minutes per week, averaging out at 3 minutes per day, between home and school. Alongside this, we continue to teach times tables in class through interactive activities, games, chanting, and jump-counting to build fluency in different ways.

In the summer term of Year 4, all pupils nationally take part in the statutory **Multiplication Tables Check**. The more secure children are with their times tables up to 12×12 —and the more confidently they can apply these facts to solve problems—the better equipped they will be, not only for this check but for their future learning and everyday life.

The children have also been learning how to use the **Heat Map** feature on TTRS to show which times tables they know confidently and those which they are developing fluency. Any that require a little more practise will be on their tags on their reading records.

Of course, some parents will wish to support their children without a device and there are lots of ways to do this. Please do reach out if you'd like to speak about this in more depth.

Have a great weekend!

Maugan

Willows and Reception Class



We have had another busy and exciting few weeks in both Reception and Year 2.

In Year 2 English, we have been planning and beginning to write a class story inspired by *The Three Little Pigs*. The children have shown fantastic creativity, inventing their own characters — including the three hermit crabs and the big bad seagull! We have also continued our work on multiplication and division during Maths. We have been focusing particularly on the 2 times table and exploring how doubling and halving link to multiplication and division. The children are becoming much more confident in spotting these patterns. In History, we have begun learning about the Great Fire of London. We have been discussing why the fire spread so quickly and what London was like at the time.

In Reception, we have been reading *The Lion Inside* by Rachel Bright and thinking carefully about what it means to be brave. The children drew pictures and wrote about times when they have shown bravery — we loved hearing their thoughtful ideas. In Maths, we have been exploring and comparing length and height using practical activities and discussions.

Altogether we have enjoyed reading *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* by Jill Tomlinson together, which led to some lovely conversations. At Forest School, we made the most of the dry weather — enjoying the mud kitchen, toasting marshmallows, and playing Eagle Eye. Finally For World Book Day, we had lots of fun making our own Supertato characters and

even made some delicious Gruffalo crumble inspired by *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson. We were also very lucky to welcome a visitor from First Draft Books, who shared some wonderful stories with us.





Saplings



In Saplings we have had a wonderful and very busy two weeks at preschool, filled with lots of learning, exploration, and fun activities. The children enjoyed experimenting with colours by using the colour wheel. They explored how to mix colours together and discovered how to make them lighter and darker. It was lovely to see their curiosity as they created new shades and talked about the colours they made. Whenever the weather allowed, we spent time outside playing with the sand and water. The children worked together to build, pour, dig, and explore, making the most of the outdoor environment.

Outdoor learning was a highlight of the fortnight. The children had great fun gathering around the open fire where they roasted marshmallows. It was a lovely opportunity for them to experience something new while learning about fire safety and enjoying time together. We have also seen fantastic progress in the children's gross motor development. Many of them confidently climbed in and out of the river by themselves, showing growing strength and coordination. Some children even managed to walk the length of the river, carefully ducking under the bridges and making their way all the way to the waterfall at the end. They were incredibly proud and excited about their achievements.

World Book Day was another wonderful moment. The children loved seeing everyone's costumes and talking about their favourite characters. We spent time listening to lots of stories and taking part in book-themed activities, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

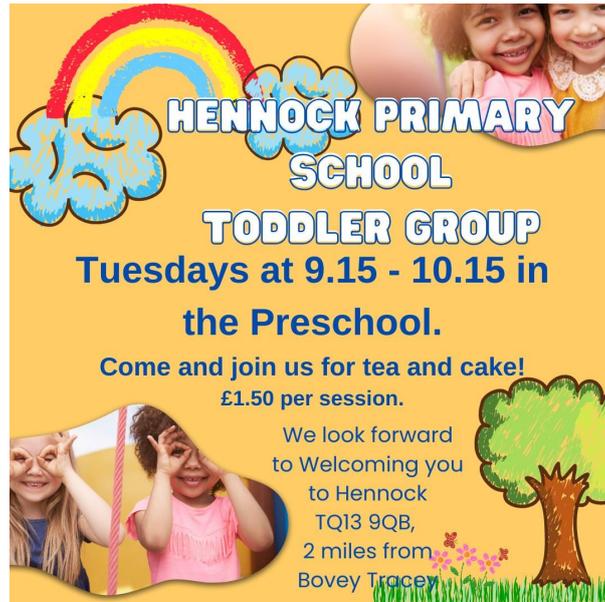
It has been a lovely two weeks watching the children learn, explore, and celebrate their accomplishments together.

Have a lovely weekend!

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



Table Tennis is Open! We had an excellent opening event which was very well attended by local businesses and the Parish Council, all of whom are very sportive. Tayler Pierce did an amazing job of arranging a table tennis tournament and seeing the excitement of all the children was infectious!

We have now also sent out leaflets to all local houses encouraging people to support with donations and/or volunteering time. If you don't live locally and haven't had a leaflet, please pick one up at reception. Now is a critical time to build momentum in the crowdfunding campaign so if you are able to donate, every little helps.

We're continuing discussions with lots of companies who are offering to support us and also moving into the next step of applying for further parish council funding in the next couple of weeks or so. Exciting times!

The Hennock PTFA





This week, we interviewed some KS2 children about what they got up to on World Book Day.

Q: What was your favourite part of World Book Day?

A: I really loved making my own bookmark!

Q: What did you like about celebrating World Book Day?

A: I liked getting to dress up and seeing everyone dressed as different characters.

Q: Who did you come as?

A: I came as the shark from *James and the Giant Peach*.

A: Alex Ryder!

Q: Did you like the visit from Becca Rogers, a local author?

A: Yes because we got to make our own settings and characters! It was really fun!

Star of the Week



27th Febuary

Star of the Week:

Ash: Jessica **Birch:** Alison **Willows:** Oliver

BC: Ralph **ASC:** Ro

Dojo Points:

Ash: Freddie **Birch:** Finn and Lucy

Achievosaurus: Aiden

Values Star: Agnes

Playground Hero: Alma

Pride of School:

6th March

Star of the Week:

Ash: Roanna **Birch:** Finn **Willows:** Emmie

BC: Eloise **ASC:** Mila

Dojo Points:

Ash: Freddie and Sophie **Birch:** Jess and Alison

Achievosaurus: Sophie

Values Star: Rudy

Playground Hero: Jessica B

Pride of School: Maddie

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

- **This week - Sponsored Reading Week in connection with World Book Day**
- **Monday 9th - KS2 (Ash & Birch) SDCC dance workshop**
- **Wednesday 11th - Trees of Hope & Reception Visual screening**
- **Monday 16th - Trees of Hope.**

Outdoor learning dates this half term:

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

- **Wednesday 18th March**
- **Wednesday 1st April**

Outdoor learning dates next half term

- **Wednesday 22nd April**
- **Wednesday 6th May**
- **Wednesday 20th May**

For Your Information



KINGFISHER ACTIVITIES
admin@kingfisheractivities.co.uk/ 07814 480650

**SWIMMING LESSONS
EASTER CRASH COURSE**

**HARCOMBE HOUSE
CHUDLEIGH, TQ13 0DG**
(ONLY 12 MINS FROM EXETER AND
NEWTON ABBOT)

**FOR SWIMMERS AGED 4+ IN
STAGES 1-5**

**TUESDAY 7TH -FRIDAY 10TH
APRIL 2026 8.30am-10.00am**

30 MINUTE LESSONS
MAXIMUM OF 6 CHILDREN PER CLASS
RATIO 3:1 FOR STAGES 1 & 2

PRIVATE 12M HEATED POOL AT 31°C

£44.20 PER SWIMMER
(INCLUDES ALL CERTIFICATES & BADGES!)

FREE PARKING ON SITE

**TO BOOK HEAD OVER TO
OUR WEBSITE OR
GET IN TOUCH**

www.kingfisheractivities.co.uk

Looking to boost your child's swimming progress over the Easter holidays? Kingfisher Activities are delighted to announce our Easter 2026 Crash Courses. **Tuesday 7th April – Friday 10th April 2026 8:30am – 10:00am Harcombe House, Chudleigh** Our fantastic Swim England Level 2 teachers Lottie, Sophie & Harleigh are excited to be leading this year's course, delivering high-quality, focused lessons in a fun and supportive environment.

Group Lessons Stages **1, 2, 3, 4 & 5** available

Maximum **6 swimmers per class** *Stages 1 & 2 operate at an enhanced **1:3 ratio** ***£44.20 per swimmer** Private Lessons. Available on either: ***1-2-1** – £104 ***2-2-1** – £128 Crash courses are a brilliant way to accelerate progress, build confidence, and refine technique in a short space of time. To book please go to our website www.kingfisheractivities.co.uk¹ or click [HERE](#).² We hope to see you this Easter, Kate and the Kingfisher Team

¹<https://www.kingfisheractivities.co.uk/>

²https://u16010013.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.nOVkc04u6sSCF8lxx6-2Bo0xlg68Tywgr5D2rMOst0h2TsNSPb4GLOteF-2FK-2BePxs-2Fpi9rAbSgOSaxqOhn7-2Badz8lrFoU4PtMI7Qexuy7R0a9U-3DRr7s_f6onRJ3rVm6sYsc0PuguPOC7Is-2Fcpb-2FA-2BDIYi5sC7rorquHvZHU-2Fi9Jgc4DbMISvmZAAaPNfBhJSZJkPcgXd2JakkCNqSPR8FP51xBI2ukYo7Dd-2BR4UA8bkOftrTMDjmUHRzCCYyLiZtj7vA5BpbJBjm2zwK6JbfJjv7-2BYq4Q7PI8CGAG-2BdePj8C6sXU2Bc82i2W8wRo-2FB8vhn3vSnqofnZ5p1Re5XBMggKdfb1MWW2a-2F02ckRvT44iVdqiOJ9Npt2hCW-2B-2FH6Pj-2BOEa8e7R50GLXfkYXUCVEOF1DJqhclfn99SBdiWPZvG2uLgMaJL7GxcOG6BnqHiMnvWDFU-2Bx8IX9fLB3-2FI5TPddyOFwNN-2BwQA-3D

BOVEY BOOK FEST

Two Venues
One BIG day of stories

14 MARCH 2026

BOOK YOUR TICKETS HERE
<https://firstdraftbooks.co.uk/events>

REEVE & MCINTYRE • *CONFIDENCE: BE WISE*
MIKEY PLEASE • *THE CASE AT THE END OF THE WOOD*
SERENA PATEL • *PIA'S PET CLUB*
ZOHRA NABI • *WINDING WAY*
NEILL CAMERON • *CRIMINAL MINDS: THE CASE*

10AM-5PM
SPEAKER VENUE
Wickham Hall
 23 Ashburton Rd, Bovey Tracey, TQ13 9BY
 Featuring:
 Author & illustrator talks and signings from:
 Reeve & McIntyre, Mikey Please, Serena Patel,
 Zohra Nabi, Neill Cameron.
 Tickets: £3 each per session
 (plus booking fees)

10AM-4PM
COMMUNITY VENUE
The Pavilion
 Bovey Tracey Cricket Club, Newton Road,
 Bovey Tracey TQ13 9BY
 Featuring:
 Local author story time, a festival book stall,
 bookish crafts & other goodies.
 Tickets: Free & open to all.

Presented by: **First Draft Books** with **The Rebel Reading Society**
 TICKETS: firstdraftbooks.co.uk/events

Bovey Book Fest is made possible with additional funding & support from Teignbridge District Council, Almshouse Trust Bovey, Bovey Futures & the Bovey Tracey Cricket Club. Logo credit: Sarah McIntyre

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

Trees of Hope presents
Woodland Celebration Day
 A day of community arts and ecology workshops

Woodland walks, dance, poetry, music, stories, singing, plays and planting
 AM, PM & EVE tickets available

Join us for the whole day, or some of it
 Visit the links below for details and tickets

Saturday 21st March 9am - 10pm
Ilington Village Hall
 and
Bovey Tracey Methodist Hall
 All welcome - booking essential
www.treesofhopeinzimbabwe.org

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>

Trust PE curriculum newsletter

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/zLOiQH5pmGNg9uGO?ref=Link>

School Attendance

Attendance this fortnight:

Whole School 86.5%

Ash 90.2%

Birch 88.2%

Willows 75.4%

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/admissionarrangementsThe 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.uk³

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

³<mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk>