

LINK ACADEMY TRUST CHRISTMAS 2024 NEWSLETTER



A Merry Christmas to All

FROM NICKY DUNFORD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term saw the first of our Trust Hub Music projects with 6 of our Totnes and South Devon schools collaborating to put on an exceptional performance at the Civic Hall in Totnes (29th November at 6 pm); the children as always putting on an amazing show. Kip and Elfyn have worked all term with the schools and lead the choirs on the evening the Highlight of which was all choirs taking to the stage for a song written by Kip called 6 villages. The brilliant composition focussed on each school taking part as it gave everyone a chance to shine... The room was packed with an audience of about 250 parents and 100 children who were delighted with the really amazing talent on show! I have to thank Jill Ryder who has been a driving force in getting this enormous undertaking underway and introduced the event and Matt, the Deputy CEO rounded things off, although to the disappointment of some did not sing as we had hoped!!!!

I would like to take this opportunity to fully thank all those staff that worked so hard in each of the schools to produce such a professional production and to thank the children that were so dedicated and gave their absolute best. These events take a lot of commitment but are wonderful examples of the experiences we feel are so important for our pupils to enjoy and be part of. Next term will see another group of schools undertaking a similar venture....

As always, our individual school- based Christmas festivities have mostly now taken place- as usual all of the staff and children have delivered some wonderful performances to ensure our pupils build their personal confidence and develop their creative talents. Well done to everyone & huge thanks.

We started the new academic year with 4 new schools from East Devon joining the Trust- Branscombe CofE primary, Broadhembury CofE primary, Farway CofE primary and Woodbury Salterton CofE primary. These schools had been part of a Federation which also included Littleham who joined us the previous term. As a result of this expansion, we have looked at the structure that supports school improvement trust-wide and decided to establish three geographical Hubs which has helped to concentrate our expertise and resources in a way that provides everyone with consistent support. This term has shown just how effective the change has been.

We have had successful Graded Ofsted Inspections this term-

Broadhempston (1.10.24) under Karen Barlow, with Jill Ryder's continued support achieved Outstanding judgements in both Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development with Good in Leadership and Management as well as Quality of Education.



Sparkwell All Saints primary were inspected on 15th October under Fran McLoughlin and received good judgements in every inspection area, including Early Years.

Diptford Parochial Primary was inspected on 5th & 6th November under Holly Eddington and also received good outcomes in every area, including Early Years.

Whilst I write this we have had visits to Bearnese and Harbertonford CofE Primary Schools and we are expecting the reports to be published in the new year.

We have also welcomed new Academy Heads at:

Harbertonford CofE primary- Jack Pemberton joined us in September and has settled in extremely well and has had positive impact from the off.

Kat Williams has been at Ilesington since the start of the year and has had lots to do to support some of our more vulnerable children and families with additional needs- she is doing a brilliant job.

Alex Cross joined Cheriton Bishop in September and has been working extremely hard to make positive changes and improvements- the learning behaviours are noticeably progressing which is brilliant to see.

Louise Warren has stepped up into the Academy Head role at Tedburn St Mary, her professionalism and knowledge of the school shining through!

Karen Barlow has taken the reins at Broadhempston and was thrown in at the deep end with a visit from Ofsted but rose to the challenge magnificently.

Our new Academy Heads in East Devon- Ashleigh Tubbs (Branscombe & Farway) and Nikki Weeks who has just recently been asked to lead Woodbury Salterton are really impressive in how they are picking up the new Link Academy systems, while making huge improvements in the way their schools operate too.

So, another highly successful term where our small community schools continue to deliver the very best they can for pupils. I would also like to thank parents for all the support and help they offer us, especially as funding is getting tighter and tighter.

Have a super Christmas break and enjoy the family time! See you all back in the New Year!

Kind regards,

Nicky



Bearnes Primary School



As we come to the end of the term here at Bearnes, it's brilliant to look back at the last few productive and enjoyable months. Highlights have included; the annual cross country event, KS2 rugby, World Explorer Day and The Duggie Dug Nativity performance at the Avenue Church. We've had a busy few weeks full of festive performances in school. Our Early Years and KS1 children performed an amazing Nativity 'Shine, Star, Shine.' Redwoods wrote and performed poems inspired by Carol Ann Duffy's poem, Bethlehem and Sycamores enjoyed singing festive songs to their families. The brilliant choir have also had lots of opportunities to perform at school, the local care home, Tesco and the Avenue Church. The theme for the annual Lantern Parade was the 'Amazon' this year. Our Redwoods class made beautiful toucan lanterns at the Avenue Church to carry for the procession. The parade was a huge success as always and a lovely way for our community to come together and celebrate at this time of year. The Rudolph Run in aid of Rowcroft Hospice, was another huge success with children running as many laps of the school in 25 minutes as they could. The children were challenging themselves to beat their last year's laps by at least one. There were lots of rosy cheeks on such a cold day, but an impressive £397.65 was raised for this brilliant local charity. We would like to say a huge thanks to our local foodbank HITS, the Salvation Army and Unicare Devon for their generosity this Christmas with supporting some of our families with hampers and vouchers. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Branscombe CofE Primary School



It has been a busy term and the children at Branscombe, as always, have impressed all the staff with their determination, hard work and kindness. Something really exciting for the school is that we have got a new minibus- this has really been busy already with the introduction of the new school bus service. The children have taken part in a few sporting events and are looking forward to more in the new year. Our children did the school proud on National Day of Kindness, where they had the whole day off timetable. The children spent the morning making posters (about picking up litter, dog mess etc) and doing affirmations then in the afternoon, they walked around the village putting their posters up, posting affirmations through people's doors and doing a litter pick. The village was so grateful for their hard work. The children have been learning about the war and have enjoyed learning all about Branscombe and the school during WWII, the children had a letter from an old pupil who wrote all about when evacuees came to the school. The children finished the term with an exciting trip to the pantomime (oh yes, we did) as well as their Nativity and Christingle Services.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Broadhembury CofE Primary School



We have had a really positive first term at Broadhembury C of E! The children are adapting to the significant changes that have taken place at the school and we have been impressed at how they are responding to the new routines and expectations. The new staff team have provided the children with some incredible learning experiences and the children have already produced lots of work that they should be incredibly proud of. One of the real highlights of the term has been the engagement in village events such as the Harvest Festival and the Remembrance Day Service which took place at the war memorial in the village square. The children in Class 2 produced an incredible felt memorial within a felting workshop in school and were able to carry it and display it during the service. Across both of these events, it has been evident that the children are able to engage the local community and are incredibly proud of themselves when they see the impact they are able to have on others. This is something that we will be looking to build on across the rest of the academic year. Merry Christmas from all of us at Broadhembury C of E!

Broadhempston Primary School



It's been a term full of excitement, hard work and community spirit at Broadhempston. Our half-termly visits to Forest School have been a real hit and we achieved the Green Tree Schools Award from the Woodland Trust. KS2 showed their determination in the cross-country event and Year 5/6 demonstrated excellent teamwork and sportsmanship in the tag rugby tournament. Our gymnastics showcase was a wonderful afternoon with pupils showing off their skills to parents. Year 5/6 hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning for the community and our School Council organised a Gladiators themed afternoon for Children in Need. The annual Rudolph Run around the village was another highlight - the snow machine was a big hit! KS2 took a trip to Torquay Museum and Morwellham Quay, Birch Class went to a local orchard to pick and juice their own apples and our Eco Council visited Moor Barton Woods to learn about the beaver colony. We've had visits from a local artist who ran a printing workshop and author Simon James who painted a personalised illustration for each class.

Our KS2 choir took part in the first ever Totnes Hub Choir Festival and then spread some Christmas cheer at the Christmas fair and local nursing home. It wouldn't be Christmas without mentioning the nativity which was described as a triumph - the performances left parents and staff beaming with pride. And as if all that wasn't enough, Ofsted also paid us a visit! We can't wait to see what 2025 has to offer.

Ho ho ho!

Cheriton Bishop Primary School



It's been a busy first term of the year at Cheriton! Our new children in Reception and at Preschool have settled in very well, as have the children who have joined us in other classes. We have also welcomed some new members of staff, including a new Academy Head! The children at Cheriton have been learning about the British Values in assemblies and classes. One of the values they have learned about is Democracy. As well as learning about it, the children have been taking part in democracy by electing a new School Council. The council meet regularly with the headteacher to talk about how the school can be made even better. Some of the older children have volunteered to be Playleaders at break and lunchtimes to look after the play equipment and lead games with the other children. There is always quite a buzz on our playground now! The whole school took a trip to the theatre in Exeter to see Cinderella and the children really enjoyed the show. This came soon after our younger children wowed audiences with their own Christmas show - A Miracle In Town. Well done, everyone!

Diptford CofE Primary School



Another term has flown by in school. It doesn't seem long ago that we welcomed our new Reception children into school. We have seen them flourish and grow in confidence as they have been welcomed into our school family. The term came to an end at Diptford with Christmas celebrations across school. It was lovely to see children of all ages come together to share the magic of the Nativity story with parents and members of the local community. What a fantastic whole school effort! Well done to all our pupils. Another highlight of the term was the fantastic Choir performance at Totnes Civic Hall working alongside Devon Music Hub and our hub of local schools for a real celebration of music. I am sure that the 'Diptford Song' written by the children will be a hit for years to come. We finished off the term with whole school visits to the theatre and pantomime, enjoyed some amazing performances at 'Diptford's Got Talent', a wonderful Christmas craft morning organised by our fabulous FODS and a superb Christmas dinner.

Thank you to all our fabulous staff for their commitment and continued hard work. From everyone at Diptford, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2025.



Drake's CofE Primary School



It's been a busy and festive time at our school! The children made a fantastic effort dressing up as superheroes for Children in Need. They had a lot of fun colouring in Pudsey, making superhero masks, and participating in sporting activities. We also had our Christmas Performance of 'A Christmas Recipe' and Songs & Carols at All Saints Church, where parents were invited to join in the celebration. The children's performances were outstanding with beautiful singing. It was a great experience for everyone involved, and we are so proud of how hard the children worked to make it such a memorable event. The children also had a great time at the Northcott Theatre watching Cinderella, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed our delicious Christmas lunch. We were delighted to have the Tesco Community Champion visit the school. Thanks to Tesco, both preschool and school children had the chance to make their own mince pies—such a fun, festive activity! We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Farway CofE Primary School



Farway children have been very busy in the first term of the school year. It has been wonderful seeing them all working so hard and enjoying their learning. The children have taken part in a few sporting events and are looking forward to more in the new year. We have been celebrating receiving the International Cross of Nails Award for our continued work on peace and reconciliation, which forms the basis of our Christian Ethos. We are looking forward to the church service to present this award just after Christmas. This term some of the children have been learning the guitar through lessons as well as the trumpets in class- it has been a very noisy term! All the children took great pride in taking part in the Harvest festival and Remembrance Service in the community as well as raising money for Children in Need; we also enjoyed supporting the village Christmas Fayre. Thank you also to all our parents who gave up their time to join in with Love My School Day, parents painted areas of the playground and tidied up outside; we look forward to running another one of these events. Our phonics workshop was also popular, with

parents coming to join in with a phonics session. The children finished this term with an exciting trip to the pantomime in Axminster (oh yes, we did) as well as their Nativity and Christingle Services.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Harbertonford CofE Primary School



The autumn term at Harbertonford has been one of renewal. New classes for the children, new teachers in Falcons, Kestrels and Eagles classes and a new headteacher, too. We've had a new roof in the summer and a brilliant new outside covered area for our Owls class. We've had new murals in the playground, in the school hall and in the classrooms, too. This term, we've had a new way of doing our singing assemblies which had led to brilliant performances in the church for Harvest Festival and the Carol Concert. And of course, not new, but returning for this year, is our Key Stage One Christmas Nativity show. We are proud to showcase the wonderful creative talents of our pupils and our choir project was a great example of this. We were also treated to a performance in school of guitar playing and drumming with our resident rock star, Terence! In our World Explorer Days this term, children have learnt about New York City and Berlin, producing creative outcomes to show off their learning. Our PTFA has also been very busy organising Bake Offs, hosting a Halloween disco

and Film Night in the school hall. These were incredibly popular with the children and parents and have helped raise money to pay for the improvements around the school and for the Music Zone: a space for children to play and dance to their favourite music during break times. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas holiday.

Hennock Primary School



It has been another busy term at Hennock. There have been class trips to Plymouth Aquarium and Kents Caverns, trips to see music and drama productions at Teign School and Torquay Girls Grammar School, Bikeability and more. We have also taken part in Link Academy cross country and tag rugby events. The children really enjoyed the opportunity to meet and compete against other schools within the trust. Within school all of our Pupil Voice groups (School Council, Eco Council, Sports Leaders, Librarians, Communications team and Play Mentors) have been working hard to decide on their priorities for the year. There are lots of exciting plans ahead from beach cleans to special reports for the school newsletter and pupil led assemblies. As ever our PTFA have been a huge support to the school. As I write they are setting up for our Christmas Carol Celebration and will be back again to provide refreshments for the highlight of our term, Saplings and Willows Nativity, which this year is The Landlords Cat. The children have been hard at work

practising their lines and songs, and I am sure they will be raising the roof on our school hall. We wish all our families a very Happy Christmas and New Year.



Ilsington CofE Primary School



As we approach the end of this bustling term, it is great to take a moment to reflect on the activities and achievements that have brought our school community together. There have been numerous trips with the 5/6 residential to Barton Hall, a trip to Exeter Mosque and Cathedral, team building at Haven Banks, St Michael's Church for Remembrance, Simms Wood, a 'virtual visit' to Paris and many sporting events! A huge thank you to our staff and volunteers who have enabled these experiences to take place. The Friends of Ilsington have been exceptional, organising fantastic events such as the bake-sale and planning the Village Hall Christmas Get Together which has brought smiles to everyone involved. We held our first disco, which was a resounding success. These events not only created wonderful memories but also highlighted the strength of our school's community spirit.

A special mention goes to our talented students, who dazzled us with their performances of 'Baarmy Bethlehem' and 'No one Wraps Like and Elf'. We also enjoyed having Pat Saturley

supporting us with music where we have composed and performed our own songs. We are thrilled to share that our school has been awarded a Learning Through Landscapes grant! This exciting opportunity will help us enhance outdoor learning, and the staff look forward to training in fire-making and climate and sustainability. Thank you for your continued support of our school. Wishing you all a restful and joyful holiday season, and we look forward to an exciting term ahead!

Landscove CofE Primary School



It's been a busy term at Landscove. Our Ethos group have been busy leading the way with our Food for thought project. In Uganda, the project aims to give pupils the skills to be able to feed themselves. Our raised beds have been planted ready for harvesting next year and letters and photos have been exchanged with our Ugandan school friends - it's providing a window into the world beyond our reach, where life is very different. Following a visit to MMV Energy from waste plant Class 3 and our Eco committee have set carbon cutting challenges for all our staff and the parent community. There is a comprehensive action plan to support us all in this endeavour. Pupil voice groups asked for an author's week this term to "big up writing" and with FOLS support we obliged with Simon James joining us for workshops and inspiration. With support from FOLS our woodland area has been secured and revamped, KS2 have been to Forest school in Broadhempston and sport has featured in a big way this term - from Cross Country to, tag rugby and gymnastics as well as an extra Tag event with Broadhempston.

There was an amazing performance by Song Machine who put on a brilliant show as part of the Link School Choir Project - we were super proud of their performance at the civic hall in Totnes! To end the term, we have visited Bethlehem three times (for some Aah factor 10 performances) and after a final carol service on Friday 20th December, I think we could say it's been a full and fun term.

Merry Christmas

Littleham CofE Primary School



It has been a cracking Autumn term here at Littleham. We welcomed Mrs Crocock, Mrs Sperry and Mrs Lee at the beginning of the year, who have all made such significant impact already. Mr Luxa has also been very well received as our PE teacher on a Friday. There has also been a plethora of trips and experiences that have happened this term, including trips to Kents Cavern and hosting Animals South West. Seeing the children engage in a range of new experiences has been such a highlight. The school is part of a wider project led by Libraries Unlimited to raise the attainment of Reading in the Littleham community. As part of the project, we took the whole school to Exmouth Library to sign up for a library card and to take out new reading books. It was a fantastic morning. Hosting a tag rugby tournament for some of the local schools was also a brilliant example of schools in the Trust coming together to enjoy some competitive sport. Everyone seemed to have a great time! It has been a long term but one full of highlights and progress. I hope everyone across the Trust has an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas!

Morchard Bishop CofE Primary School



We have had a fantastic term at Morchard Bishop C of E! The children have hit the ground running with their learning and have produced huge amounts of work that they should be incredibly proud of. We have been involved in a large number of sports events including the Trust cross country race, gymnastics workshops at Exeter gymnastics club and local festivals to showcase the incredible talent that is being developed across the school in PE lessons. We have also regularly been out in the local community, supporting events and giving the children the opportunity to connect with the village and our surroundings. We have developed a really special connection with Ridge House Care Home and the children and residents thoroughly enjoy spending time together. We have been in to see them throughout the term and it is great to see the different generations coming together, sharing stories and brightening each others days. We were really pleased to invite a number of the residents to our Carols by Candlelight performance at the Church and we are truly grateful to them for their support of the school.

As always, the performances of the children during the Harvest festival, family services and Carols concert highlighted that the children here are able to articulate themselves increasingly well when in front of an audience. Their public speaking skills will enable them to flourish both within and beyond the school.

Merry Christmas from all of us at Morchard Bishop C of E!



Moretonhampstead Primary School



We have raced through this term with loads going on! Highlights have included joining the Whiddon Down Festival, a visit from 'la compagnie Artiflette' and a Cross Country Running Event! La compagnie Artiflette - We enjoyed a superb visit from an international travelling circus! The team had travelled from France on bikes and performed for all the children. The older children then learnt circus skills! Whiddon Down Festival - the children in Y5/6 took part in this super event working with other local schools and professional singers. This included workshops in schools and a final performance at St. Andrew's church which was enjoyed by parents, carers and members of the community. Cross Country Running - 56 Moreton children took part in this Link Academy Trust event with 20 other schools. In total over 600 children took part. We were delighted with how well our children ran and how supportive they were to each other! We enjoyed our termly school Farmer's Market with stalls selling local produce and homemade crafts. It was well attended by families and the community.

We enjoyed a visit from Tiny Travels who worked with all classes across school exploring different cultures. Children also enjoyed listening to and playing a range of world instruments. Christmas Chaos! - in the run up to Christmas we have enjoyed choir singing at our local residential home, at Castle Drogo and in Exeter with the choir and then younger children performing. We have also had a Christmas Fair, Breakfast with Santa, Christmas dinner and our wonderful performance of the Nativity with Christmas Carols. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ottertton CofE Primary School



What a fantastic Autumn Term we have had at Ottertton C of E Primary School. The key stage one children started their geography topic off with trips to Otter and Pyne Farm, gaining first hand experiences ahead of learning about where the food we eat originates from. The key stage two children also kick started their history topic on The Iron Age, with a trip to Woodbury Castle's Iron Age Hillfort. Back in the classrooms the children have been focusing on developing their writing with some lovely fiction and non-fiction texts studied already this term. These skills in writing have helped when recounting their trips and explorations in history and geography. The Ottertton singing club have been sounding fantastic this term. A highlight is when the children performed for the residents of the Old Vicarage, spreading some festive cheer. The children have been advocates of change, both in their own community and beyond. They have sorted, packed up and sent sports kits to schools in Africa. We have also seen generosity from families in our school community, donating gifts to our Christmas gift appeal. For this, we teamed up with Budleigh Salterton Lions Club, donating

and wrapping 68 gifts, to support families at this time of year. The children all out did themselves at the Christmas performances of A Magical Christmas Journey, the village hall was bursting at the seams! Everyone at Ottertton Primary School would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Sparkwell All Saints Primary School



We have had a busy but successful Autumn term at Sparkwell. We had a farm trip for our EYFS class and Kents Cavern for Year 3 & 4 as well as sporting events including the cross-country and a local football festival. We have had visitors in school including artists and musicians with a highlight being Bailey the barn owl from the Barn Owl Trust. We have of course continued to enjoy learning in our Forest School sessions in the woods with some lovely Autumnal cooking. We very much enjoyed the Trust choir event at Totnes.

We had our Ofsted inspection just before half term, a surprise 2 days but all went well and we were judged as good in all areas with some very lovely comments about our inclusivity, curriculum and personal development.

This term has culminated in our Christmas show with an environmental message about looking after our planet. It has been a great way to bring my 10 years as headteacher at Sparkwell to a close, I am very grateful to all the staff and families I have worked with over the years and I hope Mr Cole will enjoy it as much as I have. Happy Christmas from all at Sparkwell!



Stoke Gabriel Primary School

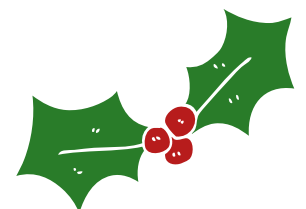


The Autumn term is always a lively one! We're all enjoying the singing, decorating and performing that comes with the festive season. It is always such a pleasure to see the children push themselves to perform with such confidence in front of a live audience. Our recently formed school choir took to the stage as part of the Totnes Hub Choir Festival where they performed three songs, one of which was sung by the six Totnes village schools and one was written by our choir members. This work was supported by Kip and Elfy from the Devon Music Hub and is an event we'll all remember for a long time.

The gymnastics and rugby skills we've seen from the children in PE have been impressive and Mr Tanner's rugby club certainly didn't let the weather stop them! Our KS2 pupils won the Totnes Hub tag rugby event, which was an excellent end to their unit of learning. The term ends with our annual trip to the pantomime to see Jack and the Beanstalk at the Princess Theatre, which has been fully funded by FOSS. We are very fortunate to have an active

PTFA who are also supporting us in upgrading the playground and outdoor learning spaces. We're excited to install a selection of play panels in the new year. Thank you to everyone for your hard work this term.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Tedburn St Mary Primary School



Hello from Tedburn St Mary Primary! There have been many highlights at our school this term starting off with a residential trip to Runnage Farm on Dartmoor, for our year 6 children, sporting events at QE for KS2, a WW2 immersive day for years 5 and 6 and a trip to Exeter Gymnastics Club for the younger children in our school. We have also seen amazing performances from our Tedburn Kids Choir at Killerton House and Estate, Guitar Assembly and our younger children performing their incredible Nativity 'We Three Kings'. Our School Value focus this term has been on Respect and Community and the children have shown these two values in abundance. The month of November was a hive of activity for our local Community and wider world, as we supported Children in Need, the Poppy Appeal and the Shoebox Appeal for Moldova. The children always enjoy learning how they can make a difference to children and their families in our local area, as well as in our wider world. The children across the school have also enjoyed two World Explorer

Days where we have visited and learnt about Japan and Alaska. The children look forward to these days as it's an opportunity to work alongside other children within our school and develop stronger relationships with members of staff who they don't usually work with. We wish all in the Link Academy a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Widcombe-in-the-Moor Primary School



What a fantastic autumn term we have had at Widcombe. We have welcomed new families into our thriving community and continued to collaborate with courage and creativity. Our school environment has evolved with a new adventure playground and plans are in place to develop our nature area with families busy in the background making mud kitchens and planters - we can't wait to see this all fall into place. We have welcomed new music teachers too with many more children now learning to play the guitar, drums and piano alongside our thriving choir who are fully booked up for Christmas markets already! At the start of the academic year, we were delighted to be involved in The Widcombe Fair where we fully immersed ourselves into the traditions and celebrations of our local community. Our reception class made a fantastic start to life in school testing out their balance bikes, climbing trees, making new friends and showing fantastic learning attitudes in lessons. This term we welcomed Sandhya Dave in to help us to understand what it is like to be a Hindu living in

Britain and Rob Steemson, our Dartmoor Park Ranger, who talked us through what looking after Dartmoor involves. We have ventured further afield too with a whole school visit to the RAMM, had a fabulous interactive day at Farmwise learning where our food comes from and about the history of the Dartmoor hill pony. Competing against 20 other schools and winning the Trust's Cross Country Competition this year was an early highlight. Finishing the term with our whole-school Christmas production and carol service has been the perfect way to wrap up the term and start the festive break. Merry Christmas everyone. Love from Widcombe!

Wolborough CofE Primary School



As the term draws to a close, it's wonderful to reflect on what a productive, fun-filled, and inspiring few months we've had at Wolborough. This term began with us welcoming our lovely Reception starters in a special service at church; the children love the bibles they were presented with. Other highlights have included Health & Wellbeing Week, dance and cricket workshops, the thrill of Cross Country, and the ever-popular Book Swap. We've journeyed back in time with Victorian Day and celebrated our community spirit through the Harvest Festival, donating generously to THAT food bank. Events like the Woolley Bear Coffee Mornings and Pop in and Play sessions continue to show how much we value being part of our local community. Our Year 6 children had a fabulous adventure on their residential trip to Heatree and demonstrated exceptional perseverance and team spirit. This festive season has been magical with the choir spreading cheer at the Library and ASDA, and our spectacular Christmas Performances. The Lantern Parade

was a glowing success, and another opportunity to be a part of our local community. We wish everyone a peaceful, joyful Christmas.

Merry Christmas

Woodbury Salterton CofE Primary School



Woodbury Salterton have had a fantastic and busy start to the academic year and have found the transition to joining the LINK academy extremely beneficial to both pupils and staff. The support that we have been given by the Trust has enabled us to strategically plan for the future to secure the best learning outcomes for our pupils. Our Key Stage Two pupils also enjoyed a trip to the Narnia Experience. The experience was interactive and the children enjoyed meeting 'C.S Lewis' who told them all about his inspiration behind the story 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe'. The children learnt that the best stories use the writer's imagination and that you can make up a story about absolutely anything you like: you just need to keep wondering and asking questions. To finish the term, the Christmas festivities brought a wonderful opportunity to bring our school community together. The Christingle and Nativity services were well supported by our families and local community and gave each child an opportunity to shine as they performed and retold the Christmas story. Our PTFA organised a fantastic Christmas

Fair where they raised money for the development of our Forest School area and they also paid for the children to watch the Le Navet Bete Pantomime, Cinderella, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The children then had the opportunity to give something back to the local community and they worked hard to collect sponsors for their participation in the Annual Reindeer Run where they raised a whopping £691 for Rowcroft Hospice.

Merry Christmas to all!!!

Yeoford Primary School



This term at Yeoford Primary School has been filled with exciting opportunities, engaging learning experiences, and wonderful community involvement. From trips and competitions to festive celebrations, there's been something for everyone to enjoy. Our Year 5 and 6 students embarked on an adventurous trip to Meldon Reservoir, where they explored the local environment and bonded with their new classmates. Meanwhile, Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a fascinating visit to Kent's Cavern, delving into history and geology. KS1 students shone in a gymnastics trip, demonstrating their growing confidence and physical skills. Outdoor activities were a highlight across the school, with two tag rugby tournaments, a cross-country competition for KS2, and a thrilling orienteering trip.

This term also saw inspiring visits and events. A local historian brought the Viking era to life with a hands-on experience, captivating the curiosity of our students. Our Gardening Club worked hard to make apple chutney

and flapjack, raising funds for the PTA. Additionally, under the guidance of the school council, Yeoford Primary raised over £100 for Children in Need, showcasing the generosity of our community. As we near the end of term, the festive spirit has been in full swing. We've sung carols at Tesco, performed for locals at the local community lunch, and decorated a Christmas tree in the church for the Christmas tree festival. Looking ahead, we are excited for our school nativity, a trip to the pantomime, and our much-loved Christmas lunch, which will provide a joyful close to a fantastic term!



*Finally, we wish you a
very Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year.
Please stay safe.*

