



The Beacon

Church of England (V.A.) Primary & Pre-School *Living life in all its fullness. (John 10:10)*

Dear Families and Friends,

Welcome back! It was great to have so many children on site last Friday, Year 5 and 6 children joined us for team building games before their residential this week and lots of families came to 'walk through' before starting on Monday. Avocet and Osprey classes have had a fabulous time at Grenville House on their residential – no doubt you'll hear all about it over the weekend! Back in school, we've particularly enjoyed getting out the bikes and trikes over lunchtime this week. Up at Church this morning we thought about being thankful for stories and 'getting lost in a book' – Mrs Billington read us Gruffalo Granny, Julia Donaldson's brand new book and a new favourite for us all. Our usual Highlights and Stars of the Week will return from next week.

Nut-free school a reminder that it is very important that we are a nut-free school. We have a child and other members of our One Big Beacon Family who suffer with very serious nut allergies. Please remember to check any food your child brings to school.

Congratulations to Mr Pope whose daughter was born over the summer holidays. Mr Pope is on paternity leave and will rejoin us at school on the 21st September.

New Year Meet The Teaching Team events will be held for each class, we will send the dates early next week – Year 5 and 6 haven't been here this week, making it rather difficult to sort out!

Start of year reminders.

Uniform we'll let you know the days when your child needs to arrive in PE uniform, either for PE or Beach / adventure school. Please remember that patterned leggings / joggers aren't part of uniform. A [reminder of our uniform is here](#) – including the new hoodies which are available from Ship Shape - we don't yet have any pre-loved hoodies!

Jewellery, nail varnish, hair dye. This one's simple. No. These things are not part of our uniform, they're also not allowed at ECC or other local schools. As headteachers we've all agreed this one. This year, we have noticed a lot of children returning with hair dye.

Times of the school day Everyone comes in to school via the main playground gate on Beacon Place – we will not open the Little Bickton gate because that is for Pre-School between 9am and 3.15pm only. The main playground gate on Beacon Place will open at 8.45am and we ask that everyone arrives so children can be in class by 8.50am. Parents of new children in our Little Egrets class (YR and Pre-School) are invited to go in to class with their children whilst they settle. If older children need their adult to support them, you're welcome to go into the playground with them and staff will be there to support them – we know some children need your support to settle in these first weeks. Please note that parents should not enter the school building without prior arrangement – you need to sign in via the office if coming in, so that we know (for fire regulations) who is on site. If you wish to talk to the Admin Team, please come in through the main entrance door. At the end of the day, the same main playground gate will open at 3.30pm for parents, Little Egrets are collected from their classroom,

Friday 11th September 2026

**Stars of the Week
will return next week!**



Next Week:

Collective Worship: This term's value is Thankfulness. We will be thinking about what thankfulness is, hearing some Bible stories and sharing how being thankful makes us feel.

School dinner ordering deadline

Please order by 9am Monday 14th September for the week starting 21st September. Any problems either email or call into the office when dropping off on Monday morning.

Tuesday School Photos Please send your child to school with their normal uniform top, even if they have PE. If they have PE, they can still wear their PE shorts / joggers if they wish as their legs won't be in the photo! Please no PE tops today though.

Friday Celebration Worship 9am at Holy Trinity Church – everyone welcome!

Swimming Cormorants (Y3/4)

Headteacher: Mrs A Billington

Administration Manager: Mrs L Neill

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the others from the playground – we think everyone's got used to that this week.

Parking and drop off / pick up Please can I politely ask drivers to park in a designated parking place and not block our neighbours' gateways, nor park on the double yellow lines. Please note that the zig-zag lines are being changed by Devon Highways to become a 'do not ever park for any reason or length of time' area – parking there could result in a fine.

Before and After School Childcare Our Breakfast Club runs from 7.45am and the 3.30 Club runs until 6pm. Further information can be found on the [school website](#) about the exciting things children can do at 3.30 Club and the pricing structure.

Bikes, scooters and pushchairs can be left in the bike enclosure by the main entrance to school. The gate will not be locked during the school day because Pre-School parents need access for pushchair storage. Pushchairs, bikes and scooters are left at your own risk.

Enrichment clubs are charged at £2 per session. If you are eligible for Free School Meals and this is not affordable for you, please let us know. We will send out information about clubs next week. **Choir** will take place during a lunchtime, Mr Johnson will let the children know when. **Orchestra** is after school on a Wednesday by invitation, we will email you about this. If you're interested in running a club on a voluntary basis, do get in touch. Unfortunately the ever-increasing demands placed on teachers means that I can no longer both care for the mental health and work:life balance of our staff *and* ask them to run an after school or lunchtime club.

Have your family financial circumstances changed? We are all aware that times are very difficult, and that circumstances change. If you're finding things financially difficult, please do talk with us. There are ways we can support and sometimes funds we can apply for or make referrals for you on your behalf. Don't forget that if your family is in receipt of certain benefits, your child may be eligible for the **Pupil Premium Grant (often called 'Free School Meals')** – which is well worth applying for: it enables your child to receive some paid for school activities at reduced or no cost; school meals in KS2 would be free; the HAF Holiday Sports Club places can be provided free (including a hot dinner) and more – *and on top of all this, the school receives over £1550 per child per year*. Apply online, google '[Devon Free School Meals](#)'.



School Council Elections are held annually, following the same processes as Parliamentary Elections. The elections are run by our Election Officers (last year's School Councillors). On Monday, our School Councillors will help me lead our Collective Worship and we will tell the children about the Election Process. Please talk with your child about whether they'd like to stand as a candidate. If they do, they *must* campaign – this can be in the form of a poster, video or any other format they wish, but they do need to create it at home and bring it in to school before Monday 21st September. Election day is Thursday 24th September, when school will be transformed into a Polling Station. New councillors will be announced in Celebration Worship at Holy Trinity on Friday 25th September. Good luck to all candidates.

Parents' Evenings and SEND Meetings. This term's meetings will take place during the week of 19th October 2026 – this will be booked through MCAS, please look out for information about this in coming weeks. If your child has a SEND My Plan (you will know if they do), we will invite you to make a double appointment (20 mins), all other children will have the usual 10 minute appointments. We will share further information and booking nearer the time.

Term Dates The dates for [this and next school year, until Summer 2028, are available on the school website](#) and are on the noticeboard outside the main playground gate. Please be aware that every individual school sets 7 days per school year where children do not attend (2 Occasional Days and 5 Non-Pupil Days), so The Beacon's term dates are likely to be slightly different to other local schools. Please also remember to ensure you aim to book appointments outside of school hours whenever possible, and to book your holidays during school holiday periods.



Advance notice of special dates Please do check the [online calendar](#) which is on the school website and our School Jotter App. Events will continue to be added through the term and year.

- **Harvest Festival** – will take place on Friday 9th October at 9am at Holy Trinity.
- EYFS and KS1 Christmas **Nativity** – in the afternoon of Tuesday 15th December (time tbc)
- KS2 **Candlelit Christmas** (all children to attend please) 6.30pm start at Holy Trinity, Wednesday 16th December
- **Christmas Craft Open Door events**
 - We will let you know the dates asap – likely late November and early December.
- **Christmas Celebration Worship** – Friday 18th December, 9am at Holy Trinity
- **Easter Celebration Worship** – Thursday 25th March 2027, 9am at Holy Trinity
- **Year 3 & 4 Pantomime** – date and place tbc,
- **Sports Day** needs to be arranged nearer the time, takes place in June or July
- **Whole School Beach Day** will also be arranged nearer the time, takes place in June or July
- **Year 5 & 6 Summer Production**, Wednesday 14th July 2027, 6.30pm at Holy Trinity
- **Y6 Leavers' Worship**, Wednesday 21st July 2027 in the afternoon, to finish at 3.30pm (time tbc, likely to be)
- **End of Summer Celebration Worship**, Friday 23rd July 2027, 9am at Holy Trinity

Attendance Regular attendance and punctuality at school are essential in ensuring your child has the best opportunity to succeed. If your child is unwell, please phone or email the office before 8.30am to let us know. We operate a 'safe to school' procedure and will attempt to make contact if we don't know why your child's not in school. **Any** absence other than illness **must** be requested in advance. Please note that holidays will only be authorised by the Headteacher in *exceptional* circumstances and must be requested prior to booking. [Further information is available here.](#)

Flu vaccination Everyone should have received an email about the nasal flu vaccination. Please note that you do need to provide consent for your child to receive the vaccination – this is done by following the link in the letter. Please do not email school as we do not administer the scheme. Kernow Health are the approved providers and deal with all administration. Please provide consent by 9am on Friday 18th September. Thank you.



School Jotter 3 app Please make sure you have updated your School Jotter app on your phones. We are no longer using School Jotter 2 (green pencil logo); the logo should now show as a pencil with three different colours. Please delete School Jotter 2 and download School Jotter 3 in order to keep up to date with what's happening.

Either I or a member of the Senior Leadership Team are on the gate morning and afternoon – do come and say hello, we would love to meet and chat with everyone in the coming weeks.

We wish you all a peaceful weekend,

Mrs Anne Billington