

North Molton Primary School Weekly News

Friday 25th September 2026

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Headteacher's message

Love Learning...Learn Well.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a really positive start to the week, beginning with a visit from **Leanne Arrowsmith, our Trust Education Partner (TEP)**. During her time in school, Leanne was very impressed by the calm and purposeful atmosphere she experienced around the building. She also commented on the high expectations that staff have for children's behaviour and the positive way that children are responding to these expectations. It was particularly pleasing to hear these comments so early in the school year. As a school, we have spent a lot of time ensuring that our expectations are clear and consistent, and it is encouraging to have this recognised by an external visitor.

Attendance remains a key priority for us. I monitor attendance across the school in three-week cycles, and we have now reached the end of our first cycle of the year. Next week, I will be writing to some parents and carers where attendance is beginning to cause concern. These letters are intended to be supportive and to start a conversation about how we can work together to improve attendance and ensure that children benefit from every possible learning opportunity.

With attendance in mind, I would also like to share the NHS guidance, ["Is My Child Too Ill for School?"](#) This is a very useful resource for families when deciding whether a child is well enough to attend school and can help to avoid unnecessary absences.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone about considerate parking during the school run. We have received reports from our neighbours regarding vehicles being parked across driveways, and I have personally seen photographs showing examples of this. Unsafe or inconsiderate parking can create obstructions and, more importantly, pose a risk to the safety of pedestrians. Please help us maintain positive relationships with our local community by parking responsibly and showing consideration for others.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Phil Lewis (Headteacher)

Upcoming School Diary Dates

Tuesday 29th September Appledore Book Festival author visits
Friday 2nd October KS 2 Trip to RAMM, Exeter. Bus leaving 8.45am return 3.45pm

Thursday 22nd October Harvest Festival at North Molton Methodist Chapel

Around The Classes



We have been busy this week being kind and playing respectfully with our friends. Our Robins have been very helpful with our younger children. We have been reading the story of Elmer and practising our colours. Robins are enjoying practising writing their new sounds and did some printing using blocks.



This week Owls have been working hard in maths thinking about place value within 20. They have been exploring how number lines are used and how it is important to notice what the number line is starting at - they can be cheeky and not always start at 0! They have been exploring the emotions of Little Red Riding Hood in drama with Mrs Marchant and with Mrs Anderson, have story mapped the Christian Creation story in RE.



This week, Falcons Class has thoroughly enjoyed continuing our reading of *The Demon Headmaster*. We have been exploring new vocabulary and discussing the characters in greater depth. The children were particularly excited to discover that the Headmaster has been hypnotising the children during assemblies! In Maths, we have continued our work on numbers up to 10,000, focusing on how to add and subtract 1, 10, 100 and 1,000 from a given number. In Science, the children worked collaboratively in groups to create their own electrical circuits using batteries, foil and bulbs. They were delighted when their circuits successfully lit the bulbs and also learned an important lesson about failed experiments when some batteries did not work as expected. This helped them understand that not every scientific investigation produces the results we predict, and that learning from mistakes is an important part of science.



Sparrowhawks have been writing the story of 'Zoo' by Anthony Browne from the perspective of Mum. We have been concentrating particularly on using accurate sentence punctuation. In Maths, we are nearing the end of our Place Value unit. Throughout the year, I will be sending home White Rose booklets as we progress through the units to enable children to practise their skills and consolidate their learning with parents. In addition, Year 6 will be set short practise tasks each week on Sats Companion in the core areas of Reading, Maths and Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation. Letters with log on details were sent home at the start of the year, but please let me know if you are having any difficulties with this. I will set the first tasks this week and will be reviewing your child's progress regularly. We are also enjoying the Autumn sunshine, including lunchtimes on the big field and we are looking forward to our visit to RAMM in Exeter next Friday.



Stars Of The Week



Robins

This week we are celebrating

Freya

for being so kind, for playing with us, for giving good cuddles and she is happy! Freya's teachers say she is always helping, especially with the younger children and tidying up.

Owls

This week we are celebrating

Lydia

for being described by her peers as a wonderful and helpful friend. She is someone who always does the right thing and puts her best into everything she does. Lydia has a beautiful smile which she greets everyone she meets with!

Falcons

This week we are celebrating

Edward

for being described by his friends as a respectful friend who helps others if they need it. They also said he is smart and good at maths and hockey! All the adults also notice Edward making good choices all the time at school!

Sparrowhawks

This week we are celebrating

Tara

for being kind, funny and friendly. She lets other people join in with games, making sure that they don't feel left out and includes the younger children. Tara follows all of the school rules. She is always focussed on her learning, doesn't get distracted and never gives up. Tara is always willing to help others with their learning.

Notice Board



Weekly Attendance

Every day at [school](#) counts. The evidence is clear - even a few days of missed school can have a significant impact on a child's education and future prospects.—*The Education Hub 2025*

Our weekly class attendance below.

Robins -87%

Owls - 91%

Falcons - 95%

Sparrowhawks - 92%

0 days of school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned

FOR MUMS | FOR DAUGHTERS | FOR SISTERS | FOR FRIENDS | FOR YOU !

SCRUMS, SPIRIT & SISTERHOOD
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

TASTER SESSION
SUNDAY 20TH SEPT
2-3PM | BIDEFORD RFC
VICTORIA PARK

- FOR ALL GIRLS YR4+ & WOMEN
- NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
- JUST TURN UP!

TRY RUGBY TOGETHER!

100 YEARS
1924-2024
BIDEFORD R.F.C.

Lunch Menu for Week Beginning 28th September

 LUNCH MENU – WEEK 2  Harbour Schools Partnership A guiding light for education				
27 th April – 18 th May – 15 th June – 6 th July – 7 th & 28 th Sept. – 19 th Oct.				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 Tomato & Cheese Pasta Bake	Chicken Tagliatelle & Garlic Bread	Toad in the Hole (Butchers Pork Sausage & Yorkshire Puddings)	Butchers Pork Meatballs in Tom. Sauce served in a Finger Roll	Breaded Fish Fingers
Quorn Bolognaise	Sweet Chilli Halloumi Wrap	Veggie Wellington	Feta & Potato Tart	Veggie Nuggets
Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings		Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	
Tuna Mayo & Cucumber Sandwich	Ham & Lettuce Sandwich	Cheese & Tomato Sandwich	Ham, Cheese & Cucumber Sandwich	Egg Mayo & Cress Sandwich
Crusty Bread, Diced Carrots or Salad	Corn on the Cob or Salad	Roast Potato, Fresh Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Potato Wedges & Mixed Vegetables	Chips, Salad Sticks & Tomato Ketchup
	Fruit Iced Smoothie	Fresh Fruit Platter	Pineapple Cake	Cookie
				Chocolate & Date Krispie Cake