

School Newsletter



Dear Parents,

The autumn term is always one of my favourites. I love the sense of fresh beginnings this season brings, as we look ahead to the many exciting events and opportunities planned for the term. You'll find some key dates for this term listed below, and we'll also be sharing details soon about upcoming highlights such as the Bigbury residential and our intra-school cross-country competition.

This week, I've had the pleasure of leading school tours for prospective families. It is always a joy to show visitors around our wonderful school and to share what makes our community so special from our dedicated staff to the warm, supportive atmosphere that shines through in every classroom.

As we reach the end of our first week back, I want to say how proud we are of the children. They have returned with such positivity and enthusiasm after the summer break, and it has been lovely to see them settling back into school life so smoothly.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Honywill

~ Small but Mighty



Diary Dates



Autumn Term Dates

08.09.25	Parent Welcome Meetings – in classrooms with your child’s teacher to share key information for the year.
15.09.25	International Day of Democracy – School Council Elections
26.9.25	NHS Flu Immunisation (Years R-6) Languages Day
6.10.25 – 10.10.25	Bigbury Swimming Lessons (Ivybridge swimming pool – school transport)
13.10.25	Year 6 Junior Life Skills 9:30 (school transport to event)
22.10.25	Halloween Disco **new date
23.10.25	Harvest Celebrations 2:30pm
24.10.25	Non Pupil Day
10.11.25	Anti Bullying Week – Odd Sock Day
11.11.25	Remembrance Day
14.11.25	Children in Need (Pudsey Spots Mufti)
1.12.25	Parent and Children Craft Morning 9:00am-10:00am
12.12.25	Christmas Fayre 3:30pm
16.12.25	10:00am Stoke Class Nativity
16.12.25	2:00pm Mothecombe and Bigbury Community Carols and Christingle
17.12.25	Children’s Christmas/Winter Jumpers Children’s Festive Lunch
18.12.25	School Disco – Winter Wonderland
19.12.25	Non Pupil Day
06.01.26	Start of Spring Term

Forest School



Bigbury (am)	15.09.25
Mothecombe (pm)	29.09.25
	13.10.25 (Year 6 at Junior Life Skills)
Stoke	16.09.25
	30.09.25
	14.10.25

Mrs Roberts is our Forest School teacher.

Please provide your child with appropriate outdoor clothing to bring into school for their Forest school sessions.

We recommend old clothes that they are able to get messy in. On cold or wet days please provide layers and a good waterproof coat is a must!

Clothing Checklist

- sturdy boots/walking shoes/wellies
- long comfortable trousers or jogging bottoms (leggings as a base layer in winter not to replace trousers. No jeans please)
- warm socks (pack a spare pair too)
- long sleeve t-shirt
- a jumper/hoodie layer
- good waterproof coat or rainsuit
- on snowy or icy days please remember that a woolly hat and gloves will help keep the heat in.
- on hot sunny days a sun hat and sun lotion.

- on warm days it is still important to wear sturdy boots and cover up in long trousers, leggings or joggers and long sleeves to protect the skin against scratches, bites and burns.

'There's no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing'

Farm School



Farm school will continue this year with visits planned for Years 1-6 in the Autumn Term and all years in the Spring term. We'll let you know of dates ASAP once confirmed.



BEACH



FARM



FOREST

Residential 2026

Coming Summer 2026 - Bigbury Class residential at Spirit of Adventure, Dartmoor! Details for parents will be shared before October half term.



Classroom News



Stoke Class

Tickets please! The children have been loving our new outdoor stage where various performances have taken place this week, in various types of weather! Other amazing collaborative building projects have been taking place, alongside, lots of 'buddy reading', painting, drawing, making, singing and of course the ever-popular fireman pole.



Mothecombe Class

This week we had our first PE lessons! 🏃🏃 We had so much fun practising our coordination, movement, and catching skills with Mr Robinson! ⚽ In our English lessons, we have been learning about instructions. We read the story 'How to wash a woolly mammoth'. We have been practising writing using 'conjunctions'.



Bigbury Class

In Science, we have started our new unit exploring states of matter. We had different materials that we had to explore and determine whether they were a solid or a liquid - we also had some trickier ones, like sugar and flour!



*Small but Mighty - Mighty Oaks from Little
Acorns Grow*



Let's Play!



The beauty of play is that everyday objects can spark imagination and fun!

If you have any of the following items tucked away at home and no longer needed, we'd love to give them a new lease of life in our 'Scrap Store' which the children access during lunchtimes.

We would be very grateful for any of the following items:

- Buckets, spades, and sand toys
- Pots, pans, wooden spoons, and kitchen utensils (for mud kitchen play)
- Plastic crates and boxes
- Clean plastic bottles, tubs, and containers with lids
- Old sheets, blankets, and fabric for den building
- Small tents or pop-up shelters
- Tyres (clean, without wires)
- Wooden pallets (safe and in good condition)
- Large cardboard boxes and tubes
- Dressing-up clothes, hats, and accessories
- Small world toys (e.g. cars, figures, animals)
- Construction toys (e.g. Lego, Duplo, K'Nex, building blocks)
- Garden tools suitable for children (trowels, watering cans, etc.)
- Sports equipment (balls, skipping ropes, hula hoops, frisbees)
- Chalk, bubble wands, and other outdoor play items



Parking

We have been asked by the community hall to remind families that the disabled parking space should only be used by those who are visiting the hall and who need it.



Community

HOLBETON POCKET MEADOW PROJECT



It's FREE!

2pm – 3.30pm Saturday the 13th September
Holbeton Village Hall

Claim your free wildflower seed packet!

Chance to win a signed copy of 'Wild Your Garden' book by Joel Ashton!

A separate play space for children!

Enjoy a cup of tea afterwards!

Open to all parish residents!

- Introduction to Life on the Edge & Holbeton's pollinator plans, Rob Skinner
- Short film – Joel Ashton
- The pocket meadow project, Emma Clark, Stoke Gabriel Horticultural Society
- Plenty of time for questions, tea & draw for **10 free books!**



Rotary Ivybridge

FLETE 10K

AND FAMILY FUN RUN

RACE OPTIONS = 10K / 5K / 1K AROUND THE SPECTACULAR FLETE ESTATE AND ALONG THE RIVER ERME

Sat 13 Sept 2025

Start times & prices
10k - 2.30pm - £20/£18
5k - 1.30pm - £10
1k - 2.00pm - £5

Location - Flete Estate (Point to Point site)
Off A379 East of Plymouth
Leave A38 @Ivybridge via A3121
PL21 9NU
What3Words- wolves.alive.inch

Sponsored by

HOWARD & OVER SOLICITORS EST. 1914

MANNING & COMPANY gth

*Parking *Refreshments

Raising funds for our nominated charities

Flete 10k is organised by Ivybridge Rotary Club. It is overseen by UK Athletics with official starter and adjudicator present to ensure compliance.

To register visit <https://www.entrycentral.com/festival/4498>



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE SLANG

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Slang moves fast – and for many young people, it's not just how they talk, but how they share their identity and feelings. Learning key terms helps adults connect and show understanding, even if the lingo seems baffling at first.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

Words like 'rizz' or 'slaps' can be misunderstood by adults, leading to awkward moments or a breakdown in trust. These phrases often carry subtle social meanings among young people.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Slang changes quickly. A term like 'bop' might sound innocent one week and be repurposed the next. This makes it easy for adults to fall behind and for children to misstep.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR EXCLUSION

Inside jokes and trending terms like 'simp' or 'NPC' can be used to mock or exclude others. What looks like harmless fun might actually reinforce social divisions or bullying.

PERFORMING FOR THE ALGORITHM

Slang often reflects what's popular on platforms like TikTok. Young users might exaggerate or act out for likes, creating online personas that don't match their real selves.

CONTENT MODERATION WITH CODED SPEECH

To avoid content filters, young people sometimes use slang or emojis to talk about serious topics – for example, saying 'unalive' instead of other death-related terms. This makes harmful content harder to spot.

LONG-TERM DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

A slang-filled post might seem funny now but could resurface years later during job checks or university applications – possibly out of context, but still damaging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP UP, DON'T CATCH UP

Follow youth culture pages or ask your child about new slang. Staying informed shows that you're engaged and open to understanding their world.

FOCUS ON CONNECTION OVER CONTROL

Being someone your child can talk to is more valuable than using strict filters or monitoring apps. Openness builds trust.

ASK, DON'T INTERROGATE

Use open questions to invite conversation. You're not quizzing them – just trying to learn more about their online lives.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL MEDIA LITERACY

Talk about where slang comes from, how it spreads, and how it can impact others. This helps young people use language more thoughtfully.

ONLINE SLANG CHEAT SHEET -

The following slang terms are common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list and both meaning and prevalence can change swiftly.

COMMON SLANG:

- **Sigma** – Independent, self-reliant (often male) mindset; proud outsider status. Often celebrated in motivational memes.
- **Skibidi** – Nonsense word from the viral 'Skibidi Toilet' meme; expresses chaos or fun. Usually harmless but pervasive.
- **Chat** – The collective audience or group of viewers (e.g. on a livestream). Used when addressing followers directly.
- **Lack in** – To focus, commit or get serious (e.g. before gaming or sports). Positive encouragement to concentrate.
- **Cooking** – Doing something exceptionally well or gaining momentum. Opposite of 'cooked'.
- **Rizz** – Charisma or flirting ability (short for charisma). Can praise social confidence.
- **Aura or aura farming** – One's perceived 'energy' or 'vibe'; 'farming' means manufacturing clout.

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING SLANG

- **Bop** – An adult content creator (e.g. OnlyFans). Indicates exposure to 18+ material.
- **Gyat or gyatt** – Sexualised exclamation about someone's backside. Objectifies appearance.
- **Tralalero tralala / bombardino crocodillo / tung tung tung sahur** – Spammy references to AI-generated creatures with 'Italian-sounding' names. Can clog chats, derail discussion, and harass others.
- **Glazing** – Overpraising or obsessively defending a streamer or celebrity.
- **Crash out** – To lose control, give up or have a meltdown; sometimes hints at self-harm.
- **Cooked** – Ruined, exhausted or in serious trouble; sometimes mental health-related.
- **Unalive** – Euphemism for death or suicide; used to avoid content filters.
- **NPC** – Used to suggest someone is lacking independent thoughts or is repetitive and predictable.

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipeedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



The National College