

School Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 2! I hope you all had a wonderful half term break. It's been lovely to hear what the children have been up to. Did you see some of the Holbeton children on BBC Spotlight last week? A few of our pupils had the opportunity to visit Orchard Farm and be filmed by the BBC. Today, the children did an assembly to the whole school to talk about the harvest mouse survey they were part of and the importance of protecting their habitats.

Term 2 is always a busy, jam-packed term and this year is no exception. We have lots of exciting events to look forward to including sport events, children in need spotty mufti, craft parent open morning, Christmas fayres and so much more! I'm pleased to share that the popular Santa Fun Run will also be back this year! Take a look at the key dates below and add them to your diaries.

Mrs Honywill

~ Small but Mighty



Diary Dates



Autumn Term Dates

10.11.25	Anti Bullying Week – Odd Sock Day
11.11.25	Remembrance Day
12/13.11.25	Parent’s Evenings – Book using the link below
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
TBC	Santa Fun Run – whole school and community event
15.12.25 and 16.12.25 ** new event	1:30pm and 5:00pm <u>Whole School Christmas Story Performance</u> (village hall – tickets will be on sale by the HAS and will include mulled wine and a mince pie)
17.12.25	Children’s Christmas/Winter Jumpers Children’s Festive Lunch
18.12.25	School Disco – Winter Wonderland TBC
19.12.25	Non Pupil Day
06.01.26	Start of Spring Term

Our Parents Evening dates have been arranged for Wednesday, 12th November and Thursday, 13th November between 3.40 - 5.20pm.

We've created a form for you to complete to capture the dates and times that you are available. Please select as many sessions as possible to help with the allocation process. To help us ensure no one is missed, please complete a form for each sibling.



Forest School Term 2



Stoke (pm)	Every Tuesday
Bigbury (am) Mothecombe (pm)	10/11/25 (don't forget to wear odd socks!) 24/11/25 08/12/25



Happy Retirement

After more than seven years of dedicated service, our wonderful caretaker, Mr Coggins, has decided to retire. Following a period of ill health, he's decided it's time to hang up his keys and enjoy the golden years.

We're sure he won't be resting for long because his children already have a long list of jobs lined up for him, and he's busy building his own workshop!



We wish you all the very best, Mr Coggins! Thank you for everything you've done for our school community. You will be greatly missed!

Remembrance

The Royal British Legion have provided a selection of poppy related items for our School Council to sell at break time this week. The suggested donations are:

20p for a paper poppy

50p for a pencil, ruler, bracelet or keyring

£1 for an eraser, pencil sharpener or slap band



Our Learning



Stoke Class

We have been celebrating Stoke's class recent art project focused around spirals. We moved from making giant spirals in the playground to exploring the work of Molly Haslund and creating a collaborative piece in the playground. We then moved to working on a smaller scale looking really carefully at shells and exploring the use of water-soluble pens. What an adventure! If you have time after half term, please pop in and have a look at the children's beautiful work. here are just a few pictures to celebrate the learning.



Mothecombe Class

Mothecombe Class had a fantastic day at Carswell Farm last week! 🐿️

The theme of the day was hedgehogs, and the children threw themselves into every activity! They went scavenging for hedgehog food around the farm, baked their own hedgehog-shaped bread rolls, and even learnt how to identify hedgehog poo! They also discovered some fun hedgehog facts — did you know hedgehogs have around 5,000–7,000 spines on their backs! — and they made adorable hedgehogs from teasels to take home. What a brilliant day of learning!



Bigbury Class

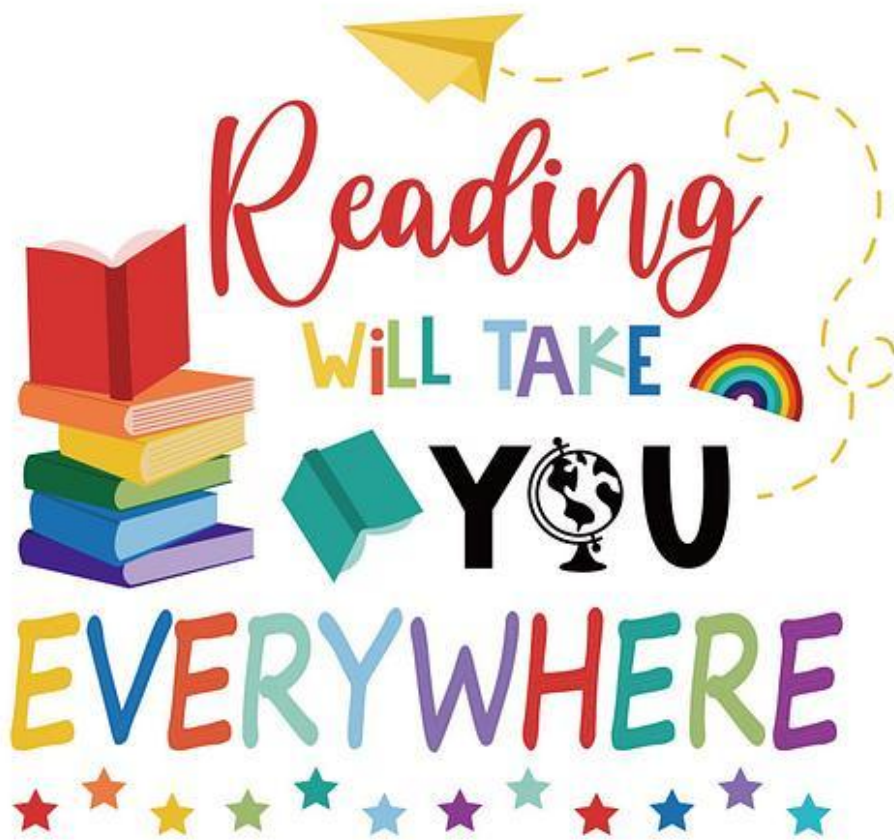
Maths Open Morning 📊 Thank you for coming to our maths open morning and for taking part in some maths problems with us. The classroom was a buzz of activity and it was lovely to see the children sharing their knowledge with you. Y6 had a lovely time at Junior Life Skills on Monday. They learnt all about being safe at home, at the beach, around electricity, around train tracks and online. They also got to practise CPR.



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




Read Anywhere and Everywhere!



 Read All About It! The 'Read Anywhere & Everywhere' Challenge! 

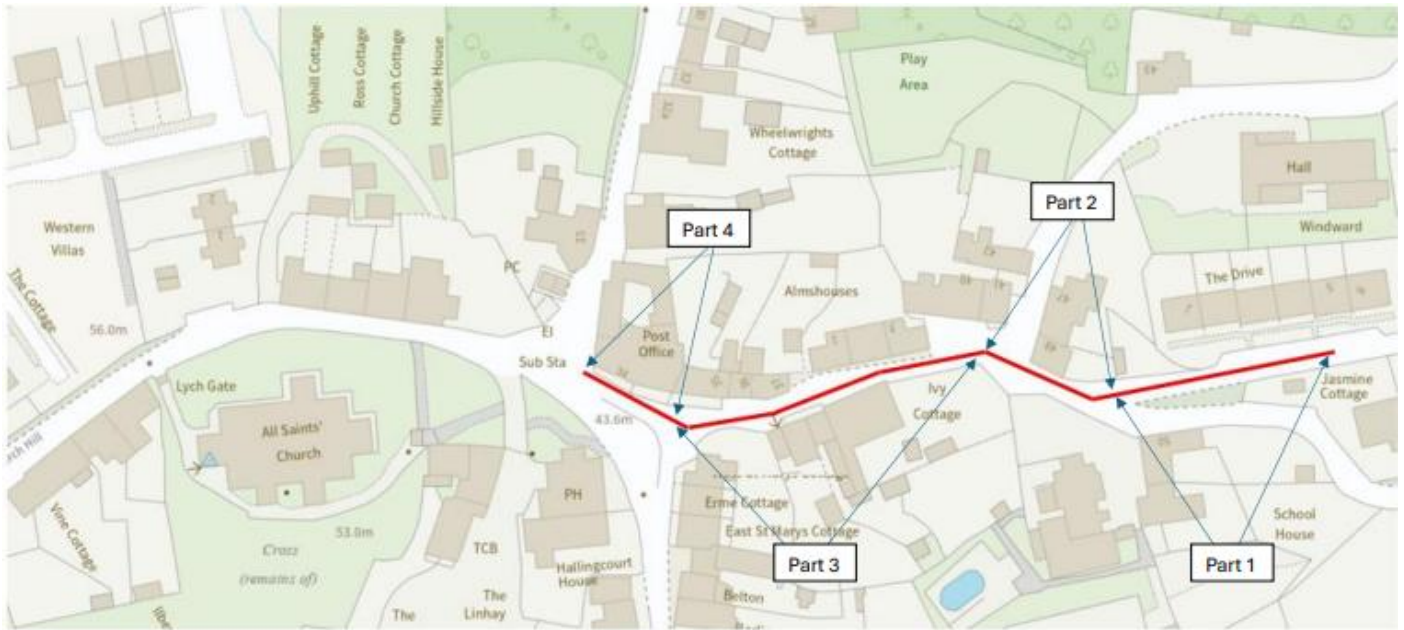
This half term, we're challenging YOU to take your reading on an adventure! Whether it's with your pet, down a slide, on holiday, at the beach, or even upside down - the wackier and more creative, the better!

 Dojo message Mrs Honywill photos of you reading in the most unusual, funny, or exciting places and we'll share our favourites in assembly after half term!

Ready, set, read!

Advance warning – Road Closure

There will be road closures in the village this December while South West Water carries out work to dig slit trenches across the road. We are working closely with the Parish Council to gather more information and will update you via Dojo as soon as we have confirmed details about dates, timings, the impact on drop-off and pick-up arrangements, and any measures we can take to help.



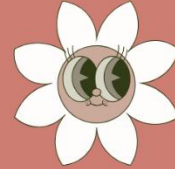
HSA

The HSA would like some new members to support the incredible work they do to raise funds for the school. If you would be interested in joining the HAS or supporting any fundraising events or have lots of ideas for projects, please get in contact with the school or a member of the HSA.



Community and School Events

Holbeton Youth Club



At the
Holbeton Village
Hall
PL8 14W

Free session
for young
people aged
8 - 16 years.
Free food and
drinks to
share.

Monday evenings.
Starts 16th
September every
fortnight
6.30-8.00pm

Come have fun with
your friends and learn
something new.
Sports, games, crafts
and activities
available.

Support and Advice
available.



TRAYE

Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement Project

Email: deekelly.traye@gmail.com
<http://trayeproject.org>

CHALLENGE YOURSELF
FOR
BBC CHILDREN
IN NEED

**WE'RE RAISING MONEY FOR
BBC CHILDREN IN NEED**

**SCAN TO
DONATE ONLINE**



BBC.CO.UK/CIN

Use this poster for
cashless collections

Friday 14th Nov

**DRESS LIKE A
ROCKSTAR
DAY**

TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER



**ALL
CHILDREN
CAN
DRESS UP**



Anti-Bullying Week
**Odd Socks
Day**

Monday 10th November



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 HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

U: Suitable for all ages

PG: For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't unsettle them

12A: Children under the age of 12 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references

15: Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above

18: Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms, almost all of which host 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery.

FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider remakes of older films, where dated special effects (making it easy to discern that something wasn't real) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.

PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As 18+ content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together – potentially without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. What's fine for one child could be extremely frightening for another. As many children admit to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the kind of media that young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror prides itself on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer – so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on younger minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first dive into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child – and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

REMEMBER – IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them; this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes and ideas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for children won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parents' discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.

Meet Our Expert

John Insley is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with e-safety in schools for over 10 years, writing policies and supporting various schools in developing their e-safety provision. John has introduced a range of strategies at multiple schools aimed at helping parents to better support their child in the ever-changing digital world.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/horror-films-and-age-ratings>