



Honiton Primary School

Friday 9th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Sun safety:

As we embark on another exciting term at Honiton Primary School, I would like to take a moment to highlight the importance sun safety. As we enter the warmer months, it is essential to prioritise sun safety for our students. We encourage parents to ensure that children come to school wearing sun-safe clothing, an appropriate hat, and sunscreen if necessary. It is important that children are protected from harmful UV rays while they enjoy outdoor activities during playtimes and lessons. Please remind your child to seek shade whenever possible and stay hydrated throughout the day.

Uniform:

In addition to this, I just remind a few families of our school uniform policy. Uniforms foster a sense of belonging and community among our students, ensuring that all children feel equal and focused on their learning. Adhering to our colour guidelines is essential, as it promotes a cohesive school identity, there is no need for jazzy, colourful shoes – dull practical and cheaper footwork is actually better and preferred.

Additionally, while we understand that accessories such as jewellery and false nails can be a form of personal expression, we must stress that they can often detract from our children's educational experience. It is crucial that our students are comfortable, decently covered (how rapidly they grow), and able to concentrate on their studies. We appreciate your continued support in upholding our uniform standards.

Funding:

In recent times, we have seen significant cuts to school funding, which have had a considerable impact on our resources and opportunities. According to recent data from the available online, Honiton Primary School has lost over £100,000 per year in funding over recent times. In April alone, the school lost £13,500 when the National Insurance changes came into force. This reduction makes it increasingly challenging to provide the quality education and support our children deserve. We are committed to exploring all avenues to sustain and enhance our learning environment, and we truly appreciate your understanding and support as we navigate these financial challenges together. I continue to challenge the government over its spending priorities and have done so in national newspaper articles now on two occasions. Our children's education and futures are worth fighting for and we should all continue to do so.

PTFA: They need you!

The role of our Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) is vital to the continued success of our school community. The PTFA not only provides essential funds for school projects and activities but also creates a strong sense of camaraderie among parents, teachers, and students. Through various events and initiatives, the PTFA fosters a collaborative spirit that enriches our children's educational experience. Whether you can contribute time, resources, or ideas, your involvement—big or small—can make a significant difference. Together, we can create a vibrant and supportive community for our children to thrive. They are recruiting now and a more detailed letter will be forthcoming shortly.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Honiton Primary School. Together, we are fostering an environment where every child can flourish.

Mr Tribble

Main Diary Dates

Please remember that you can see our term dates on our school website and app.

Date	Time	Event
Wed 21 st May		Summer Food Bank collection/Non-Uniform Day
Mon 12 th May		SATS Week
Tue 3 rd June	9.30am	Sports Day Yr's 1 & 2
Tue 3 rd June	1.30pm	Sports Day EYFS
Wed 4 th June		Tempest Class Photos Yr6 and Reception
Fri 6 th June		Yr 1 Non-Uniform Day-cake sale winners
Fri 13 th June		All school Non-Uniform Day-bring a bottle, Summer Fair Tombola
Tue 17 th June	1.30pm	Sports Day Yr's 3 & 4
Wed 18 th June	1.30pm	Sports Day Yr's 5 & 6
Fri 18 th July	6-8pm	Yr 6 Prom
Tues 22 nd July		Yr 6 Leavers Assembly

SPORTS NEWS:

As the weather continues to shine, I suggest that you find a sunny spot to sit, rest up with a drink or snack of your choice and enjoy catching up on all of the fantastic achievements of so many of our pupils who have represented HPS recently:

🌟 Y5/6 Devon School Games Netball Finals 🌟

After the success of the Year 5 & 6 netball team at the Level 2 inter-schools competition, being asked to represent East Devon at the Devon School Games Netball Finals was an invitation too good to decline! So, off to Paignton we went to compete as one of the top 16 schools in Devon! We knew that the day was going to be long and we knew that the games were going to be of a very high standard. Nevertheless, **Eliska, Emily, Evie F, Evie P, Lauren, Alf and Fred** brought the energy, the stamina and the smiles to what turned out to be a series of matches that truly tested their game play strategies, their shooting abilities under pressure and their resilience and perseverance skills! Coming 3rd in the group stages was testament to their hard work and determination - all of our HPS core values were on display in abundance throughout the day! A huge well done to each and every one of you for representing HPS so brilliantly - true superstars! 🤗



👯 Y3/4 Dance Festival 👯

Twenty children from years 3 and 4 were lucky enough to be invited to attend a dance festival at Honiton Community College before the Easter break. Our year 3 girls: **Evie W, Karen, Sophie P, Willow, Betula, Evie N, Phoebe, Elsie, Mollie and Rosie L**, fully appreciated the experience and guidance from their year 4 counterparts: **Daisy-Mae, Anjola, Amber, Caris, Willow, Emily R, Honey, Skyla, Esme and Aviah**. The girls shone brightly, listening and watching the talented sports leaders with complete focus and attention. New dance moves, patterns and sequences were learnt quickly which lead to a really well-polished performance by the end of the session. It really was great girls; you were on fire! Well done! 😊



⚽ KS2 East Devon School Girls Football Finals ⚽

An excited group of girls from across KS2 made the minibus ride to Kings School in Ottery to represent the Honiton cluster of schools at the East Devon Finals of the Girls Football competition. The weather was kind and remained warm, dry and bright throughout the afternoon and evening. The girls did brilliantly to sustain their full efforts throughout the pool games and second stage matches. The effort, support and respect shown from **Eliska, Evie F, Evie P, Evie S, Kara, Lana, Lauren, Summer B, Thea and Zoe** not only to each other, but to the opposing teams, throughout

the afternoon was discussed by the Sports Leaders and, not only was the team's clear progress discussed but the girls came back with no less than 3 certificates celebrating the values of the School Games. A real testament to you all - fantastic girls, well done! 🙌 🧠



🏈 Y5/6 Tag Rugby Cluster Tournament: 3 of 3 🏈

The final matches of the inter-school Tag Rugby tournaments have now been played and the tries scored have been totalled for all teams. Knowing that the winner's trophy was in potential reach for several teams, everyone brought their A-game and played with focus, determination and speed that put every defender under a lot of pressure to make the tags, make the turnovers and reduce the number of tries being 🏈 scored! Every player left every ounce of energy on the pitch - it really was another great afternoon of tag rugby - huge [congratulations](#) on a fantastic event. Our 'red' team of **Amelia, Ava, Billy, Jensen, Laurie, Myles** and **William** finished in 3rd place overall; while our 'yellow' team, represented by **Kara, Lauren, Kian, Korbin, Max T, Oakley** and **Sol** were close behind in 4th place. 🙌

Our thanks extend to: HCC and their sports leaders who willingly gave up their own time to referee and score these fixtures; to our parents and spectators for all of your support during the series of tournaments; and of course, to Mr Watson for his commitment and time given over to training and practice, for the motivating music and all the extra doughnuts and treats!! 😊



🏸 KS2 Devon Virtual Gymnastics Competition 🏸

It had been a long time coming and the children across KS2 had been very patient while waiting for the results of the KS2 Virtual Gymnastics Competition, which finally came through just before the Easter break. Certificates have been presented to 109 children with 18 children achieving positions within the top 10 of their categories - what an incredible set of results! [Congratulations](#) to you all.





But the good news doesn't stop there ... **Ava** (Y6) and **Lois** (Y5) had come both 1st and 2nd in their selected sequences and so went on to represent East Devon at the Devon Zoom Finals. The girls approached this stage of the competition in a quiet, calm manner and this continued as they performed their routines smoothly and without fault. This led to two well-deserved medal placed finishes: **Ava** receiving a **bronze medal** for coming 3rd in the Bronze category 🥉 and **Lois** receiving a **silver medal** for coming 2nd in the Gold category 🥈. Fantastic achievements girls - very well done! 😊

🏏 Y6 Rounders Inter School Competition: 1 of 3 🏏

Our two year 6 rounders team have been working hard during their lunchtime training sessions to improve their batting, bowling, throwing and fielding skills, along with their game tactics and strategies. It was clear at the first inter-school cluster competition that the practice had paid off! With well-considered batting line ups and effective communication between runners, the teams managed to clock-up a really good number of rounders. When fielding, the strong arms, the great catches and the quick-thinking decisions between bowler, backstop and first base made it very difficult for the opposition to score! Keep up the good work and we look forward to seeing just how good the results can be as the teams progress through the competition.

🏊‍♀️ KS2 Honiton Schools Swimming Gala 🏊‍♂️

After the success of last year's primary school swimming league, LED Leisure were very keen to host their second annual event. The format remained the same and each group faced a series of 5 races: an individual medley where one swimmer would swim one length (25m) of each butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and front crawl in race 1; then there were individual lengths swum by individual swimmers. A team of 11 swimmers from across years 4, 5 & 6 represented HPS brilliantly: some full of confidence, some full of nerves and trepidation but all with terrific levels of resilience and bucket loads of support and encouragement! **Zoe C, Chloe T, Rosie** and **Caris** pushed their own comfort boundaries by swimming in numerous races and proved that they were full of determination and resilience! Our year 5 squad of **Lois, Kian** and **Edward H** swam with strength, power and speed which led to 1st place finishes in every race! Incredible! 🤩

Remaining focused and channelling their adrenaline were the year 6 swimmers: Amelia, Lauren, Niwla and Fred. Recorded times on the stopwatches had to be analysed as there were some very tight finishes! By the end of the morning, HPS had accrued a total of **57 points** - leaving them in top spot and finishing **1st** overall! We are thrilled to have qualified for the East Devon Schools Grand Final in July. Well done to each one of you - simply marvellous! 😊



🏃‍♀️ Y5 & 6 HLC Quad Kids Athletics 🏃‍♂️

We always know that the summer term has begun in earnest when we begin to compete in a variety of athletics events. First up was the quad kids inter-school athletics competition for our upper key stage two team! The year 6s: **Evie F, Evie P, Lauren, Tiarnah, Fred, Jensen W, Max T** and **Myles** competed together to score as many points as possible - these points were determined by how far they jumped from a standing, two-footed jump; how far they threw the vortex; how fast they could run in two disciplines: the 75m sprint and the longer endurance race of 600m. The children took on board the importance of how their individual performance reflected the result for their team and they gave every event their full focus, drive and determination: every effort was worth it! A grand total of **1269 points** saw the team finish the morning in **1st** place with qualification to the East Devon Schools Finals in June - [congratulations](#) and good luck at the finals!



