



# NEWSLETTER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL

**Tuesday 22nd:** School re-opens.

**Monday 28th:** All after school clubs commence this week and will run for 10 weeks.

### MAY

**Friday 2nd:** Non-Uniform, in aid of HITS Foodbank.

**Monday 5th:** Bank Holiday-School Closed

**Friday 9th** Non-Uniform in aid of ELM Wildlife Hedgehog Rescue. *Please see details on other page.*

**Thursday 22nd:** Pizza Café visiting pupils in Year 5.

*Details to follow.*

**Friday 23rd:** School closes for the half term break

### JUNE

**Monday 2nd:** School re-opens.

Join Miss Stevens for a  
COFFEE & CHAT MORNING  
each month at 9am.

This informal coffee morning will give you an opportunity to meet and have a chat with Miss Stevens and ask any questions you may have.

If you would like to attend please email:  
[admin@highweekprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@highweekprimary.co.uk)

The next meeting is on:  
Wednesday 7th May 2025



Spring Term 2025

Friday 4th April



We hope you all have a wonderful Easter break.

We look forward to welcoming you all back on

Tuesday 22nd April.

Dear parents/carers,

### Staff Development

Congratulations **Mrs Fran Toms!**

We are delighted to inform you that Mrs. Fran Toms has been selected to attend the SW100 school leadership program, developed to address the significant disadvantage gap in education across Devon and Cornwall. In these areas, disadvantaged students lag behind their peers by over 21 months by the end of secondary school, with Plymouth seeing a gap of over 24 months. SW100, created by Education South West, Ted Wragg Trust, West Country Schools Trust, and the Reach Foundation, aims to train 100 future headteachers over five years. The program is committed to closing the gap, fostering strong local leadership, and learning from successful schools both nationally and internationally.

### Careers Education

We recently completed the careers education programme, "Start Small, Dream Big". We will be looking at how to develop this further over the next two years. If you have a career that you would like to share with our children, please do get in touch.



### Highweek Primary School

is proud to have participated in  
The Careers & Enterprise Company's  
**Start Small: Dream Big Primary  
Careers Pilot Programme.**

We have explored how to creatively embed careers education in the primary curriculum to increase our pupils' awareness of the world of work.



01626 216300

[admin@highweekprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@highweekprimary.co.uk)

[www.highweekprimary.co.uk](http://www.highweekprimary.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/highweekprimaryschool](https://www.facebook.com/highweekprimaryschool)

[highweekprimary](https://www.instagram.com/highweekprimary)

### **£10,000**

Recently, The Department for Education (DfE) has provided a £15 million fund for the National Education Nature Park which is administered by the Royal Horticultural Society. The grant is to help children and young people connect with nature through their education setting, such as a school, nursery or college.

We are excited to let you know that the school has secured a grant of £10,000 - we can't wait to get spending! We will update you on our plans later this academic year.

For more information regarding how gardening can support children's well-being please see the following link:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/health-and-wellbeing/children-getting-them-interested-in-gardening>

### **'50 things to do before you're 11¾'**

If you are wondering what to do over the Easter holidays, please have a look at the link below.

The National Trust have put together a list of free outdoor adventure ideas.

Fancy building a den, identifying pond creatures, watching a butterfly grow or stargazing? With our activity guide you can plan an adventure, discover facts about nature and learn new skills.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/50-things>

### **Worried about a child's safety over the Easter holidays?**

If you are concerned about the safety of a child in Devon or want to speak to someone, or if you are a child worried about your own safety, you can contact our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by:

- completing an online request for support form
- calling us on 0345 155 1071
- emailing [mashsecure@devon.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk) and giving as much information as you can

**If a child is at immediate risk contact the police on 999**

### **Weather**

We have been very fortunate with the weather this week. It has been great to see the whole school outside at break times having fun together. If the warm weather continues next term, please don't forget sun-cream and hat!

Ms Claire Redwood.



### **Super Singing Club!**

Earlier this week, our fabulous Singing Club performed for their families and friends, showcasing all their hard work from the Spring term. The children sang brilliantly and with lots of enthusiasm, which was a joy to watch! A big well done from Mrs Slade to everyone who took part, and also a huge thank you to everyone who came into school to watch too; it was so wonderful to see so many of you!

# Attendance

The Department for Education tracks attendance carefully and we aim to have an attendance figure in excess of 96%.

**Our attendance figure to date is 93.6%.**

Regular attendance is very important for children to achieve the best they can. If children are absent from school, it not only affects their education but they will miss out on the social side of school which affects their ability to make and keep friends and can dent their self-confidence to attempt new work and work alongside each other.

attendance  
**MATTERS**  
every student • every day



We appreciate that attendance levels can be affected by illness, particularly colds and tummy bugs. We would therefore encourage all parents to send their children into school wherever possible. However, if they have been ill with sickness and/or diarrhoea, please keep them off school until they have been symptom free for a **minimum** of 48 hours to prevent the bug spreading throughout the school community as this has a significant, adverse effect on attendance levels of both staff and children.

## Attendance Letters

Each week we look at whole school attendance, including all the reasons for absence, and we will contact, by letter via email, those parents whose child has an attendance level below 93%

We currently have **13** children who have 100% attendance.

We currently have **62** children whose attendance is below 90%, which is class as persistent absence. This is more than two whole classes.

We currently have **33** children who have attendance between 90% and 93%.

We aim to work with parents/carers to help improve a child's attendance so that all children can benefit from being in school regularly and achieving their full potential.

If you would like any support or advice on attendance or punctuality, please speak to your child's class teacher, the attendance officer Claire Joint or Ms Redwood.



## Year 3 Swimming

We're excited to let you know that all Year 3 pupils will be swimming every Wednesday after the Easter break! These sessions will begin on **Wednesday, 30th April** and will run for a total of 10 weeks.

We kindly ask that you make a payment of **£10** via Schoolcomms.



# Accelerated Readers



100,000 words

Ethan Evans.

250,000 words

Austin Carter, Primrose Tremlett, Millie Harrison,  
Oliver Barr, Oscar Freeston & Amiee Bolton.

1 million words

Lily Hannigan-Train & Samuel Palmer.

**Exciting Animal-Themed  
Non-Uniform Day on Friday,  
9th May 2025  
Suggested Donation: £1**



We are thrilled to announce our upcoming **Animal-Themed Non-Uniform Day! On Friday, 9th May**, pupils are encouraged to come to school dressed as their favourite animal. Whether it's a roaring lion, a waddling penguin, or a charming hedgehog, we can't wait to see the creativity on display.

This special event is in support of the Elm Wildlife Hedgehog Rescue & Rehabilitation. With a suggested donation of £1, your contributions will go a long way in helping hedgehogs receive the care they need.

Let's make it a wild and wonderful day!

PARENTS  
EVENING

Thank you to everyone who attended last week's parents' evening.

If you were unable to meet with your child's class teacher, please feel free to contact them directly to arrange a convenient alternative date and time.



Well done to our Friday Flyers.  
Our Friday Flyers promote our work around  
developing Growth Mindset and a can do attitude.

| Theme           | Learning from feedback       |                     | Able to examine mistakes    |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Date            | Weekending Friday 28th March |                     | Weekending Friday 4th April |                        |
| <b>Bovey</b>    | Skyler Newman                | Leo Kucuk           | Clay Ellison                | Serenity Perry-Feecham |
| <b>Dart</b>     | Connor Blackmore             | Jimmy Mead          | Felicity Godfrey            | Tommy Wines            |
| <b>Exe</b>      | Rose Green                   | Ophelia Parker      | Frayah Jowitt               | Theo Fairweather       |
| <b>Mardle</b>   | Ziron Waris                  | Lucas Torres-Ruiz   | Reuben Blackmore            | Cassia Wilkes          |
| <b>Plym</b>     | Freya Curran                 | Oliver Barr         | Harper Stevenson            | Samuel Heywood         |
| <b>Tamar</b>    | Kai Smith                    | Albie Hagger        | Charlie Mason               | Alex Fairweather       |
| <b>Tavy</b>     | Jeorgia Vickery-Turner       | Isaac Mathias       | Caleb Floyd                 | Andrew Buchanan        |
| <b>Teign</b>    | Reuben Brock                 | Lily Hannigan-Train | Demi Christie               | Lewis Seal             |
| <b>Torridge</b> | Mason Burns                  | Paige Payton        | Theo Wilkes                 | Islay MacTaggart       |

Well done to **Tavy** class who had **98%** attendance for the period of **17th - 21st March 2025**

Well done to **Bovey** class who had **100%** attendance for the period of **24th - 28th March 2025**

Remember our whole school attendance target for the year we are working towards is 96.2%.

It is essential for children to attend as much school as possible if they are to get the most from their education and achieve their full potential.

| Class           | W/C 17.03.25 | W/C 24.03.25 |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Taw</b>      | 97%          | 84%          |
| <b>Mole</b>     | 89%          | 89%          |
| <b>Mardle</b>   | 97%          | 87%          |
| <b>Bovey</b>    | 88%          | 100%         |
| <b>Tavy</b>     | 98%          | 98%          |
| <b>Plym</b>     | 97%          | 90%          |
| <b>Exe</b>      | 93%          | 89%          |
| <b>Dart</b>     | 91%          | 97%          |
| <b>Tamar</b>    | 95%          | 90%          |
| <b>Torridge</b> | 92%          | 93%          |
| <b>Teign</b>    | 94%          | 97%          |



# Welcome to the March 2025 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents and Carers

## Access to advice/help for parents and carers

*With the Easter break almost here, SCOMIS is reminding parents and carers of where they can find advice and/or help with Online Safety Issues. Knowing where to look and what to look for can be a challenge! The following websites have lots of information, summarised as follows:*

Find out how to keep children safe online with the NSPCC's guides, including:

### Online safety advice

How to start Age-appropriate Online Safety conversations with your child, including:

- links to resources for under 11s – watch the [video](#) 'Talk PANTS'
- read the NSPCC's guide [Positive Parenting](#) for older children and teenagers
- find out how to talk to children about [difficult topics](#)
- [online safety quiz](#)



### Online safety guides for parents

Advice for parents to understand the [risks of online games](#)

Find out about [different social media platforms](#) and how to help children stay safe

Get advice about how to keep children safe using [internet connected devices and toys](#):

- Smart speakers - Google Home and Amazon Echo
- Wearables, such as Fitbit and Apple Watch
- Robots, drones and other mechanical toys
- Smart TVs
- Tips for keeping your family safe

### Online wellbeing

Discover 6 Top Tips to support your child's online wellbeing and take the [quiz](#)

Get the family together, have a discussion before you answer each question and choose your answer together!



### Resources for children with SEND

NSPCC Partnered with *Ambitious about Autism* to create online safety tips, advice and activities for parents and carers of [children with SEND](#) including:

[Sharing personal details](#)

[Friendships online](#)

[One-page profile](#)

[Cyberbullying for children with SEND visual article](#)

[Talking to people online for children with SEND visual article](#)

### Need help or to talk to someone?

Call the NSPCC on 0800 800 5000

Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

Complete the NSPCC [online form](#) to get advice and help from safeguarding experts.

## Online Gaming

Scomis has previously included articles on advice and guidance for parents and carers on Online Gaming. With the Easter break about to commence, check the following websites :

Childnet—[Online Gaming; an introduction for parents and carers](#) includes :

- introduction to online gaming
- how and where to play online games
- the risks
- SMART rules
- online gaming FAQs

Parentzone—[Gaming: a parent's guide](#) | [Parent Zone](#)

includes advice on:

- the links between gaming and gambling
- what you need to know about gaming communities
- top tips on helping your child play games safely
- inappropriate content
- how much time is too much time?

Family Lives—[Gaming](#) | [Family Lives](#) (10 minute read)

includes advice on:

- key points
- talking to your child about gaming
- keeping teens safe

Check the [South West Grid for Learning's Gaming Hub](#) to find out the benefits of gaming and:

- why people game
- about the gaming community
- explore virtual reality
- Esports

## Digital Age starts at age of 2!

Common Sense Media's recent survey (published February 2025) examined the digital media habits for children aged 8 and under. The study shows:

- 40% of 2 year olds have Tablets (iPads)
- Gaming time jumps 65%,
- 1 in 3 young children use Artificial Intelligence (AI) for learning
- Traditional TV viewing has declined
- Short-form video platforms – TikTok and YouTube Shorts are on the rise

The 2025 Common Sense Census:  
**Media Use by Kids Zero to Eight**

Read the full [report](#)

Watch the [video of key findings](#)



## Where to get help

Visit the [UK Safer Internet Centre's](#) website to access details and links for a number of organisations that can help with:

- [Safety tools guide](#) for Social Media
- [Reporting on Social Media](#)
- Reporting Criminal Content Online and much more!

Remember FREE advice is just a phone call away from Childline:  
0800 1111

**SCOMIS**  
Your ICT Partner



# Ways to Wellbeing

W/C 31st March 2025



## Neurodiversity Celebration Week

**Last week was 'Neurodiversity Celebration Week'.**

**What does that have to do with Mental Health & Wellbeing?**

## Neurodiversity Celebration Week

### What is Neurodiversity?

'Neuro' = Brains

'Diversity' = Different & unique

E.g. I love dogs, hate maths and struggle telling the time sometimes – but you might prefer cats and be really good at maths & getting the time from clocks.

Everyone's brain is special and unique in its own way – we are ALL 'neurodiverse' because we are all unique!

Although all brains are unique, most brains work in generally similar ways and can be grouped into the 'norm' – so are called 'Neurotypical'.

Some people's brains don't work like this at all – so they can be called 'Neurodivergent' (i.e. diverging or 'working differently' from the 'typical'). There are lots of ways people can be 'Neurodivergent' – e.g. ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia and Dyspraxia.

Neurodiversity Celebration Week is about celebrating the different ways our brains work and all the different & unique talents we have!

### Your challenge from me (& my mascot 'Duckie'):

Over the holidays, draw a picture or write a thank you letter to yourself for all the amazing things your brain does to keep you safe and well.



**If you need support for your mental health, please talk to a trusted adult at school or home.**

**Call 111 and select option 2 for mental health. In an emergency, call 999.**