



Modbury Primary School Newsletter

Friday 28th November 2025



www.modburyprimaryschool.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/p/South-Hams-Federation-61556768462697>

<https://www.instagram.com/southhamsfederation2025/>

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are fast approaching Christmas with all the excitement and festivities that come with the season. Next week is the PTFA Christmas Fayre. Doors open at 3pm but children cannot be collected until 3.30 so please do not come to classes before then. Thank you for all your generous chocolate donations. The tombola promises to be a super success.



This week the Year 3,4,5 and 6 children went to a reading roundabout provided by Ivybridge Library.

They all had a chance to look at lots of different books and chose some for the library.

Achieve4All – After Half Term – NEW LINK!

If your child would like to join/continue this Multi-Sports club on a Wednesday after school – 3.30pm–4.30pm, please follow the new link below to book.

Modbury	Wednesday	KS1+2 Multi Sports Club	https://activities.bookpebble.co.uk/activity/achieve4all-sports-club-ks12-modbury-ivybridge-fe504e4d-f52f-4a64-8f05-aec7424ffbe7
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If you have any queries or questions you can contact them on: info@achieve4all.co.uk

Plymouth Argyle’s KS2 Football After School Club – NEW LINK!

Plymouth Argyle’s KS2 (Years 3,4,5&6) Football After School Club will be running every Friday – 3.30pm–4.30pm.

If you child would like to join/continue this club until Christmas, please follow the link below to book.

Modbury	Friday	KS2 Football Club	https://www.abler.io/shop/pact/2313123?region=Plymouth&program=Q2x1YINlcnZpY2U6NDg0Nzg=
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School Meals and Universal Infant Free School Meals

Please ensure school meals are paid in advance via Bromcom. Meals can be ordered a week in advance for your child via the app. The price of a school meal from the 1st September 2025 is now:

- £2.60 per day
- £13.00 per week

If you experience any difficulties ordering or booking meals please contact the School Office. If you feel that your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, due to your financial circumstances, please contact Devon County Council either by phone on 0345 155 1019 or by visiting their website portal at: https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE

If your child has moved up from Year 2 to Year 3, please note you will no longer qualify for Universal Infant free School Meals and will now need to pay for your child's meals, unless your child is entitled to Free School Meals as detailed above

Diary Dates - New dates in bold

Nativities and Christmas plays

5th Dec 3pm onwards Christmas Fair in the hall 3pm - 3.30pm open to parents. Please do not pick up children early.

5th Dec Cinema trip for Year 3 and 4 9.15am (Kingsbridge Cinema)

9th and 10th Dec 2pm Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (Hall)

17th Dec 2pm and 6 pm Year 3 and 4 play (Hall)

18th December Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

19th December 1.30pm Carol service - at the church



Stars of the Week

Reception - Leah

Year 1 - Noah W

Year 2 - Grace

Year 3 - River

Year 4 - Wren

Year 5 – Nathan

Year 6 - Tristan



Our top readers

Each week we celebrate the children with the highest word count for the week:

This week's top readers are:

Year 2

Emily

Louis

Barney

Year 3

Delilah

Flo

Arthur

Year 4

Evie

Frankie

Amlie

Year 5

Rose

Iris

Jack

Year 6

Maisy

Ella

Seb

TT Rockstars

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Year 5

Rose
Iris
Jack

Year 6

Maisy
Ella
Seb

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

School avoidance refers to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. In 2022-23, more than one in five children in England were found to be absent from school over 10% of the time. This guide focuses on school avoidance with an emotional basis, offering expert mental health advice. However, it's important to remember that school avoidance is a hugely subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics; bullying and friendship difficulties at school; pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams; or moving from primary school to secondary school.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include tummy aches, headaches, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

MANAGE OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

Acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss coping strategies together to help them manage difficulties. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk. This helps them understand that you are working together towards a common goal, and that these strategies can be used when bigger feelings arise.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and spent away from screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetabled routine for the child's school day, if required.

RECOGNISE POSITIVE STEPS

Drawing attention to a child's successes – be they big or small – can help to give them some much-needed confidence and motivation. Celebrate these daily victories – such as getting out of bed on time or completing school work – and don't hesitate to let the child know when you're impressed or proud of them. Such an approach can go a long way.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance

@wake_up_weds
 /wuw.thenationalcollege
 @wake.up.wednesday
 @wake.up.weds

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Handwritten signatures of Louise Nicholls and Mrs T Coulthard.

Louise Nicholls
Head of School

Mrs T Coulthard
Executive Head Teacher

PTFA News

The fabulous Friday Cake Stand Each Friday we have a table in the lower playground to sell wonderful baked creations and contributions. The money raised goes towards loads of amazing experiences and equipment for your children.

Here are the dates for each year group. Thank you everyone for your support!

5 Dec | Yr 3

12 Dec | Yr 2

19 Dec | None - Last day of term

Community News

Apply for a primary school place

Was your child born
between 1 September 2021
and 31 August 2022?



Apply online at:
devon.cc/admissionsonline

or scan the QR code. Applications open from
15 November 2025 to the **15 January 2026**

If you can't access the school admissions website you can get more information by emailing admissions@devon.gov.uk or call our Education Helpline on:

0345 155 1019



You must apply through the Admissions Team, even if you've already given details to a school. Applications made directly to schools or on their lists will not be accepted.



Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

Make every day magical
at South Devon's award
winning pre-school



 Dartington  Yealmpton  Hope Cove



Learn more about
our pre-schools and
holiday camps

For further information about the upcoming Christmas Holiday Camp on Monday 22nd December,
please follow the link below

<https://www.ventureok.co.uk/preschool-holiday-camps>

Sponsored by:
AtkinsRéalis

children's hospice
SOUTH WEST

**Santas
on the Run**

SAVE 20%
if you sign up before
midday on 3 November

Sign up today www.chsw.org.uk/santas

Experience the magic of a festive train ride and fun run
at Plym Valley Railway on Saturday 29 November

Making the most of short and precious lives across the South West
Registered Charity No. 1000314

A festive poster for 'High 5 Christmas Cracker Camp'. The background is light blue with white snowflakes and green pine branches. At the top, there are various sports balls: a basketball, a soccer ball, a baseball, a tennis ball, and a tennis racket. The title 'HIGH 5 CHRISTMAS CRACKER CAMP' is written in a stylized, jagged font. Below the title, the dates '22ND - 23RD DECEMBER 2025' and location '@STOWFORD SCHOOL' are prominently displayed. A paragraph of text describes the camp as an action-packed couple of days of sports, activity, art, and fun. Below this, it mentions the 'Arts & Crafts Weekly Theme: Grimbo Crafts'. At the bottom, there is a 'BOOK NOW @' button, the website 'www.high5sportscamps.co.uk', and social media icons for YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. A green banner in the top right corner lists awards: 'AWARDED', 'BEST CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PROVIDER IN THE SOUTH WEST', and 'BEST SUMMER CAMP IN SOUTH WEST'. The 'Ofsted REGISTERED' logo is in the bottom left corner.

AWARDED
★ BEST CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PROVIDER IN THE SOUTH WEST
★ BEST SUMMER CAMP IN SOUTH WEST

HIGH 5 CHRISTMAS CRACKER CAMP

22ND - 23RD DECEMBER 2025
@STOWFORD SCHOOL

This December come and join us for an action packed couple of days of sports, activity, art and fun. In celebration of **Christmas** we have a **cracker** of a theme!

Arts & Crafts Weekly Theme: **Grimbo Crafts**

BOOK NOW @

Ofsted REGISTERED www.high5sportscamps.co.uk FIND US ON...   

To book, please follow this link....

<https://campscui.active.com/orgs/High5SportsCamps?season=3724444>