



MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL



Haytor View Community Primary School & Nursery

Belong – Learn - Thrive

Monthly Newsletter – February 2026

Headteacher Update

Wow, what an incredible first month, full time, as your Headteacher at Haytor View! I have really enjoyed getting to know the school and the community we serve, more each and every day.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we move through the new calendar year and navigate challenges such as uncontrollable staff absence, wet play times and site issues! Please do keep stopping to say hello and share any questions, concerns or comments, if needed, we can always arrange a more substantial meeting. I am here to **support and listen**.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, we will have been fortunate enough to appoint a **new Family Support Worker** for the school, to continue and expand the amazing supportive work that staff do here for all children and families. We have also been able to advertise for **additional Teaching Assistant** positions as we seek to secure a consistent staffing structure to meet all the needs of the school.

It has been really wonderful to also get to know how Connect Academy Trust can **support our school** as we continue to improve the education we provide for your children; so far we have benefitted from visits from other colleagues in Trust schools to make links between teachers, share ideas and planning, as well as provide support and advice, we have also had estates and site management support, HR, finance and School Improvement. I look forward to seeing this work continue to develop and make a positive impact on the **learning of all our children**.

Thank you to the parents and carers who supported the school with attendance at the workshop we held about our new **Behaviour Policy**. Feedback on the refined approach was supportive and more clarity on the ways in which we support children to have positive behaviour that helps a greater focus on learning was shared, including our policy appendices. By the time the next newsletter is shared, this will be available on our school website.

Governors

We held our first Governor's meeting of 2026 in January and welcomed new Community Governor Nikki Prentice. Nikki is an experienced Headteacher and school leader and will bring a wealth of wisdom, support and challenge in our school's journey of improvement.

I shared an overview of the key priorities we are working on as a school team, being culture, classrooms, curriculum and community.

Chair of Governors, Robert Doets, felt the school's focus priorities well-matched the needs of the school and reflected Governor's support of the focus on improving behaviour so that all pupils at the school can 'Belong, Learn, Thrive'. He also shared support for the school being part of the Department for Education's (DfE) regional improvement for standards and excellence (RISE) attendance and behaviour hubs programme, which is a national initiative designed to support schools in improving pupil attendance and behaviour.

Governors are keen to support the school in as many ways as they can, including developing the links between families and the Governing Body. I look forward to seeing how this role is shaped and developed in the coming months.

Trust Update

Connect Academy Trust is pleased to see progress being made at the school, with a stronger curriculum higher expectations in place for behaviour and attendance. We all know there is still much to improve at Haytor View and are grateful for Mrs Hepher's leadership and the support of parents, to enable the school to be on the right path to provide a better education for the children. Operationally, a faster internet line has recently been installed and improvements will be made to the security fencing soon.

Stuart Bellworthy, CEO

Year 4 & 5 Creative Arts Workshop

Year 4 and 5 pupils recently took part in an inspiring art workshop, generously funded by **The Helen Foundation** and **DAISI (Devon Arts in Schools Initiative)**. Both charities work to ensure that children and young people have access to high-quality creative experiences, believing that the arts play a vital role in wellbeing, confidence, and self-expression.



During the session, pupils worked with painter **Claire Harmer** to create colourful paintings and illustrations using the freedom of their imagination. The workshop explored traditional folk art and the work of other artists, while developing key skills such as mark making, drawing with paint, and building confidence through creative experimentation.

As well as refining their painting techniques, pupils were encouraged to explore the stories that emerged from their artwork. At the end of the session, children shared their creations and the ideas behind them, providing a wonderful springboard for creative writing activities back in the classroom.

The children were fully engaged throughout and produced some fantastic, imaginative work. We are very grateful to The Helen Foundation and DAISI for making this enriching experience possible.



Recognition Boards – Celebrating Our School Approach to Behaviour

Your child may have spoken to you about our classroom Recognition Boards, which are based on our school approach to behaviour of being 'Careful, Kind and Ready'. These boards are used across the whole school, from Nursery (Proud Cloud) right through to Year 6, to celebrate when children are demonstrating being:

Careful – with words, choices, taking care of ourselves, others and our school.

Kind – including others, thinking about how others feel, sharing and considering small actions like helping hold a door open, smiling, responding to a question, using polite manners

Ready – being at school all day, every day and on time, with the correct school uniform, drink/snack, reading book, being willing to give everything at school a go, being ready to **learn!**

Teachers use the boards to notice and recognise children who are demonstrating these principles in their learning and around school. When a child shows they are being careful, kind or ready, their name is added to the class Recognition Board.

When all children in the class are on the board, the class earns a marble. Once the marble jar is full, the children receive a reward



**Careful,
Kind,
Ready**



of their choosing, agreed together as a class.

The children have been incredibly enthusiastic and are working hard to show our school approach every day. Some classes have already earned their first reward and are already well on their way to achieving the next one!

We are very proud of the positive atmosphere this has created across the school and of the effort our children are putting into being 'Careful, Kind and Ready'.

Music in School – Year 3 & 4

We are delighted to share that **Kip** has started working with our **Year 3 and Year 4** children this term, supporting and developing their musical skills.

The Year 3 children are learning to play the recorders, while the Year 4 children are learning to play the ukuleles. The children have shown great enthusiasm and are already demonstrating impressive progress in their playing, listening, and performance skills.

Later this month, pupils will have the exciting opportunity to showcase their musical talents at the **Torbay Music Festival**, where parents and carers will be invited to come along and support them. In March, we will also be holding our **Haytor View Musical Festival**, where children from across the school will perform and celebrate their musical learning together.

Kip has been a real asset to the school, providing valuable support in developing musical skills and helping with the organisation and preparation for these events. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the **Torbay Music Festival** and the **La Motte Charity Trust** for funding Kip's work in our school and making these wonderful musical opportunities possible for our children.

KS2 Intra-School Gymnastics Competition

We are excited to announce that Premier Education will be working with our Key Stage 2 children on an intra-school gymnastics competition.

During the sessions, children will be placed into their Sports Day team colours and will work together to earn points for their teams. The competition will focus not only on developing gymnastics skills, but also on encouraging teamwork, fair play, and good sportsmanship.



This event will give pupils the opportunity to challenge themselves, support one another, and celebrate effort as well as achievement. It also helps to build confidence, resilience, and a positive attitude towards physical activity.

We are really looking forward to seeing our children work together, show respect for each other, and enjoy taking part in this exciting sporting experience.

Mental Health Support Team Workshops

We were pleased to welcome the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) into school who will be working with pupils across Year 4 and Year 6. These sessions are designed to support children's emotional wellbeing and help them develop skills they can use both in and out of school.



The Year 4 girls will take part in sessions focusing on friendship, self-care, looking after others, and managing emotions. Through discussion and practical activities, pupils will explore how to build positive relationships and recognise the importance of taking care of their own wellbeing as well as supporting their peers.

The Year 4 boys will work on understanding, recognising, and managing emotions. The sessions will help pupils identify different feelings, understand what might trigger them, and learn strategies for expressing and managing emotions in a healthy and positive way.

The Year 6 girls will also focus on friendship, self-care, looking after others, and managing emotions, with activities tailored to their age and stage as they prepare for the transition to secondary school.

We would like to thank the Mental Health Support Team for their continued support in helping our children build emotional resilience and confidence.



Family Hub Advice & Guidance Line, 0800 5385458
Mon-Fri 10am—4pm

'Connecting Moments'- Digital SEND Support for Families

Are you a parent or carer of a child with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**? Join us for **Connecting Moments** – a friendly online space designed just for you.

What's it all about?

- Connect with other families in a small, welcoming group
- Share experiences and ideas
- Build a peer support network

Please join us on the **27th January at 12noon, for a 1 hour session**—to book a space please fill in the form using the QR code below, places are limited and the session will be run via Teams.





DO YOU HAVE A CHILD AGED 8-17 WHO IS STRUGGLING WITH THEIR MENTAL HEALTH?

Anxiety, depression, self-harm and other mental health struggles are on the rise in children, particularly following the Covid-19 Pandemic. **As parents, we can be left feeling overwhelmed and helpless, not knowing where to turn for help.**

THIS GROUP AIMS TO SUPPORT YOU TO:

- ✓ Meet other parents who understand your situation for mutual support.
- ✓ Learn strategies to help you support your child, with no judgement!
- ✓ Help you to prioritise your own well-being as a parent.

WHEN? Find out more at our **Information Session** for parents at 7pm on Tues 13th or 1pm on Wed 14th January 2026.

WHERE? We're holding it on Zoom and you'll get the link when you register for our Information Session below.

To attend register at www.calendly.com/ymhf/information-session-zoom

For more information contact:
Joel Sutton (YMHF) on 0300 302 0285
or email joel@youthmentalhealthfoundation.org

Reminder: Scooters and Bikes on the Courtyard

Please can we ask for your support in reminding children to walk their scooters and bikes to the racks when they are on the school courtyard.

We have noticed an increasing number of children riding scooters and bikes on school grounds during drop-off and pick-up times. This is a particularly busy part of the school day, with lots of children, parents, and carers moving through the area.

Walking scooters and bikes during these times helps to avoid accidents and ensures that everyone can move around the courtyard safely.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us keep our school community safe.



Reminder: School Communication via Arbor

Just a reminder that the school uses **Arbor** for all school communication and permissions. It is really important that parents and carers are signed up and checking the app regularly to ensure you don't miss important messages, notices, or requests for consent.

If you are having any difficulties accessing or using the Arbor app, please don't hesitate to come in and speak to our admin team, who will be more than happy to support you.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep communication clear and up to date.



Facebook

Just a reminder that we now have a new Facebook page where we will be sharing events, reminders, and updates about all the exciting things happening at Haytor View Primary School.



Please follow our page **Haytor View Community Primary School and Nursery** to keep up to date with school news, notices, and upcoming events.

We look forward to connecting with you online!

KEY DATES

Week commencing 2nd February - National Storytelling Week

6th February - Premier Education KS2 intra-gymnastics competition

25th February – Devon Schools Sports Partnership (DSSP) Impact Day to include Young Play Leaders training

4th March - Anne Parson author and storyteller will be in to work with KS1 and KS2

5th March – World Book Day (children to dress as their favourite book character)

12th March – West End in School (Pinocchio Workshop)

13th March - Torbay Music Festival (at school) for Y3/4 and 1:1 children Kip has been working with – parents/carers are invited to this event

13th March – Mother's Day Daffodil Sale

17th March - DSSP Impact Day

18th March - Haytor View Music Festival (whole school)

20th March – Red Nose Day (children are invited to wear red for a non-school uniform day and we request a 50p donation Comic Relief).

20th March - Premier Education KS2 intra-gymnastics competition

27th March - Odyssey Class Trip for Years 3 - 5

31st March – HTV Bake Off and Cake Sale

1st April - Y3 Badminton Festival - DSSP at NAC

1st April – School Spring Disco

