



Colyton Primary Academy Newsletter

5th December 2025

Autumn Term Week 13

A word from Mrs. Mills



Wow! December has hit with a Christmassy bang!

This week's highlights...

It was lovely to see some many of you on Wednesday evening at the Colyton Lights switch on. The choir sang absolutely brilliantly, well done to all of them and to Mrs Whitehorn for getting them prepped! The town was a buzz of people and what is always lovely is seeing previous students (even adult ones!) and having a good catch up.

On Thursday Mrs Whitehorn and Mr Russell took the children to Axe Valley and then on to the Guild Hall for their Sing Your Heart Out event - it was fantastic as always!

The rest of us had a fab time on Thursday afternoon getting well stuck in to the Christmas Craft! I hope that you all had as much fun as we did? Thank you to everyone who attended and helped out. Look out for some of the things at the Christmas Fair to buy.

Thank you also for the chocolate donations in exchange for a Christmas jumper! There is loads ready for the chocolate tombola at the Christmas Fair NEXT FRIDAY after school.

Next week at a glance...

Next Friday 12th is the Reindeer Run during the day and then the Christmas Fair after school. Cake donations and helpers are very much needed please!!

Next Friday is also Christmas Jumper day - again, this will be **Christmas jumpers with school uniform**. The following Friday is Christmas jumpers with non-uniform. I hope this clarifies things for the next few weeks.

On Wednesday year 6 will be cooking their Christmas dinner (Mrs Evans will send some more info on that soon).

On Thursday year 2 will be going to watch the Panto in Axminster. This is part of our Christmas Colyton Extras and very kindly paid for by FAFA each year.

Attendance:

I have some good news on attendance. Recently, we have been able to access reports from the DfE about our school attendance. Currently, compared to 21 other schools that are similar to us in Devon, we are ranked 11th. Not bad! Our attendance only needs to improve by 0.5% to move up this ladder. However, you know me, I would love for us to be higher than 11th and be the champions of this!

Some of our highlights are that our free school meal children have the highest attendance of all 21 schools (and in our Trust!), year 2 have the highest attendance of the 21 schools and we have the best attendance on a Friday!

Areas we need to look at are in some other year groups and Wednesday, apparently this is our lowest attendance days. Help me come up with ideas to make Wednesday appealing!

So I am asking for your help - in the next couple of weeks please make sure you are in school on time (as this counts in our attendance data) and that you are not taking any unnecessary time off. Of course if your child is very ill then they must rest but avoid holidays and last minute trips.

We will have another one of these reports for the second half of the Autumn term and I will share those findings with you then too - wonder if Wednesday will improve?

Thank you,

Mrs Mills

Celebration Award Winners



Elm:

Oak:

Maple:

Ash:

Willow:

Beech:

Pride of Colyton:

Important Dates



Friday 12th December

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 12th December

Reindeer Run

Wednesday 17th December

Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 17th December

Christingle Service (Meet at school 5.15 to walk to Church for a 6pm Start)

Friday 19th December

LAST DAY of Term. Christmas Non-Uniform £1 Donation to the FAFA

Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January

CHRISTMAS Holiday

Monday 5th January

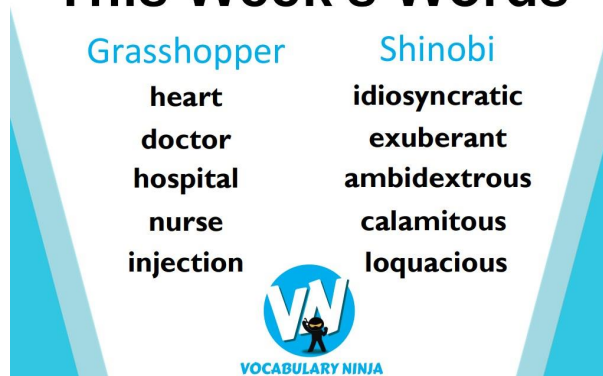
INSET Day

Tuesday 6th January

First Day Back

This weeks Words and Big Question

This Week's Words



Big Question: What would Christmas look like if it were invented today?

School Notices



- **ARBOR:**

We will still be using Parent Pay for Lunches and Trips.

- **Flu Vaccinations**

A catch up session will be held on 12/12/2025 for the year 6's and anyone who missed out on the vaccinations.

Please use the link emailed out to give consent.

- **School Dinners:**

Booked on Parent Pay

These need to be booked by **Sunday** for the following week you can book all they way up to the end of term if you wish too. The cost of these is £2.70 per meal for paying parents.

We are aware of an issue effecting Reception and Ks1 children where you were charged, this is being rectified over the next few weeks apologies for this.

Please book Christmas Dinner as soon as you can as the caterers need numbers by the start of November.

- **Free School Meals:**

Find out if your child is eligible for Free School Meals! Apply through the [Devon Citizens Portal](#). This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

- **Attendance:**

If you are unsure if your child should be in school then visit this website [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) or check the school website for information [School Attendance | Colyton Primary Academy](#) This also covers holiday during term time.

Remember, your child must be on time for school - this means arriving **BEFORE** 8.50am not at this time. Lots of children are having late marks. Also, if you take a holiday during term time but tell the school that your child is ill then we can and will still issue a fine.

Children are very honest and they often tell us when you have been away. If we have reason to believe that you are on a holiday then our policy now states that we must follow the protocol for fining.

- **Nut & Sesame Free School:**

A reminder we are a nut free school, this includes Tree Nuts, Peanuts and Sesame.

When bringing a packed lunch or snacks into school please ensure there is no food foods containing nuts or sesame such as Nutella or other hazelnut spread, Pesto, Humus, and Peanut Butter

Thank you for your understanding.

Some handy information from about Festive Fire Safety

12 Days of Fire Safety

Safe decorations – Inspect fairy lights and decorations and remove any that are damaged or have frayed wires. Ensure exterior lights are plugged into an RCD device. Avoid daisy-chaining and overloading sockets.

Candle safety – Keep candles away from decorations, curtains, and never leave them unattended. It's safer to use LED candles.

Christmas trees – Keep real trees watered and away from heat sources to prevent fires. If you own an artificial tree, make sure it is fire retardant certified.

Cooking caution – Most accidental house fires start in the kitchen. Stay alert while cooking – never leave ovens or hobs unattended, and drink in moderation.

Check on loved ones – Complete an Online Home Fire Safety Check at www.ohfsc.co.uk.

Fireplace safety – Use a guard, ensure chimney is thoroughly swept, and fit a carbon monoxide alarm. Make sure there is a suitable distance between decorations and fireplace and only burn suitable fuel sources.

Test your alarms – Ensure smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working and that you have at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home. Never remove batteries from a smoke alarm.

Escape routes – Keep exits clear of clutter, decorations and gifts. Plan and practise your escape plan with family and friends.

Buy safe gifts – Choose UKCA or CE-marked or registered products from reputable retailers and online marketplaces.

Night-time routine – Turn off decorations and appliances before bed; don't leave devices charging overnight.

When away from home – Switch off appliances and unplug decorations before going out or away.

Smoking safely – Smoke outdoors, use ashtrays, and keep away from emollient creams or products.



FREE
Family Advice
& Guidance

**For Parents/Carers of children aged
0-19 and Young People aged 13 –19
(25 with SEND or Care Leaver)**

Single Session Appointments available
in person, via phone or online

CALL:

Advice & Guidance Line

0800 5385458

Mon-Fri 10am—4pm

SCAN

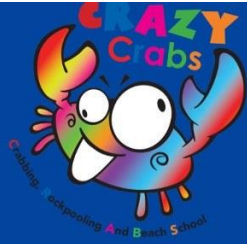


Devon
County Council



**BEST
START
IN LIFE**

Request for Contact



Upcoming Sessions



29th of October - Rockpooling - 14:00-16:00

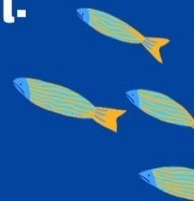
3rd of January Festive Beach Art and Craft- 14:30-16:30

21st of February- Crabbing - Timings TBD

**For Rockpooling meet at: Seaton Hole, EX12 2PX
For Crabbing meet at: Axmouth Harbour, EX12 4AB
For the others session meet at: Fisherman's Gap, EX12 2LN**

Please remember £3 per child and children MUST be accompanied AT ALL TIMES.

**Please Book by texting or emailing Claire at:
crazycrabsbeachschool@gmail.com
07979 531109**



**THE BEEHIVE'S
CHRISTMAS CRAFT
& SHOPPING FAYRE**

PLUS SANTA'S GROTTO!

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER

10AM - 4PM

THE BEEHIVE HONITON

FREE ENTRY TO THE FAYRE

**The Beehive Café will be open
serving hot refreshments and
festive cakes & bakes!**

The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton, Devon, EX14 1LZ


the beehive

**THIS CHRISTMAS
AT THE BEEHIVE CINEMA..**



**Rediscover Your
Inner Elf**

WILL FERRELL
with JAMES CAAN

elf

**MONDAY 22 DECEMBER
AT 11AM**



the beehive

THE BEEHIVE CINEMA, HONITON
TICKETS: ADULT £6. U12'S £5. FAMILY OF 4 £20

BOX OFFICE: 01404 384050

BEEHIVEHONITON.CO.UK



Colyton Primary Academy FAFA Our Year at a Glance – Key Events for Families

Whether you're new to Colyton Primary or a seasoned FAFA supporter, here's a quick guide to some of our much-loved events through the school year. They're a chance to get involved, celebrate together, and raise funds for our children.

Bake Sale (Various Dates)

Children will be sent home with a plate and a date. Bring back some home baked goodies for a class bake sale. All proceeds to be spent on extra resources for that class. Parent volunteers needed to help with the bake sale after school.

Pumpkin Decorating Competition (End of October)

Children create their own carved or decorated pumpkin at home (no adult entries please!). £1 entry, with prizes to be won.

School Disco (Various Dates)

Two sessions: KS1 followed by KS2. Parents can stay or drop off and go. Fancy dress at Halloween. A chance to dance, laugh, and let off steam!

Bag of School Collections

Have a clear-out and help us raise funds. Drop off unwanted clothes and textiles at the school office or main gate – we receive money for every bag collected.

Christmas Craft Afternoon (December)

Parents and carers are invited into school to join their child for festive crafting. Please note this is an adults-only activity – no younger siblings.

Christmas Fayre (December)

After school fun with stalls, games and refreshments. A chance to buy your child's handmade craft and enjoy the seasonal buzz!

Christingle Service at St Andrew's (December)

A special community celebration with songs, carols, and refreshments at the church.

Science Fair (Spring Term)

Children investigate an experiment at home, then bring elements into school to display and share. A short write-up explains their discoveries.

Easter Egg & Bonnet Competition (Spring Term)

Decorate an egg or bonnet at home, bring it in with £1 entry, and compete for prizes. Creativity encouraged – think outside the box!

Maypole Dancing (May)

Celebrate tradition with music, dancing, and refreshments on the church green, a highlight of the summer term!

Stay in touch

For dates, reminders, and more ways to get involved, we'll keep you updated through newsletters and notices.

Questions? Get in touch with us at fafa@colytonprimary.org.uk.



Volunteers wanted

in Colyton for Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



Are you looking to give some time to the Community and Volunteer? Girlguiding in Colyton are pleased to have all three sections of Girlguiding running in the town but with increasing numbers and demand need your help to continue to offer girls the opportunities to enjoy a safe girl led space, with fun activities where they can make friends and develop their personalities and confidence.

No experience necessary, all training and support provided – we want to welcome you to the world of Girlguiding whether you have been involved before or not!

Come along and join our friendly team of Volunteer leaders – register your interest online:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>

or if you wish to discuss this with us drop us an email on

1stcolytonguides@gmail.com



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.

Devon
County Council 

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!

AT THE ANCHOR INN

Join us for a magical morning of festive fun!

-  A delicious **BREAKFAST**
-  A festive **DRINK**
-  A special **GIFT** from Santa!

£10.99 per child

 December 6th, 13th, & 21st

 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Bring your Christmas spirit – and don't forget your camera!

SPACES ARE LIMITED, SO BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

 **THE ANCHOR INN**
Where holiday memories are made!

THE ANCHOR INN

INTRODUCING CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

You scan we donate EE's

 Parentkind

 ASDA

CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

 Only with ASDA Rewards
Download and opt in today

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT

Selected stores. Minimum spend £20. Excludes supply including ASDA Express & George's units. Support for available by 1st Nov. Age & Club do not affect 10% of the value of a customer's eligible spend to be donated. Publicly funded primary schools, must register with ParentKind prior to 10/11/2018. Full T&Cs at asda.com/cashpotforschools. Rewards T&Cs at asda.com/rewards/terms. Ends 31/11/20.