



Holway Park Community Primary School

Shakespeare Avenue, Taunton, TA1 2JA | Tel: 01823 252126 | Email: office@holwaypark.somerset.sch.uk

Stargaze, Spirit, and Strive to Sparkle!

6th March 2026

Key Dates

MARCH 26

11-13 - Nettlecombe (Yr 3 Trip)
11-16 - Book Fayre (after School)
18-20 - London (Yr5 Trip)
31 - Parents Evening

APRIL 26

1 - Parents Evening
3 - GOOD FRI - SCHOOL CLOSED
6 - EASTER MONDAY SCHOOL CLOSED
7-17 - EASTER HOL - SCHOOL CLOSED
20 - RETURN TO SCHOOL

**FULL ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS
ESSENTIAL - REGULAR ABSENCE IS
REGARDED AS A CHILD
SAFEGUARDING ISSUE**

Safeguarding

Safeguarding our community is everyone's responsibility. If you see or hear something on school site that worries you, please speak to the school safeguarding team.

Update Contact Details

Pupil Data Collection Sheet



<https://forms.office.com/e/ckn2bHvw9m>

A message from Mrs Brewer, the Head Teacher.

Children in Tweed, Medway & Tamar enjoyed an interactive fun workshop this week. World Book Day was highly successful, and many children came along to Bedtime Stories. Both events were well organized by Mrs. Martin. Some of our Year 6 children have welcomed some local elderly residents to join them for lunch and some Year 5 pupils have also been visiting residents in local care homes sharing stories and games, this is such a valuable opportunity and learning experience for the children. Miss Bowen also organized a great ECO day with many interactive activities. Hearing the buzz around school and seeing the smiling faces makes all of these activities worthwhile.



THE SCHOOLBAG CHECKLIST



Multi-skills club cancelled 11th & 18th March 2026

May we remind you that the Multi Skills Club will **NOT** be running on the following dates: Wednesday 11th March 2026 / Wednesday 18th March 2026
We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and you should now have received a cash refund for the 2 sessions. The club will run for one final session on Wednesday 25th March 2026. After this date, the club will finish for the term.



Upcoming Trips

Nettlecombe Court – Year 3 (11–13 March)

Final balance is due today, Friday 6th March 2026.

London – Year 5 (18–20 March)

The deadline for the return of medical consent forms has now passed, please hand in your form to the school office if you haven't already done so. This is essential if you want to take part in the residential.

Final balance is due Friday 13th March 2026.

Huish Woods – Year 2 (20–22 May)

We still have a few places available. Please contact the school office if you would like to register your child.



National Childrens Measuring Program (NCMP)

An email was sent last week informing you about the the NCMP which will take place on the 19th March 2026. Please read through the letter explaining why this yearly programme takes place and what they do with the information.

If you feel that you **DO NOT** want your child to be part of the programme, then please complete the **OPT OUT** form by following the link in the attached letter no later than **Wednesday 11th March 2026**. If you do not complete the **OPT OUT online form**, your child will automatically be enrolled in the programme.

Scholastic Book Fair

There has been a change of date for the book fair and will now be held on 18th – 23rd March 2026.

ATTENDANCE

One day's absence could be as many as seven missed lessons, as well as time spent with friends and doing extracurricular activities. You can support your child's physical, social and mental wellbeing by ensuring they are in school every day.

It can be difficult to know whether your child is too ill to attend school. **NHS guidance is clear that it's fine to send them in with a minor cough or common cold.**

We know that parents and carers worry about their children's mental health. Rather than keeping your child off school, let us know about your concerns. We can then work together on supporting your child.

Attendance is regarded as a Safeguarding issue.

A big thank you to most parents who make sure their children attend school regularly. Your efforts, working in partnership with the school, will ensure that your child will have the best chance to achieve their potential and have real opportunity in further education and the world of work. It will also enable your child to:

- ✓ access the lessons needed to achieve their expected progress and standards
- ✓ maintain friendships and develop new ones
- ✓ have access to social and sporting events offered by the school
- ✓ develop work habits such as good punctuality which are essential to thrive in the world of employment

Parents will regularly receive Attendance Alerts if their child's absence is close to the government criteria for persistent absence.

Parental Responsibility for Attendance

Parents are legally responsible for ensuring their child's regular attendance at school. The department for Education and Somerset Council automatically monitor pupil attendance daily through the school registers.

The Department for Education informs the Headteacher every two weeks the monitored absence details of pupils. The school will make contact if your child is identified in this monitoring. If you are worried about your child/children's attendance the first person to contact is to discuss your concerns with the school PFSA Angie Bristow.

Secondary School Admission Outcomes

Families who applied for secondary school places should now have received their outcomes. Parents wishing to appeal their allocation must submit their appeal application by 30 March 2026. This deadline applies to all families notified of their outcome on 2 March.

Over the coming weeks, the School Office will be contacting all Year 6 parents with further information. This will include details of upcoming transition events, required consent forms for transferring your child's data to their new school, and additional information to support pupils moving into Year 7 in September 2026.

Holway Caterers

Holway Caterers operate independently from the school; they do not have access to pupils' personal data. To help them allocate payments correctly, please ensure that your child's surname is included as a reference when making a BACs payment.

They also kindly request that payments are made promptly. If accounts fall into arrears, Rita will contact parents directly with a letter regarding outstanding balances.

Children's Mobile Phones in School

Children should only bring a mobile phone to school if they are **walking home alone** or have a **specific reason agreed with the school**.

Please remember:

- **Phones must not be taken into the classroom.**
- All phones should be **switched off** and **handed in to the school office before school starts**.
- Phones will be kept securely and can be **collected from the school office after the child leaves**.

This practice helps us keep children safe and avoid distractions during learning and follow recent Government guidance on mobile phones in school. Thank you for your cooperation!

Happy Healthy Holidays

Happy Healthy holidays details have been sent to those that are eligible for Free School Meals. Bookings are now open. Please contact the school office if you missed the communication.

Uniform

We would like to make you aware that we have recently noticed some pupils are not adhering to the school uniform and PE uniform expectations. To support all families, can we please ask you to review the schools uniform policy on the school website: <https://www.holwaypark.somerset.sch.uk/school-uniform-2> and check that your child's uniform is correct and fully compliant with the school requirements. If your child arrives in incorrect uniform, their class teacher will send home a note or letter explaining the reason, so that the issue can be addressed promptly.

If you are experiencing any difficulties in obtaining the correct uniform, or if you need support, please speak to the school office. We are always happy to help where we can.

Since the weather is improving, we will aim to place the lost property outside the front of the school office over the coming days, as we currently have a large amount. Please take a moment to check if any items belong to your child. Please remember to **clearly label all school belongings**, including **hats, coats, and gloves**. This helps us return lost items to the right children quickly and easily.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high standards across the school. If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Head Bumps

Have you ever wondered why we contact parents when a child has a head bump? We do this to ensure you are informed of the incident and enables you to monitor your child afterwards. Most of the time this is nothing to worry about, but it is a good idea to keep an eye on them for the next 24-48hrs. If something doesn't feel right or you are worried at all, it is always best to get advice from a healthcare professional. Things to look out for are severe headache, repeated vomiting, being confused, sleepy and cannot be roused.

Scooter and Bike Security

Can we remind you to ensure that your child securely locks up their bikes and scooters when they are left at school or in public areas. Unfortunately, unsecured items can be an easy target for theft, and taking a moment to use a sturdy lock can help keep your child's belongings safe.

Parking Around School – A Polite Reminder

We kindly ask all parents and carers to continue parking **considerately** during school drop-off and pick-up times.

Parking outside school

Parking illegally or disrespectfully - Residents have complained about the illegal, inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous parking of parents/Carers before and after school.

We would like to make parents aware of the Highway Code 243 which includes the following: (from www.police.uk)

Pick-up and drop-off times are busy outside schools. This can cause an increased safety risk to both children and parents.

Parking restrictions outside schools are there to keep you and your children safe. Parking inconsiderately can put people in danger and you also risk being fined. It's important that motorists follow the [Highway Code](#).

Parking restrictions outside schools

Understanding yellow zigzag markings. Most school entrances and exits in the UK have yellow zigzag road markings with the writing 'School Keep Clear'. They indicate the part of the road where motorists should not wait, stop, or park a vehicle. Both yellow and white zigzags also show areas that must be kept clear so that children and other road users can see clearly when crossing the road.

Parking on yellow zigzags

Yellow zigzags without accompanying signs advise motorists not to wait or park there at any time for the safety of children and others. We can issue tickets for parking on them, based on causing an obstruction to other motorists or pedestrians. **DO NOT** stop or park:

- near a school entrance
- opposite or within 10 meters (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- in front of an entrance to a property
- on a bend

Bishop Fox's Transition Programme

"I think this was one of the greatest experiences of my life, IT WAS AMAZING!"

Participating student



GET YEAR-7 READY

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

THE BIG STEP TRANSITION PROGRAMME AT:

BISHOP FOX'S SCHOOL
10 - 14 AUGUST 2026

THE BIG STEP
YEAR 6-7
TRANSITION
PROGRAMME

OUR 2026 PROGRAMME AT Bishop Fox's School

The **Big Step** invites your child on our transition programme, to achieve:

- ✓ Smoother transition from primary to secondary school
- ✓ Develop and improve students' self-esteem and confidence
- ✓ Familiarising them with their new surroundings
- ✓ Help to meet and make new friends
- ✓ Build teamwork, resilience, and skills for secondary school success

How to help them make the transition to secondary school – it's something we all worry about.

It's a big step and you want to do everything you can for them.

A secondary school teacher myself, I set up **The Big Step** in 2018, to help ease the transition from primary to secondary school. I saw those September nerves in the children I taught. I knew that a little summer preparation would make all the difference. Some kids hit the ground running, others need gentle encouragement.

It's the small things that make it a big step.

"Will I find my way around?" "Will I fit in?" "Where are the loos?" "Will I make friends?"

Our one-week summer programme tackles all this and more. We work really closely with schools to offer just the right programme to help your child make the big step.

Oh, and we have a lot of fun along the way.

Dan Leverton Founder of *The Big Step*

2026 SUMMER TRANSITION PROGRAMME

What is the cost?

£130 FOR THE WEEK*

£20 deposit
Guarantees your child's place

That's just £26 a day!

Choose to pay in **Instalments**



"Following a successful first year in 2025, we are happy to welcome back The Big Step this summer to help students transition smoothly to Year 7 at Bishop Fox's."

Kerry Tonkin *Headteacher*

* Discounts may be available if your child receives free school meals or has in the past two years. Availability depends on your school - please check with us for details.

MAKING THE **BIG STEP** A SMALLER STEP

STUDENT FEEDBACK Numbers

Don't just take our word for it, see what students have to say about our summer transition programme:



I **HAD FUN** at the summer school

The activities provided were **VARIED AND ENGAGING**

Summer school has **HELPED ME PREPARE** for September

I **WOULD RECOMMEND** 'The Big Step' to other students

8,500+ CHILDREN have attended since 2019

PARENT FEEDBACK

"I'm so glad she has gone from **scared witless and tears** to **excitement about starting a new school**. I am forever grateful. Thanks again Dan. You guys are awesome. P.S. It was **totally 100% worth the money.**"

"Such a **genius way of integrating Year 7 children into the school**. Good size groups, my daughter made 5 new friends immediately!"

"Honestly - it was fantastic! **My son had such a great time**, made lots of new friends, and looked forward to going every day!"

MAKING THE **BIG STEP** A SMALLER STEP

Make friends. Make food. Make Music. Make a mess. Complete against...
ges. Build a team. Compete together. **Build confidence.** Discover the s...
unds. **Dance and do drama** Get arts and crafty. Go on a scavenger hunt
Find the loos. Find yourself. Find the loos. **Get arts and crafty** Fall down
w skills. **Feel less anxious.** Solve... Play basketball, rounders, rugby
ooty. Dodge dodgeballs. Capt... Meet some teachers. Meet yo
group. Explore some more. Visit classrooms. Get excited. **Get psyched**
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crafty. Go on a scavenger hunt. Find the loos. **Find yourself.** Fall
k up again. **Learn new skills.** Feel less anxious. Play basketball, rounders, r
and footy. Dodge dodgeballs. **Capture the flag.** Meet some teachers.
Meet your tutor group. Explore some more. Visit classrooms. Get excited
Get psyched. Unlock your potential. Unleash your... Inner year 7.

Ready, Set, Read!



We are excited to announce that we will be celebrating World Book Day on

THURSDAY 5TH MARCH

Children are invited to come to school on the day dressed as their favourite book character.

On the day, the children will be taking part in several reading and book activities, whilst taking part in author workshops, quizzes and much more.

The evening before, **WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH**, we will be holding our annual Bedtime Stories event. This is an amazing event where we invite children and families back to school from 5.45pm to 7pm dressed in their pyjamas to share lots of different stories with a teacher. We will also be finishing off the evening with hot chocolate and biscuits!

The following week, we will be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair which will be held after school from **Wednesday 11th March until Monday 16th March**. This is a great opportunity for children to use their £1 World Book Day voucher to get money off a brand-new book.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Bedtimes Stories – Wednesday 4th March

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

After - School Book Fair – Wednesday 11th March until Monday 16th March

18th – 23rd March 2026

Spring Clubs Reminder

CLUBS WILL END: **FRIDAY 27TH MARCH**

Please note:

- Clubs **finish promptly at 4:15 pm.**
- Collection points for each club are listed below (please check carefully to avoid confusion).
- **If your child will not be attending a club, please inform the school office.** We need to know where children are to keep them safe.
- **If someone other than a parent is collecting your child,** please let the office know in advance.

Thank you for your support in ensuring smooth running of the clubs and collections!

Club Collection Points at 4.15pm		
Monday	Pick Up Point	Gate
Art Club (Years 1 & 2)	Eden Classroom	KS1
Boardgames Club (Years 1 & 2)	Avon Classroom	KS2
Construction Club (Years 1 & 2)	Tweed Classroom	KS1
Colouring Club (Years 1 & 2)	Medway Classroom	KS1
Colouring Club (Years 3,4,5 & 6)	Dart Classroom	KS2
Dance Club (Years 3,4,5 & 6)	Dove Classroom	KS1
Eco/Gardening/Forest School (Years 3,4,5 & 6)	Mersey Classroom	KS2
Football Club (Years 1 & 2)	KS2 Playground	KS2
Lego Club (Years 3,4,5 & 6)	Medway Classroom	KS1
Story Writing (Years 3,4,5 & 6)	Derwent Classroom	KS1
Tuesday	Pick Up Point	Gate
SATS Booster Club (Year 6)	Thames Classroom	KS2
TT Rockstars (Years 3,4,5 & 6)	Derwent Classroom	KS1
Wednesday	Pick Up Point	Gate
Chess Club (Years 3,4,5 & 6)	Main Entrance	N/A
Football Club (Years 3,4,5 & 6)	KS2 Playground	KS2
Lego Club (Years 1 & 2)	Dove Classroom	KS1
Multi Skills Club (Years 3,4,5 & 6)	KS2 Playground	KS2
Thursday	Pick Up Point	Gate
Drama Club (Years 5 & 6)	Main Entrance	N/A



ACTION STAYTIONS

Spring Term Events

W.C. 09.03.26 / 23.03.26

Messy Monday	Hands on art/crafts and sensory activities
Techie Tuesday	Get all "techie"
Whacky Wednesday	Variety of fun games to suit all ages
Thinking Thursday	Trivia, puzzles and problem-solving fun
Fun Friday	Choice of fun activities and games Includes parachute games, table tennis and more.

W.C. 16.03.26 / 30.03.26

Move It Monday	Dance and yoga
Try It Tuesday	Construction/lego challenges
Wild Wednesday	Outdoor/nature activities
Thoughtful Thursday	Jewellery, keyrings and loom bands
Food Friday	Cooking

Home Reading will also be carried out during each session

Pricing and Hours
 3:15pm to 4:45pm - £6
 3:15pm to 5:45pm - £9

Contact Information
 Bookings: 01823 252126
 More information: 07547113622
 Miss Conway / Mrs Salisbury

A wrap around care provision at Holway Park School. Run by two experienced members of staff providing a range of exciting activities for children supporting whatever their interests may be. Price includes activities, resources and refreshments, as well as access to special events.



Action Staytions

We have some exciting events coming up in Action Staytions Wrap Around Care Provisions. Please contact the school office or Action Staytions staff to book your place.

CLASS ACTIVITIES

SWIMMING

Avon and Dart (Tuesday) 06.01.26 - 31.03.26

Severn (Thursday) 26.02.26 – 21.05.26

CLASS	PE DAYS <i>Children to come into school dressed in their PE Kits</i>	READ ALONGSIDE <i>Start: 2:45pm End: 3.10pm Arrive 5 mins early to check in</i>	BOARDGAMES <i>Start: 2:45pm End: 3.10pm Arrive 5 mins early to check in</i>	WOODLANDS <i>Children to come to school dressed in clothing /footwear which can get muddy and coats to keep warm.</i>
EDEN	Friday- Indoor PE	18.03.2026	N/A	N/A
DOVE	Friday- Indoor PE	11.02.2026	12.03.2026	N/A-
TWEED	Monday - Outdoor PE Wed - Indoor PE	04.02.2026	12.02.2026	03.03.2026
MEDWAY	Thursday - Indoor PE Tuesday - Outdoor PE	28.01.2026	05.03.2026	13.01.2026 & 24.03.2026
TAMAR	Tuesday – Outdoor PE Thursday - Indoor	21.01.2026	12.02.2026	10.03.2026
SEVERN	Monday - Outdoor PE Thursday - Swimming	25.03.2026	26.02.2026	15.01.2026 & 17.03.2026
AVON	Tuesday - Swimming Friday - Outdoor PE	25.02.2026	26.03.2026	29.01.2026 & 02.04.2026
DART	Tuesday - Swimming Friday - Outdoor PE	11.03.2026	15.01.2026	12.02.2026
DERWENT	Tuesday - Indoor PE Friday - Outdoor PE	14.01.2026	22.01.2026	26.02.2026
MERSEY	Monday - Indoor PE Wed - Outdoor PE	04.03.2026	29.01.2026	22.01.2026 & 31.03.2026
THAMES	Monday - Indoor PE Wed - Outdoor PE	01.04.2026	05.02.2026	20.01.2026 & 26.03.2026

Ofsted Registered

PRIMARY

FOREST SCHOOL & OUTDOOR EDUCATION

EASTER HOLIDAY CLUBS

BRIDPORT • CHRISTCHURCH • TAUNTON • WEYMOUTH

Bushcraft
Mud Kitchens
Nature Crafts
Firelighting
Campfires
And so much more!

TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
9.00 - 15.30
8.30 - 15.30
8.30 - 17.30
FROM £28.60 PER DAY

BOOK HERE!

www.primary-forest-school.co.uk

RISE. SCHOOL GAMES LIVE

EASTER SPECIAL

Friday 20th March 2026
1:30pm - 2:30 pm

3 x 15 minute active fitness sessions live via Zoom.
Find a space, log in and get active in preparation for EASTER

REGISTER NOW >

To join the live session click on the link below:
[School Games Live Stream](#)
Meeting ID: 889 0263 9832
Passcode: 355271

SCHOOL GAMES

J.F. Health & Wellbeing

Active Partnerships

EASTER ACTIVITY CAMPS

****FULLY FUNDED****

VENUE:
TAUNTON VALE SPORTS CLUB

SPORTS, CRAFTS & GAMES
SWIMMING INCLUDED
FREE LUNCH

DATE:
13TH - 16TH APRIL 2026

9AM-3PM

5-11 YEARS

BOOK TODAY! HEAD TO
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/23NEF2TW](https://tinyurl.com/23NEF2TW)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

****FOR THOSE ON BENEFIT RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS****

EGG HUNT!

EASTER Holiday Camps

Wellesley Park Primary - Tuesday 7th - Friday 10th April
St John's Primary - Monday 13th - Thursday 16th April

9.00am - 3.00pm

Multisports Camps

£20 Per day
10% Whole week discount
15% Sibling discount

07494175299
hello@inspiredschools.co.uk

Booking for paid places available here
<https://inspiredschools.ipalbookings.com>

FREE Happy Healthy Holiday spaces available from 10.00am on Monday 2nd March here
<https://www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays>

Could you tell if your child was being exploited?



Join one of our free online sessions led by Child Exploitation Prevention Officer **Andri Nicolaou**

18 March 7:00 - 8:30pm **30 March** 10:30am - 12:00pm

Learn about the different forms of child exploitation and how offenders groom/exploit children both online and offline. We'll highlight warning signs a child may be at risk and practical steps you can take to keep them safe and respond to any concerns.

Visit the **Avon and Somerset Police Eventbrite page** or scan the QR codes below

18 March



30 March



EASTER 2026

The WOW Camp

SCIENCE, LASER TAG, VIRTUAL REALITY, ANIMAL WORKSHOPS, MINECRAFT, ROBOTS, INFLATABLES, STREET DANCE

STEM. Creativity. Physical Play
All in one camp

www.nextthing.education

HMRC TAX-FREE CHILDCARE ACCEPTED

SCAN TO BOOK!

EASTER CAMPS 2026

Tech-powered camps, packed with **WOW** experiences!

Example camp activities
Camps run 9 am - 4 pm

ROBOT LAB	LEGO ENGINEERING	ELECTRIC INVENTIONS	3D CREATIONS	ANIMATION
COOL CIRCUITS	CRAZY CODING	MOVIE MAKING	MINECRAFT REDSTONE	VIRTUAL REALITY

NEW FOR EASTER - WOW EXPERIENCES

INFLATABLES	ANIMALS	STREET DANCE	SCIENCE	LASER TAG
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Activities vary by location. Please visit our website to see what's running at your venue.

WHAT TO EXPECT:
Blending hands-on tech exploration with unforgettable WOW experiences, we inspire children to invent, create, and discover. Led by DBS-checked, friendly and supportive instructors, kids build confidence while diving into exciting activities, challenges, and real skill-building adventures.

AGES 5-11, £45 PER DAY OR £202 FOR 5 DAYS

LIMITED SPACES - BOOK NOW!

WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150