

I would like to pass my sincere thanks to the staff team who have worked tirelessly to share our school with the inspector team over the last two days and their work over the last 18 months since our previous inspection. Their effort and commitment is unrivalled. Education is in the unique position of having an external inspecting body that provides less than a day's notice of inspection and despite this pressure, the staff were calm and confident in what they shared.

This week's inspection was a full graded inspection, meaning judgements on 'The quality of education', 'Behaviour and attitudes', 'Personal development' and 'Leadership and management' will be made as well as an overall judgement. There will be no judgement of the Early Years Foundation Stage as there are fewer than 5 children in that group although this will be referenced in the report.

School staff have been informed of the preliminary judgements and this will be shared with families and the community after quality assurance and accuracy processes are completed. This can take up to 10 weeks.

I can assure you that having two inspectors in a school of our size for two days means that every child and staff member was spoken to, books and learning looked at and multiple lessons, break and lunch times visited – it certainly was a robust process and I am certain the report will reflect the current state of our school. Parent voice, too, is vitally important and I thank all of those who completed parent view, spoke to or wrote to the inspector team.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Hill

Stars of the week

The children who have shown the strength of each of our values - **Nurture, Inspire, Achieve**, are-



Nurture – Charlie and Leah

Inspire – Lidia and Rosie

Achieve – Misty and AJ

Forest school

A fantastic effort at our forest school tidy up day. It was great to see so many family and community members present - thank you. All paths cleared, the willow weaved and shelter wind breaks up. We even had marshmallows and milk round the campfire.

Lunch Payments

As we near half term, please can all balances for school lunches be paid via school Gateway. Thank you.



Harvest Festival

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Harvest festival celebration on Tuesday 17th October. This will once again be held in our lovely forest school at 3pm.

The children in Class 1 will be singing with Class 2 and showcasing some harvest craft they have been working on.

The children in class 2 will be recounting the story of harvest through history.

We would love to make some donations to the foodbank in Okehampton. Okehampton food bank has a vision that the local area has enough to eat because freedom from hunger is critical to the future economic, social, and emotional health of Okehampton and the wider community. Further information can be found at [Donations - Okehampton Food Bank](#)

Anything you can do help would be appreciated; we will be accepting donations into school until Friday 20th October 2023.

Stay and Play

Don't forget our stay and Play session is next Thursday at 2.30pm. all children from birth to 4 years and their carers are welcome.

Homework share

Don't forget our book look and homework share on Friday next week 8.45-9am. All families are welcome to join the children to look at their recent learning.

Clubs

Clubs after half term will be as follows –

Monday – Lego Club with Mrs Brendon

Tuesday – Rugby Club with Tallan

Wednesday – Cheer Club with Miss Spooncer

Thursday – Maths Club with Mrs D

Clubs are available to book via School Gateway. If a club is full and your child would like to attend, please contact the school office to be added to the waiting list.

Non-Uniform Day

On Friday the 3rd of November the children may come to school in non-uniform. Suggested donation of £1 will be collected for FoLS

Numbot/Times Tables Rock Stars

Your child has a personal log-in for either NumBots (EYFS AND Key Stage 1) or Times Table Rockstars (Key Stage 2). Times Table Rockstars is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times table practice. NumBots supports children with their understanding, recall and fluency in mental addition and subtraction so they move from counting to calculating. Please support your child to log into their account. Regular practice really is key to your child making progress in these areas.



Medicine in School

Under the Trust Policy, we are unable to administer any medicine to a child that has not been prescribed by their doctor. Please do not send children to school with medicine in their bags to administer themselves. All medicine should be handed to a member of staff.

In order to administer any medicine, the 2-page Medicine Administration Form must be completed in advance. You can collect this from the school office or print it out via the school website [Trust \(lydford-primary.co.uk\)](http://Trust.lydford-primary.co.uk)

Junk Modelling

Class one would be very grateful for any recycling materials suitable for their junk modelling. Cereal boxes, cardboard tubes, small boxes etc all gratefully received.

Attendance update

This year, we really want to work with our students and families to ensure that every child attends school as much as possible. Children with attendance over 97% will benefit emotionally, socially as well as academically.

We are committed to developing positive, open, and effective communication between home and school and providing support, advice and guidance for parents/carers and pupils when needed.

In order to do this, we will regularly be communicating with families about their child's attendance in several ways, including;

- Regular attendance focus on newsletters to share important information and updates.
- Every parent/carer will be informed about their child's attendance by email twice each half term - we would really appreciate your support in talking to your child about their attendance and celebrating with them when they have consistently been in school every day, or when they have tried really hard to improve their attendance.
- Your child's Class teacher will contact you to ensure everything is OK and offer support following any unauthorised absence, after 3 days of consecutive absence or after 3 incidents of absence within a 4-week period.
- In line with our policy, parents/carers will receive letters regarding their child's attendance should it fall beneath 95%. Where attendance is below 90% and either the family or school has identified any areas that need additional support, an attendance meeting will be arranged and in partnership, personalised and achievable targets for pupils will be developed, based on their individual needs and circumstances.
- Parents/Carers will be informed twice a year about the process for requesting absence during term time and the processes involved should an absence not be considered an exceptional circumstance.

The school level appendix of the Trust attendance policy contains details of relevant staff members who you can contact to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us so as we can support where possible.

Class one

In our science lessons we are learning about materials, we spent some time last week in our forest school area investigating which materials sink and which materials float. The children began by making their predictions and then testing them out. Children in reception then used this knowledge to investigate whether other items within our continuous provision would sink or float. A lot of fun had by all.



Class 2

The children of Class 2 thoroughly enjoyed their second visit to Lydford community lunch this week, where they were able to read aloud the stories they had written. The lunch guests were very complimentary about the children's creative writing, reading aloud and oracy skills. The children also distributed the T-towels they had designed to mark the King's coronation.

'At first I was so nervous, but then I really enjoyed it and felt relieved' Emily.

'I read my story with Amanda and she said I had very neat writing and I should keep it up' Jude.

Councillor Kevin Ball and his wife, who were also at the lunch, were delighted to see real community cohesion in action and commented on the delightful behaviour and confidence of the children.



Small School Cross Country

It was a fantastic afternoon at Simmons Park Cross Country with our friends from the Moorland Hub.

A brilliant effort from all the children that represented us. Well done to all that took part.





Diary Dates

October

Tuesday 17th	Harvest Festival 3pm at Forest School
Thursday 19th	Stay and Play 2.30pm
Friday 20th	Homework Share
Mon 23 rd – Fri 27 th	Half Term
Monday 30 th	Back to School

November

Friday 3rd	Non-Uniform Day
Friday 3rd	FoLS Disco
Tuesday 7th	Open Day 1.15 - 5.30pm
Thursday 9th	Cross Country at Castle Drogo (selected children)
Friday 10th	Remembrance Service at St Petrock Church
Thursday 23rd	FoLS Call My Bluff Evening 7pm Nichols Hall
Monday 27th	Flu Vaccinations

December

Friday 8th	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 12th	Christmas Performance at the Nicholls Hall 6pm
Wednesday 13th	Pantomime Trip
Friday 15th	Last Day of Term

January

Wednesday 3 rd	Return to School
---------------------------	------------------

Lydford Primary stay and play

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust
...everyone in our Trust.

19th October
2.30pm
More dates coming soon

All pre-school children, birth - 4 years, welcome to join us with their carer for a stay and play session in Class One.

Come and meet the staff team, children and have a cup of tea and chat with friends. All welcome



FoLs

Emily K has one the Friday treat raffle which is an amazing cake kindly donated by Winter's Mum, Clayre.

Disco.

There will be a school disco in the Niccholls hall at 6pm on Fridsy the 3rd November



EYFS OPEN DAY!

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust
...everyone in our Trust.

Lydford Primary School
Tuesday 7th November
13:15-17:30pm



- ✓ Rated Good by Ofsted
- ✓ Platinum Green School Award
- ✓ Children engaged and excited to learn.



BEARNES
&
HAMPTON
LITTLEWOOD

WAITROSE
& PARTNERS

Call My Bluff Evening - 23rd November in Lydford Village Hall 19.00 for 19.30

- An evening of laughter, bluffing and double bluff in aid of Friends of Lydford School – FoLS. Call My Bluff evening kindly hosted by Bearnès Hampton & Littlewood Auctioneers and Valuers of Exeter. Come along and see how good you are at valuing antiques or fakes.
- Tickets £7 in advance or £8 on the night – children are free. Entry includes a plate of cheese and biscuits. Alcoholic and soft beverages available to purchase during the evening.
- Tickets from the Toy Shop in the Red Lion Yard Okehampton or call Jade on 07854 206 400.
- Everyone welcome. We look forward to seeing you for a fun evening of bluffing!

Event kindly hosted by Bearnès Hampton & Littlewood
Cheese kindly donated by Waitrose, Okehampton



Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek




SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for **health protection in schools** or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

Community News and Information



The White Hart Bridestowe

2023 Charity Duck Race & Auction of Promises
Sat 21st Oct from 1.30pm

**Full Afternoon Race Card
6 Races with Commentator**

Only £2 per Duck Minimum Stake
Programme and Race Card only £1
available from the White Hart


Cash Prize for First across the line
in each race

Followed in the Evening by an Auction of
Promises with Fantastic Items including

- A free days outdoor work
- Meal for 2 at the White Hart
- Evening Fly Fishing with Host
- Weekend for 2 in Brixham
- Free Cut and Blow Dry

Don't drive yourself Quackers!!
Get yourself along for a fun day of
Alternative Sport
in support of
World Horse Welfare
&
2024 Bridestowe Ram Roast

KINDLY SPONSORED BY BUSINESSES AND FIRMS
FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



Brenden Worth
Cricket Academy
1-2-1, Parties, Schools, & Festivals from our 'Award Winning Coaches'
T: 07089 518 433



BWCA FOOTBALL CAMP

**HOLSWORTH
YOUTH FC**

26/10/2023

9AM - 3PM

AGE 5 - 14 YRS

£15 A DAY



EMAIL
CRAIG.PENBERTHY@BRENDENWORTHCRICKET.COM
TO SIGN UP!



Brenden Worth
Cricket Academy
1-2-1, Parties, Schools, & Festivals from our 'Award Winning Coaches'
T: 07089 518 433

MULTI-SKILLS CAMPS

HATHERLEIGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

23/10 & 27/10

£15 A DAY

EMAIL
CRAIG.PENBERTHY@BRENDENWORTHCRICKET.COM
TO SIGN UP!



Half-term Fun at Dartmoor National Park Visitor Centres

21st-29th October 10am-4pm

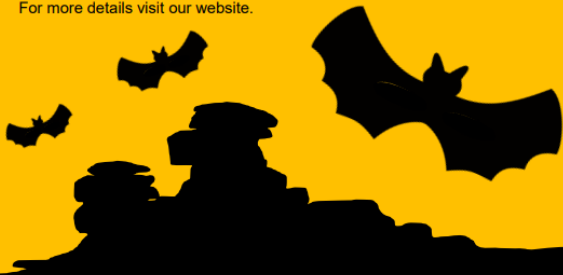


BRILLIANT Spooky Bats

Bats aren't scary or spooky, they are brilliant. And Dartmoor is a fantastic home for them.

Visit one of our visitor centres and discover more about these amazing creatures. There are lots of FREE activities to have a go at. Follow our Bat trail around the centre, colour in and make your own Bat mask or have a go at one of the Bat crafts with our visitor centre staff.

Activities taking place at Postbridge, Haytor and Princetown. For more details visit our website.



www.dartmoor.gov.uk

Big Day Out in the Woods

Saturday 28th October 11am-3pm

At Yarner Wood

Join us for some free woodland fun for all the family. Discover traditional woodcraft skills and hands on activities for children and find out what makes Dartmoor's woodlands so special. Drop in through the day.

Make your own witches besom broom ready to go haunting with

Whittle a wizards wand and cast an Autumn spell

Be a woodland protector and make your own champions medal

Use a shave-horse to carve a flower

Try wood turning on a pole lathe

Build a flat-pack dormouse house

Discover minibeasts, decay, and deadwood

And much more. Check our website for more details

Meet at East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve, Middle Treadlebere Car Park, on the road from Bovey Tracey to Manaton.

Grid Reference SX782793. What 3 Words //market.song.raven

This event is organised by Natural England and Dartmoor National Park Authority
www.dartmoor.gov.uk



National
Trust



© National Trust 2021. Registered charity no. 205896. Photograph © Nathan Trickett

Parke Autumn Celebration

Seasonal Stories & Paper Lanterns

Thursday 26th October 2023
2.30pm - 5pm

Family friendly event in the beautiful Walled Garden at Parke: fun paper lantern making, Dartmoor stories, pumpkin selfie station and spooky offerings at the cafe. In collaboration with Dartmoor National Park.

More info: nationaltrust.org.uk/parke





OCRA's [October Half Term Activity programme](#) runs 23rd-27th.

[Sport and Art](#) multi-activity days for 6-14yr-olds will run:

- **Tuesday** 24 October and
- **Thursday** 26 October.

Sibling discounts are available for family bookings.

Don't forget [Breakfast and Afternoon Clubs and All Day](#) tickets for an 8.15-5.30 experience.

[Activity Camps](#) include [Gymnastics](#), [Hockey](#), [Taijitsu](#) and [Challenge Games](#).

You can book now at ocrasport.org.uk/holidays.

Book online now

Okehampton Community & Recreation Association,
“...helping children, young people and adults be more active, more often. For a lifetime in sport and activity.”

If you have any queries, please contact holidays@ocrasport.org.uk.

*For GDPR reasons, we're again asking parents to complete a paper registration form on the day of each activity.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 80 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)

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

[@nationalonlinesafety](https://www.instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

[@national_online_safety](https://www.tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.10.2023