NEWSLETTER

Edition 07 Parent Newsletter 2026-27

23 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a wonderfully busy half term, this week's newsletter is rightly focused on celebrating the many students who consistently work hard, do the right thing and make the most of every opportunity available to them. Whether through exceptional effort in lessons, positive attitudes to learning, sporting success, outdoor pursuits, or simply demonstrating our school values every day, our students continue to make us proud.

It has been a pleasure to recognise so many young people this week, from our merit winners enjoying donuts and hot chocolate with the Headteacher in recognition of their sustained effort and achievement, to the hugely successful Cinema Rewards Events celebrating students with excellent Attitude to Learning (AtL). These opportunities are a reminder that hard work, commitment and positive choices are valued and celebrated at Park.

Thank you to our parents and carers for your ongoing support, and to our dedicated staff for the care, encouragement and opportunities they provide for students each day. Together, we continue to create an environment where young people can thrive and succeed.

Congratulations to Y7 students Florence, Amelia and Zoey, Y8 students Alistar, Thea and Max and Year 9 students Joseph, Presley (not pictured) and Charlotte who enjoyed **donuts and hot chocolate with the Headteacher** this week in recognition for their consistent efforts in gaining merits.

Ten Tors Training

Last Saturday we took 33 students out for the first training walk of Ten Tors 2027. We headed off to Exmoor just before 0800 and were blessed with almost perfect walking conditions. The views from up on Dunkery Beacon were simply stunning, we then headed off into Horner woods, looping around before heading back up to the highest point on Exmoor and back to the minibuses at about 1500. The students walked with purpose, there is a very strong cohort this year, we struggled to rein them in at times! They all did brilliantly and the vast majority thoroughly enjoyed themselves. 19K was covered including two summits of Dunkery and some other challenging hills throughout the route.

Cinema Attitude to Learning (AtL) Rewards Events took place this week and were a huge success. Over 200 students in each year group enjoying a bit of classic Wallace and Gromit with their pals accompanied by some popcorn. This is the first of three half termly ATL rewards. Invitation to all three AtL half termly events gives students access to the big summer inflatable bonanza!! Well done to all involved including all the staff!

Year 9 Geography Fieldwork

Mr Greenaland and the Geography Department took all of Year 9 on their fieldwork trip over the last few weeks, first onto Exmoor in search of the source of the East Lyn River (we found it!). We then followed it to the mouth, at Lynmouth, measuring the velocity of the river along the way. We also completed plenty of field sketches while visiting different locations, including Watersmeet and the ghost of the Lynmouth Ginger Beer Factory. Amazingly, for an October field trip, all five days were blessed with lovely weather and we even had time for chips! Students have completed follow-up work back in class using data from a cracking day's geography fieldwork.

Stephen Shield Cross Country Event

Mr Blanchard has written about the **Stephen Shield Cross Country Event** on Friday 16th October at Great Torrington rugby club. It was a beautiful day out on the hills. 60 Park students descended on to the course. The Year 7 boys were outstanding in having 5 runners finishing in the top 10. Jack finished in 2nd with a trio of Reuben, Eli & Tommy finishing in 3rd 4th and 7th respectively. Jonny finished in 10th position. Ollivia finished in a very respectful 5th position in the Year 7 girl's race. Other top ten finishers were Matthew in the Year 9 boy's race and Cienna finished in 5th in the Year 9 girl's race. All students that competed should be proud of attending the event and getting involved, cross country is a tough gig and it demonstrates much more than just fitness; it says a lot about character too. We await the final results from the day.

A huge **congratulations** to all of our **Boys Football teams** as they have **all qualified into the Cup Semi-Finals** having topped every group!

Yr 7 - have sailed through to the cup semi-finals topping their group having gone undefeated and will face Braunton Their last game was a tense 3-2 victory against a strong Bideford side. Going 1-0 down, they demonstrated brilliant teamwork, grit and resilience to defeat our toughest opponents yet. Johnny, Oscar and a Finn penalty secured the win! 24 students have represented the Yr 7's this year with a further 28 ready to take part in our North Devon School Football Tournament - outstanding participation!

Yr 8 - Following a 9 -1 victory over GTS and a 2-.1 win against Chulmleigh, a draw or victory against Bideford would guarantee the team a first place finish in their group. Despite being slow to get going and wasteful in front of goal in the first half, the team hit their stride after the break with four goals from MoM Joey. This followed first half goals from Luke and Fraiser and resulted in a solid 6-1 victory. The next outing for the team will be a semi-final fixture against Braunton after half term.

Yr 9 - A must win game for our Yr 9's as they travelled to Bideford. A loss would have seen them drop out of the Cup competition, however they were able to get the job done! A close first half seeing the game tied 0-0 despite Reggie having 2 goals ruled out for offside, the lads stuck to their game plan and controlled the 2nd half seeing us walk away with a 2-0 victory. Goals from Ashton and Joel made the difference as the Yr 9's continue to hunt for their first piece of silverware at Park.

Yr 10 - Due to a change in the fixture date, the team played their final game against Bideford this week. Results will be shared after half term, however a job well done already as they have qualification secured to the semi-final!

I hope you and your family have a relaxing half term.

Kind regards

Ms V Owen, Headteacher

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES - SEND

Park SEND Team email: park.send@thsp.org.uk

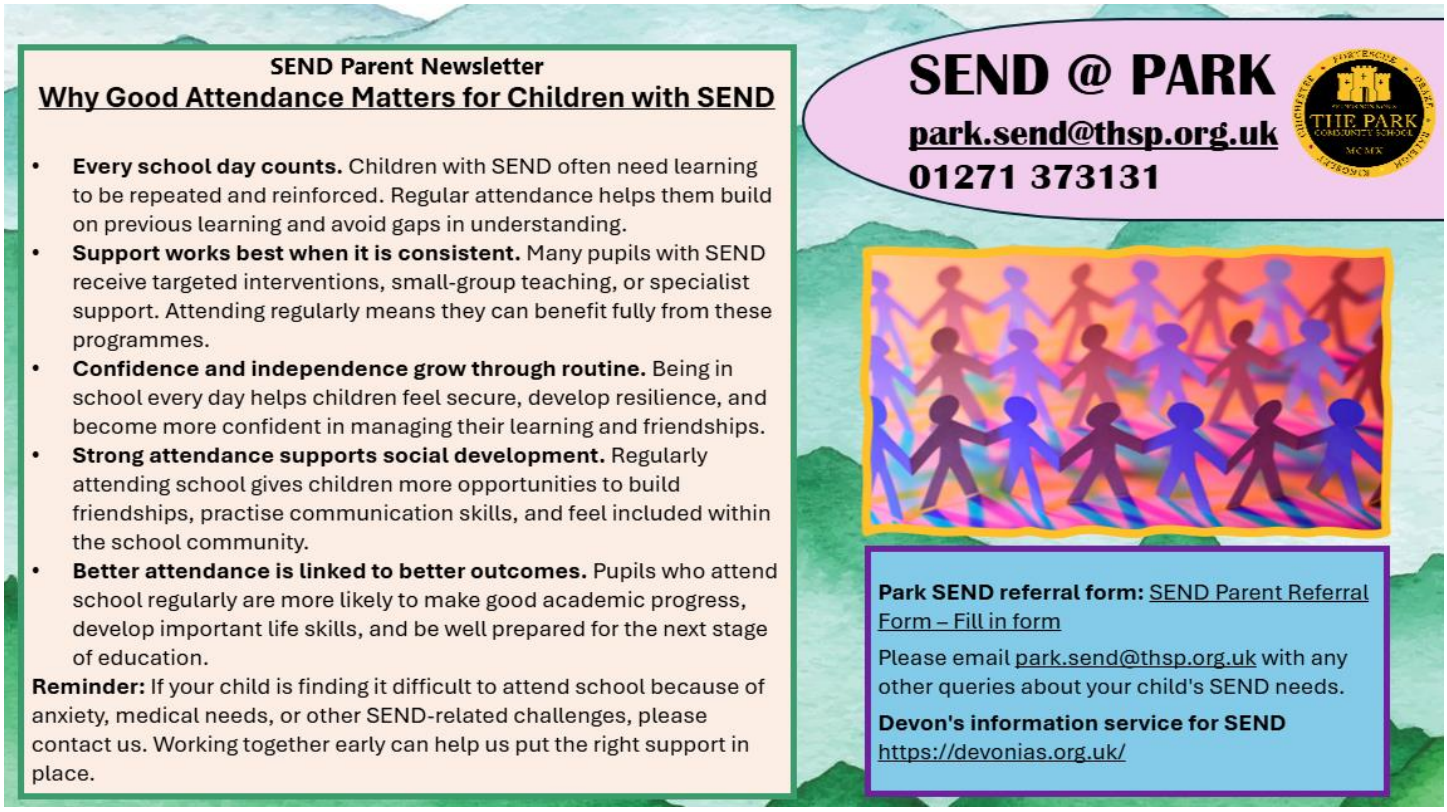
Park SEND Referral form: SEND Parent Referral Form – Fill in form

Park SEND website page and all newsletters link SEND - The Park Community School

Devon Information Service - https://devonias.org.uk/

North Devon Forum for Autistic Spectrum Conditions and ADHD https://www.ndfautism.co.uk/

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has produced a new leaflet to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in mainstream schools when receiving vaccinations. UKHSA 13544 Information for Parents Leaflet



SAFEGUARDING, MENTAL HEALTH AND ONLINE SAFETY ADVICE AND INFORMATION

Email: park.safeguarding@thsp.org.uk

Safeguarding website page and all newsletters link: Safeguarding and Online Safety

Mental Health website page link Mental Health and Wellbeing

Advice and Support for Parents website page link Advice and Support for Parents

Are you tired of feeling exhausted, struggling to focus in school or just not getting the sleep you need?

You're not alone. Teen sleep struggles are real – but they don't have to be. Our Teen Sleep eBook is here to help you take back control of your nights and wake up feeling refreshed and ready to take on the day. The bite sized pieces of content – backed by science and research – will empower and help you feel more confident in making the right changes to your sleep.

Download

Ebook - Teen Sleep Hub

- **Why Sleep Matters** – Learn how sleep affects your mood, energy, and success
- **Breaking Bad Sleep Habits** – Identify what's keeping you up and how to fix it
- **Tech and Sleep** – Find out how your phone, gaming and social media impact your rest
- **How We Sleep** – Explore what happens while you rest
- **Proven Sleep Strategies** – Get expert-backed tips to fall asleep faster and wake up feeling great
- **How to Use a Sleep Diary** – Unpick what is happening with your sleep

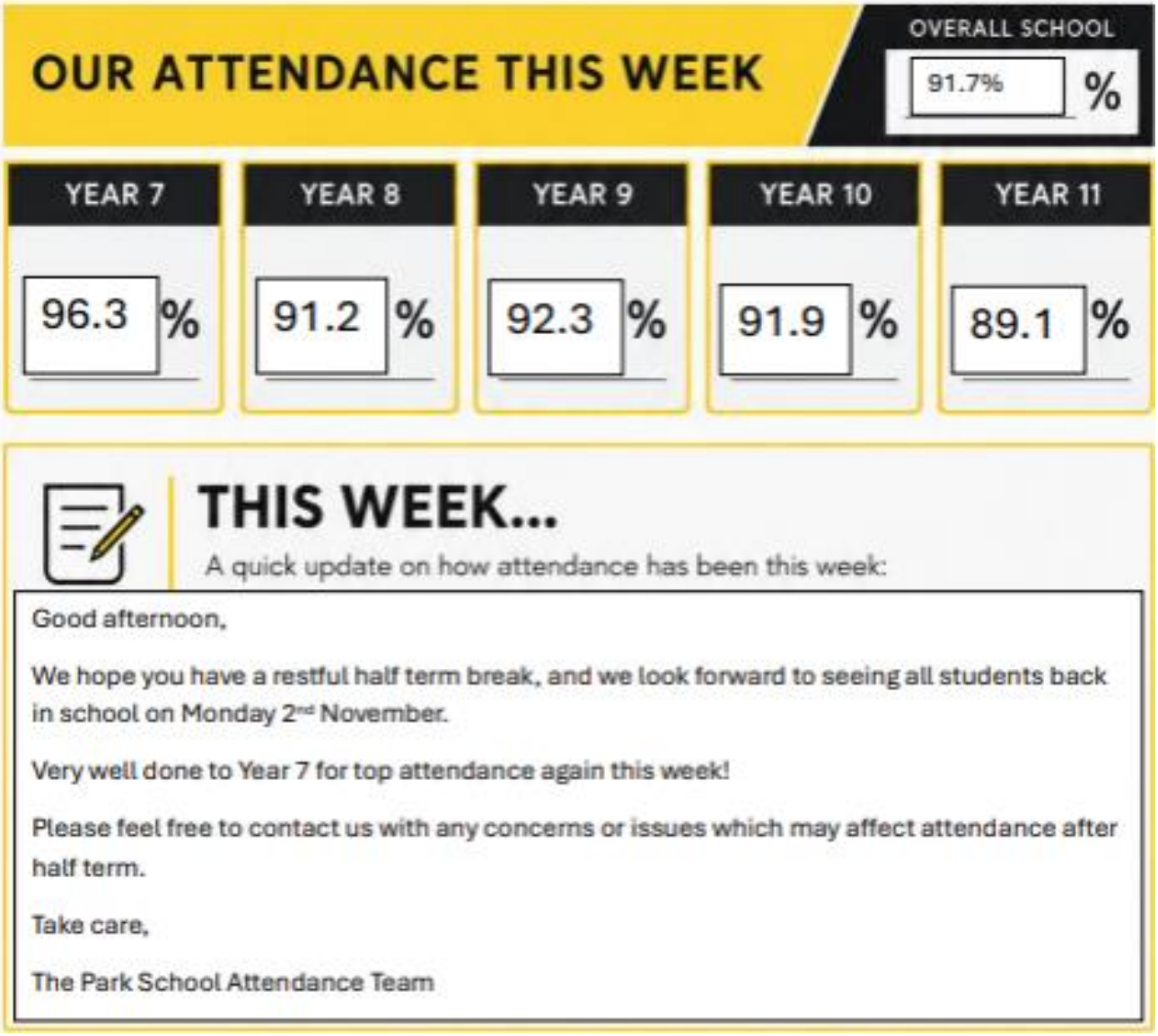
This eBook is packed with practical advice, science-backed solutions, and real-life tips to help you sleep better and feel your best. Whether you're dealing with late-night scrolling, school stress or just can't seem to fall asleep, this guide is your ultimate resource.

ATTENDANCE

For attendance queries or advice, please call: 01271 373131or email: park.attendance@thsp.org.uk

Click here for a link to the Attendance Policy

Attendance website page: Attendance



STUDENT /PARENT NOTICES/WHAT'S ON IN SCHOOL

Key Stage 3 PE - kit required

Please find below a table outlining the kit your students will need for their PE lessons over the first 3 half terms. Please support your children in ensuring they have what they need for their lessons throughout the week.

Year 7 have now been sorted into their new PE groups. These have been done based on previous experience and ability levels to ensure that they all feel comfortable, secure and happy and have the best chance of making good progress.
Their PE codes will change shortly on their Arbour timetable.

Year 8 & 9 will be in the same groups as previously unless a specific change has been made.

Trainers - to keep our PE areas clean and to ensure students look after their feet, we ask that students have a different pair of trainers with them for their PE lessons and are not wearing their school shoes/trainers.

*Boots - we recommend short plastic fixed studded boots (not long screw ins). These can be worn on the astro and field and students will get much better use out of these.

PE Group	Half term 1	Half term 2	Half term 3
Pe1 (Top boys)	**Double** Football (boots*, long socks and shin pads) **Single** Table Tennis (trainers and PE kit)	**Double** Rugby (boots*, long socks, Gum shield and shin pads) **Single** Basketball and Weights room fitness (trainers and PE kit)	**Double** Rugby/Football (boots*, long socks, Gum shield and shin pads) **Single** Badminton (trainers and PE kit)
Pe2 (Top girls)	**Double** Football (boots*, long socks and shin pads) **Single** Netball (trainers and PE kit)	**Double** Rugby (boots*, long socks, Gum shield and shin pads) **Single** Table Tennis (trainers and PE kit)	**Double** Rugby/Football (boots*, long socks, Gum shield and shin pads) **Single** Weights room fitness (trainers and PE kit)
Pe3 (Middle boys)	**Double** Hockey & Table Tennis (boots*, long socks, Gum shield and shin pads) **Single** Football (boots*, long socks and shin pads)	**Double** Weights room fitness and Badminton (PE kit and trainers) **Single** Rugby (boots*, long socks, Gum shield and shin pads)	**Double** Badminton/ Pickleball (PE kit and trainers) **Single** Netball/Handball and table tennis (trainers and PE kit)

PE Group	Half term 1	Half term 2	Half term 3
Pe4 (Middle girls)	**Double** Table Tennis & Basketball (trainers and PE kit) **Single** Badminton (trainers, PE kit)	**Double** Gymnastics & Netball (trainers and PE kit) **Single** Gymnastics & Netball (trainers and PE kit)	**Double** Dance & Orienteering (trainers and PE kit) **Single** Table tennis and Dance (trainers and PE kit)
Pe5 (Lower)	**Double** Badminton & Gymnastics (trainers and PE kit) **Single** Weights room/fitness and Gymnastics (trainers, PE kit)	**Double** Badminton & Gymnastics (trainers and PE kit) **Single** Football (trainers, Shin pads, PE kit)	**Double** Orienteering and weights room fitness (trainers and PE kit) **Single** Orienteering and Netball (trainers and PE kit)

Chess club is starting Thursday lunchtimes after half term. Limited spaces. Book on Arbor

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/REMINDERS

Parent Calendar

Website

Facebook Page

Instagram

Term Dates

Date	Year/s	Name of Event/Activity	Information
6th November	All Years	**PSHEE topics**	Year 7 – Emotional Health and Coping Year 8 – Body Image and Role Models Year 9 – Mental Health, Stress and Coping Year 10 – Mental Conditions and Illness Year 11 – PREVENT *Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher,* *email: park.headteacher@thsp.org.uk*

Date	Year/s	Name of Event/Activity	Information
2026 - 27	All Years	**View our term dates**	**Term Dates**
2026 - 27	All Years	**View our Parent calendar**	**Parent Calendar**
26th to 30th October	All Years	**October Half Term**	Last day of half term on Friday 23rd October. Return to school on Monday 2nd November. Timetable week 2.
4th November		**Berlin Trip Meeting**	Parent and student meeting for those attending the trip, 5:30pm in the Dance Studio
10th November	All Years	**Flu nasal immunisations**	You can provide or decline consent for your child from the link in this letter: The-Park-Community-2026-FLU-Letter.pdf
19th November	Ex Year 11 Students	**Year 11 GCSE Exams Awards Evening**	Invitations have been sent to our Year 11 Leavers to join us for an evening of celebration to collect their official examination certificates.
19th November to 11th December	Y11	**Mock Exams**	Mock exams start for our Year 11 students. More information to follow.
27th November	All Years	**Inset /Non-Pupil Day**	No students are expected in school.
10th December	All Years	**Christmas Jumper Day**	Students and Staff wear festive knits!
15th December		**Christmas Concert**	We warmly welcome you to join in with our festive cheer at our annual Christmas Concert! Tickets available to buy on Arbor.
16th December	All Years	**Extra day for Flu nasal immunisations**	The School Immunisation Team are back in school to see those children not seen, with consent, on 10th November.
18th December	All Years	**Last day of Winter Term**	More details to follow. Return to school Tuesday 5th January 2027.

PARK ON LINE LEARNING

Often it is difficult for a child to come back into school after a period of absence due to missing lessons. Although we wouldn't expect someone to be working while they are unwell, we often get asked "How can my child catch up?". Our English, Maths and Science teams have put together this Remote Catch Up Curriculum to support students if they are absent. There is a page for each subject which then splits into Year groups: the lessons follow the same units and topics as the students are being taught in lessons - not as good as a real lesson but a great way to catch back up if your child has been absent. We hope you find it helpful.

CAREERS/VACANCIES

View all The Park School and all Harbour Schools Partnership career opportunities click here.

Current vacancies:

- Exam Invigilators

FOOD AT PARK AND FREE SCHOOL MEAL ENTITLEMENT INFORMATION

Information about our **food service at Park** - Food - The Park Community School.
Find out about Free School Meals applying-for-free-school-meals/
Apply for Free School Meals through the Devon Citizens Portal.

RAISING FUNDS FOR PARK – SCHOOL LOTTERY AND EASY FUNDRAISING

Did you know we have a **School Lottery**? You can join our weekly lottery from £1 per week and it's an easy way to support our school and help raise funds - 40% of ticket sales come back to us. There is a guaranteed winner each week. It's so easy to sign up and start supporting our school today - just click here Support The Park Community School when you play Your School Lottery.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Bideford College

Sixth Form Information Evening 2026

Thursday 26th November - 4:30pm until 7pm

We invite you to join us for our Sixth Form information evening to find out more about the range of subjects and opportunities we have to offer.

Bideford College, Abbotsham Road, Bideford, EX39 3AR Dr Claire Ankers, Principal

T: 01237 477611 E: mail@bidefordcollege.uk W: www.bidefordcollege.org

Athena Learning Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales. Company No 08150106. An exempt charity. Registered Office: Hurdon Road, Launceston, Cornwall PL15 9JR

BriBooks Presents

NATIONAL YOUNG AUTHORS' FAIR™

The largest book writing festival in United Kingdom

Participation is completely **FREE**

Calling All Aspiring Young Writers!

Your Story. Your Voice.

Join the **National Young Authors' Fair United Kingdom 2026** and begin your journey as a young author.
Use the **AI** powered BriBooks platform to write your own story and **publish your very first book.**

How to Participate:

Scan the QR code below to register

Start writing your book and unlock your potential!

Publish your book

Why Wait?
Get started today and share your story with the world!

Use the link to participate:
www.yaf.bribooks.com/events/student/signup/nyaf-uk-2026-27?sid=192738

OR

Scan the QR Code to Register!

SCAN ME

Rewards & Recognition:

Award Trophy & Certificate

BriBooks Podcast Invitation

Awards & Exhibition Ceremony

Digital Media Feature

Amazing Prizes
(Trophies, Medals and many more)

The Park Community School

For any queries contact at globalsupport@bribooks.com

Saturday Club

Second Saturday of the month, 2pm-4pm
For young people aged 10-14
FREE

Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon

A chance to come along and explore the museum and it's collections in your own way and respond through **art activities, crafting, model making and trying new ideas**
Eg. sketching, painting, printing, clay work, willow weaving, 3D sculpture, boat design, mosaics, & more...
All materials will be supplied, including your own sketchbook
Based in the Learning Room with group sizes limited to 10-15 per session
Learn new skills, work with artists and makers, meet new people... and have fun!

There will also be the chance to take part in Arts Award at Discover and Explore levels. https://www.artsaward.org.uk

YES please! Id like to apply to take part in Saturday Club!

NAME	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
PHONE NUMBER	
SCHOOL/COLLEGE	
AGE	

Please tell us a little about why you would like to be part of Saturday Club at the Museum

I may be interested in doing Arts Award at Explore or Discover level YES / NO

If selected, you will be invited to come along and REGISTER for the club and will need to be accompanied by the adult parent/guardian/carer who is giving permission for you to attend, and who will be able to provide emergency contact details. This is a way for you, your adults and the museum team to all meet up and get to know each other.
All sessions will be delivered by experienced staff, working with Museum staff and volunteers, in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy.

NAME of responsible adult	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
PHONE NUMBER	
RELATIONSHIP TO YOU	

Please return this form to:
FAO **Tamasine Addie, Learning Officer, Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon** tamasine.addie@northdevon.gov.uk
It can be sent by email or paper copies can be posted / dropped in at the museum
Please get forms to us by **MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2026** as we hope to start our first sessions in November

We will get in touch once we have received forms and let you know if you have been selected to join up – Good luck!

PILTON COMMUNITY FARM
Pumpkins for Sale
Monday 26th –
Saturday 31st Oct
10am – 12 Midday
Small £1
Medium £2
Large £3

THE PENGUIN SPORTS FOUNDATION

INCLUSIVE
CHRISTMAS SILENT DISCO!
SAT 12TH DECEMBER 2026

3:30pm to 6pm, Roundswell Community Primary Academy, EX31 3WJ

Whether you dance, sway, sit or freestyle, this dance floor is for you! All are welcome!

Fully accessible for children with a physical disability or SEN/additional needs

** refreshments * activities * Father Christmas * raffle * Breakout Sensory Room* Fully Accessible Changing**

TICKETS

£10 per child up to age of 18
(no charge if 3 years or under)
Parents/carers FREE entry *
For details & tickets scan
OR EMAIL
info@thepenguinsportsfoundation.co.uk

supporting
The Penguin Sports Foundation
Registered Charity Number: 1206051

Ferdinand Collective

FC CAMPS

OCTOBER HALF TERM

GIRLS & BOYS | AGED 5 - 14

Witches, Wizards & Worldies

Pumpkin Penalties

Zombie Apocalypse

TARKA
28 OCTOBER
9AM - 4PM

KINGSLEY
26 & 27 OCTOBER
10AM - 3PM

ILFRACOMBE
28 OCTOBER
10AM - 2PM

DRESS UP
WIN PRIZES & YUMMY TREATS

BOOK ONLINE HERE

WWW.FERDINANDCOLLECTIVE.COM