



# The EPI Centre of Learning

**Spring Term Wrap-Up & Key Dates:** As we send out our final newsletter of the Spring term, we want to say a huge thank you for your continued support over the last few months. It's been a busy and productive term for everyone! Please take note of these key dates as we head into the holidays:

**Thursday 2 April:** This is a **non-pupil day**. The school will be closed to children, marking the official start of the break.

**Monday 20 April:** We look forward to welcoming all the children back to school for the start of the new term (hopefully with some brighter spring weather in tow!) We wish you all a safe, happy, and restful break.

**Wednesday, 1st April:** we are celebrating our Spring Term **Rainbow Day** and invite the children to come in dressed in their brightest, most vibrant outfits. We are going to be focusing on our whole school theme for this term, **Living in the Wider World**. We will be exploring the different jobs out in the world and challenging stereotypes around them as well as learning the importance of money and how to manage it. As part of our Rainbow Day, we are asking for a **voluntary donation** to support our community library, with all proceeds going toward a new collection of **emotions-focused books** to help our young readers understand and manage their feelings.

**Quick Reminder: ESA Annual General Meeting (AGM):** Just a friendly nudge regarding next week's ESA AGM! If you can spare a few minutes after the school run, we would love for you to join us. We're keeping things short and sweet so you can get on with your day while still helping us shape the year ahead for the kids.

- When: Tuesday, 31 March @ 8:50 AM (Immediately after drop-off)
- Where: The Outdoor Classroom (near the back gate)
- What: A brief look at our recent successes and a quick chat about future plans.

Whether you've been part of the ESA for years or are just curious to see what we do, your presence makes a huge difference and is needed. No long-term commitment required—just your presence and maybe a fresh idea or two! We look forward to seeing you there.

**Wednesday 1 April:** collection for foodbank for Westbank Larder at the front and back gates. Items needed include:

Food Items: Tea bags, long life milk Semi skimmed, porridge oats or cereal, jars of pasta sauce, white or tomato, jars of curry sauce, tinned soup/meat/meatballs/tuna/tomatoes/fruit/bags of pasta and jam

Toiletries: Shampoo/body wash, washing up liquid, bio and non-bio washing tabs and toilet Roll

**New School Menu Update:** Please note that there has been an error on the new summer menu. On Week Three the Friday Green choice should read Cheese and Bean pasty not pasta. If you have already ordered please amend your order if required.

## Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Future Dates

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March** – ESA AGM  
8.50am -outdoor classroom

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** – last day of Spring term

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** – Rainbow Day and Foodbank collection

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** – Non pupil day

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April** – last day to order school lunches for w/c 20 April.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April** – first day of Summer term

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April** – Maths fluency workshop – Reception

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April** – Year 1 Hook Day – dress in space themed outfits

**Headteachers: Mrs S Whalley and Mr I Moore**



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**New School Website:** Keep an eye out for our exciting new website which has been designed by one of our talented parents, Dan Faulkner. Dan has worked incredibly hard over the past year giving up his spare time to set this up. We would like to express our gratitude to him for all of his hard work.

**Year 1 Hook Day for "Planets: Earth and Beyond"** - SPACE THEMED – on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April children are invited to come to school dressed up in space-themed outfits. Please do not feel you need to purchase any outfits; recycled or DIY outfits are great!

**Scene Cover Picture:** did you enter a picture into our Scene cover competition? They are not announcing their winner - they want the chosen picture to be a surprise! Buy your copy of the Scene on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and see if you have won. Mrs Whalley has a prize for the winning picture - let her know if it is you!

**Give Our Pre-Loved Gear a Second Life:** one of the biggest contributors to a school's carbon footprint is actually the production and distribution of uniforms. From the energy used in textile manufacturing to the global shipping routes required to get a new item to your door, every new item carries a significant environmental cost. We want to change that narrative together by making pre-loved our first choice, rather than a last resort.

## How You Can Help the Planet (and Your Pocket)

- **Browse and Take:** If you see something your child needs, please take it! We encourage all parents to use this resource—it's high-quality gear ready for a second round of school life.
- **The "Take & Give" Pitch:** While the service is here for everyone, we welcome small donations for the items you take to help support future school sustainability projects. This can be done on MCAS via products and school uniform.
- **Keep the Cycle Going:** If your child has outgrown their current uniform but it's still in good condition, please bring it along to donate.

By normalising second-hand shopping, we aren't just saving money—we're significantly shrinking our environmental impact, one sweater at a time. Let's work together to keep these clothes out of landfills and in our classrooms!

**Rotary Club Quiz:** A huge well done to the nearly 20 Year 6 pupils who represented our school so brilliantly during the Rotary Club of Dawlish Youth Quiz on Tuesday, March 24th. The children displayed fantastic manners and exceptional teamwork throughout the event. The competition was structured into three 50-question rounds covering "Things We Learn in School," "The World," and "Things We Learn Outside School." Each round's score was telephoned into the central control for tallying against other participating local schools. At the time of writing, we do not yet know the final results or if we have won, but we are incredibly proud of the spirit and dedication our Year 6s showed. Regardless of the final score, they were a credit to the school.

**National Online Safety Guides:** Please see attached this week's guide on What You Need to Know about protecting personal data.

**Shoe boxes:** Please could you bring in any spare shoe boxes to the office for a project for Mrs Coville is running throughout the school.

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**Year group maths fluency workshops:** A member of each year group team will lead a session in the hall, explaining more about maths in your child's year group and how to support with maths at home. The children will then join the session in the hall, working alongside you to complete some games and activities.

Year Group	Maths Fluency Workshop Date (2.45 – 3.20 in the hall)
R	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April
Y1	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April
Y2	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May

Year Group	Maths Fluency Workshop Date (9:00 – 9:45 in the hall)
Y3	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May
Y4	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June
Y5	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June

**Mental health and wellbeing update:** *Mastering the Art of Hard Conversations.*

[https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/talking-about-difficult-topics/?utm\\_old=difficulttopic](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/talking-about-difficult-topics/?utm_old=difficulttopic)

We all want our children to grow up in a safe, loving environment, but sometimes life throws us a curveball. Whether you need to break bad news, discuss uncomfortable topics like drugs or sex, or check in on a new behaviour, "the talk" can feel daunting.

This week, we are focusing on how to bridge the gap and make these difficult moments a little easier for both of you.

## The "Hard Chat" Toolkit

Starting a difficult conversation doesn't have to be a confrontation. You know your child best—trust your judgment and use these strategies to find the right flow.

### 1. Pick Your Moment (Where & When)

- **The Setting:** Does your child prefer a "side-by-side" chat on a walk or in the park? Or do they feel safer in a private corner at home?
- **The Energy:** Avoid heavy topics when you're both tired or hungry. If they are a "morning person," that might be your best window.

### 2. Breaking the Ice

- **Make it Relevant:** Mention a TV show or film that addresses the topic and ask their opinion.
- **Borrow a Book:** Our **Community Library** has stories designed to help adults explain sensitive subjects. Read it together and chat about what you have read.
- **The "Advice" Trick:** Tell them a "friend" needs advice on a topic (like online safety) and ask what they think. It shows you value their wisdom.

## The Art of Listening

If you're nervous, it's easy to talk *at* your child instead of *with* them.



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- **Open-Ended Questions:** Avoid "yes/no" answers to give them space to tell their story.
- **Respect the Silence:** Give them as long as they need to answer without interrupting.
- **Be Honest:** It's okay to tell your child how you feel or share things that happened to you in the past. It builds a bridge of trust.

**A Safe Adult:** Always remind your child that they can talk to you, another trusted adult, or contact **Childline** if they ever feel worried or scared.

## When They Come to You

If your child approaches you about a mistake they've made or a scary situation like bullying, it has taken huge courage.

- **Reassure first:** Let them know they won't be blamed and you are glad they told you.
- **Listen fully:** Let them say everything they want to say before you offer advice.
- **Collaborate:** Ask, "What would you like me to do to help?" If you do plan to take action, let them know so they don't feel you're going behind their back.

**Easter Holiday Workshop: Saturday 4 April, drop in between 11am and 2pm.** A special egg decorating workshop for Easter Saturday! Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Dowell St, Honiton EX14 1LX. Colour and pattern an egg to add to your Easter display.

Family drop-in workshop for all ages. Free, donations welcome.

**Exeter Brick Festival** returns on 26th April at Westpoint Arena and it's gearing up to be the biggest brick-tastic celebration for LEGO fans! Book now at [www.ExeterBrickFestival.com](http://www.ExeterBrickFestival.com)

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