The EPICentre of Learning

Democracy in Action at Exminster Community Primary: Over the last week, our pupils got a hands-on lesson in democracy as we held our elections for the School Learning Team. Every pupil who wished to run (Years 1-6) stood as a candidate, taking the stage to lead their own campaign and present thoughtful speeches to persuade their class why they were the right fit for the role.

To ensure everyone understood the importance of a **fair vote**, classes discussed what truly makes a good representative. Pupils learned that a democratic vote isn't a popularity contest or simply choosing a best friend—it's about thoughtfully selecting the candidate who will best represent the class's voice, ideas, and values.

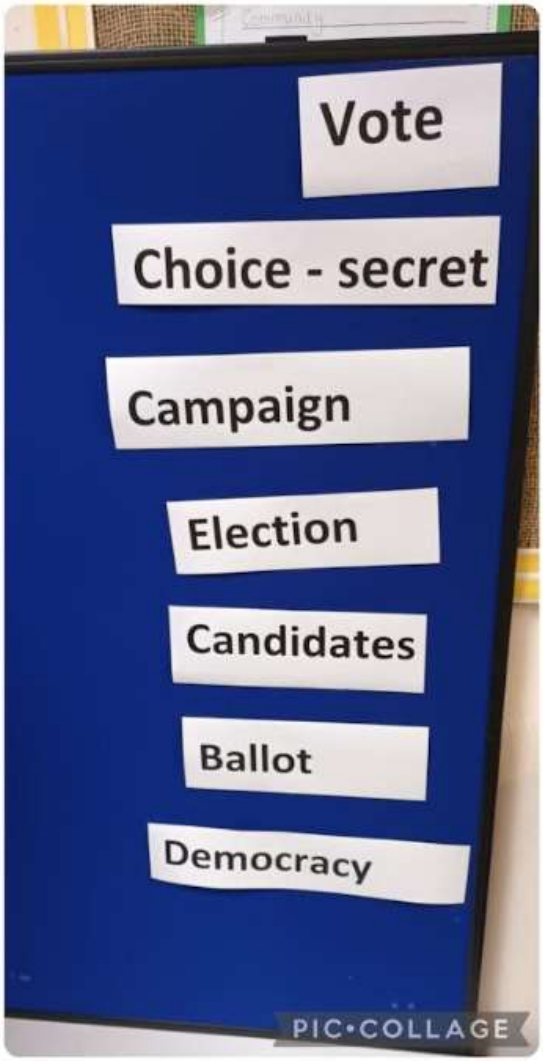
Our voters experienced a genuine election process by:

- Filling out official ballot papers
- Entering private voting booths to make their secret choice
- Posting their votes securely into ballot boxes

We are immensely proud of all our candidates for their courage, effort, and inspiring speeches, as well as our voters for making thoughtful, fair decisions.







Friday 25th September 2026

Future Dates

Monday 28th September – Deadline for ordering school lunches w/c 5th October

Wednesday 30th September – ESA meeting Royal Oak 7pm

Thursday 15th October – Family Learning Conference in person 4 – 7pm

Friday 16th October – Photo catch up day

Monday 19th October – Family Learning Conference in person – 4 – 7pm

Tuesday 20th October – Flu vaccinations

Tuesday 1st December – 3pm Wraparound Care bookings go live for January and February (Spring 1)

Tuesday 26th January – 3pm Wraparound Care bookings go live for February and March (Spring 2)

Tuesday 2nd March – 3pm Wraparound Care bookings go live for April and May (Summer 1)

Tuesday 4th May – 3pm Wraparound Care bookings go live for June and July (Summer 2)

Tuesday 6th July – 3pm Wraparound Care bookings go live for September and October (Autumn 1)

Term dates 2027/2028 – see attached

School Update: *How we are making our school even better:*

Last week, we began to talk about how we will make our school even better through a focus on Oracy. We are introducing a new element called Votes for Schools to support this initiative.

Votes for Schools is an educational platform that connects children to current issues, giving them a structured space to explore real-world topics before casting an informed vote.

Our Weekly Routine:

- Monday (Reflection & Launch): Classes look back at the vote outcomes from two weeks prior to see how our children's views compare to regional and national results. Teachers then introduce the new weekly question, providing balanced context and arguments.
- Thursday (Debate & Voting): Classes hold a structured debate where children discuss differing viewpoints, challenge assumptions, and cast their individual votes to contribute to a nationwide database of youth voices.

Linking Votes for Schools to Our Oracy Focus

This weekly routine puts our Oracy framework into practice by combining both *Learning TO Talk* and *Learning THROUGH Talk*:

- Speak Up & Think Deep: Children practice structuring arguments using ambitious vocabulary to explain their ideas clearly and confidently.
- Listen In & Build Together: Thursday debates require children to listen with empathy, ask probing questions, and build on each other's ideas.
- Understand & Reflect: Reviewing past vote results helps children summarise discussions and celebrate mind-changing moments when presented with new evidence.
- Living Our Rainbow Values: Providing structured 'sentence stems' and a safe classroom environment ensures inclusive participation, giving every child—regardless of initial confidence level—a valued platform.

Through this regular practice, our children learn that their voices matter, while building the lifelong communication skills needed to flourish in school and beyond.

Flu vaccinations: Please ensure you have either opted in or out of the flu vaccination by 9am on the 19th October. The NHS flu vaccinations team will be visiting school on the **20th October 2026**. Please confirm or decline your consent through the following link:
https://www.kernowimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu?schoolcode=DV113201

School photographs: On Friday 16th October Fraser Portraits will be coming back in to catch up on the year 4 residential children and any other children absent on the original date. Please ensure that children are dressed appropriately in their school uniform. If it is your child's PE day please dress them in their school polo top alongside their PE bottoms.

School Site Safety: It has been fantastic to see so many of the children travelling to school on their bikes and scooters recently! While we love seeing everyone stay active on the morning drop-off and afternoon collection, please remember that all bikes and scooters must be dismounted and pushed once on the school premises to keep everywhere safe for pedestrians. We also ask that all children wear a helmet for their journey. With the roads around the school grounds being particularly busy during peak drop-off and pick-up times, we kindly ask families to support their children in practising safe road use—such as using pedestrian crossings and staying alert to traffic—so every trip to and from school remains a safe and enjoyable one.



Back to the 90's and 00's – Our first ever 'grown up' school disco.

When: Saturday 26th September, 7.30 – 10pm

Where: Victory Hall, Exminster

Tickets are £10 via MCAS in the store/shop or £12 on the door. Tickets are available until 3pm on Friday 25th September.

Expect classic 90s and 00s hits and dance floor favourites. There will also be a bar and tuck shop favourites.

Help make this disco a hit and raise funds for the school. There are some great raffle prizes – including Chiefs tickets.

Get your ticket before they sell out!

School Census Day- Census Day will take place on **Thursday 1st October**. This is an important day for the school. On this day, data is collected from the school which is used to calculate some of our funding for the next financial year. As well as recording the number of children on roll it also records our uptake of Free School Meals (FSM) and Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) on that particular day. This then informs our funding to run the kitchen for the next year. We do not make any money from the kitchen and school does need to use other funds in order to run it however we do get some grant funding that supports this.

It is for this reason that we are asking for your support to ensure that we maximise meal numbers on that day. As far as possible, we would like every child who is entitled to a Free School Meal or a Universal Infant Free School Meal (all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children) to have a school lunch. If they normally have a packed lunch and would like to try a dinner on this day, they can do this and still bring in their packed lunch in case they do not like it.

National Online Safety Guides: This week we have a guide on What Parents Need to Know about What's Real Online.

Mental Health Weekly Update: Please see attached this week a Parent Wellbeing and Mental Health newsletter This week, we are taking a closer look at a key framework used across our school to support children's emotional regulation, self-awareness, and personal growth.

Little Tesco Autumn Art Competition: Exminster Tesco Express aka 'Little' Tesco is running an Autumn Art competition for children at the school. Children can either design an Autumn poster or colour in a Plambert poster. Copies of the colouring in posters will be made available to children in school.

Closing date is Wednesday 23rd October 2026.


AUTUMN COLOURING COMPETITION
These will be displayed in Tesco on the windows!
TESCO
Winner will be chose by a member of the village and the winner will receive a prize from the shop!
Please put your class and initials on the back!
Need to be handed into school by the 21st of October!
Winner will be announced over half term and the prize will be given out by school on the 2nd of November!


AUTUMN COMPETITION
Design an autumn picture
These will be displayed in Tesco on the windows!
TESCO
Winner will be chose by a member of the village and the winner will receive a prize from the shop!
Please put your class and initials on the back!
Need to be handed into school by the 21st of October!
Winner will be announced over half term and the prize will be given out by school on the 2nd of November!