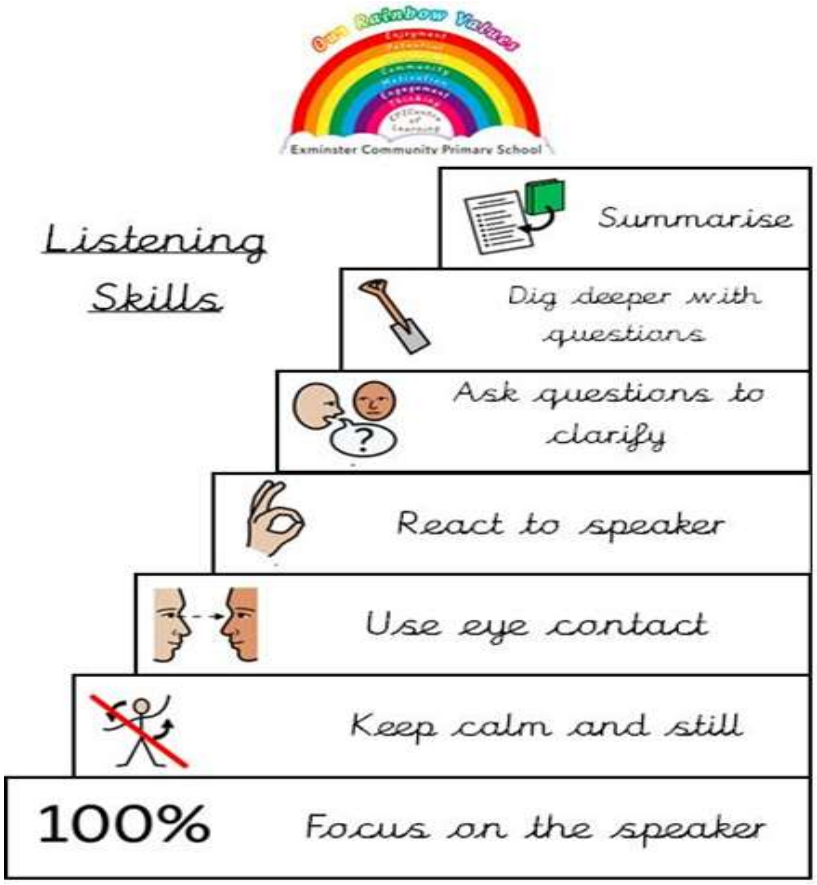
The EPICentre of Learning

Spotlight on Oracy: Listening Stair case In October/November our focus in Oracy is the 'Physical strand' through our Listening Staircase.



Friday 16th October 2026

Future Dates

Friday 16th October: Harvest Celebration Collection

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

Tuesday 20th October – Flu vaccinations

Friday 23rd October – 3.30pm ESA Tuck Shop

Monday 26th October – Deadline for ordering school lunches w/c 2nd November

Monday 9th November – 7.00pm at the Royal Oak ESA meeting

Monday 16th November – Rainbow Day

Friday 20th November – School Disco and Non Uniform Day

The Listening Staircase is something we have introduced across our classrooms as part of our ongoing work with Oracy. While we often focus on helping children speak with confidence, being an active listener is just as crucial for learning and building strong relationships. The Listening Staircase helps pupils understand that listening is a skill that can be practised and improved, breaking it down into clear steps—from showing attentive body language and maintaining focus, to asking thoughtful questions and building on others' ideas. By teaching these habits explicitly, we are helping our children become more empathetic classmates, deeper thinkers, and effective communicators across every subject. You can support this at home by asking your child which part of the Listening Staircase they practised today.

Data Check: Please could you check your details on MCAS are all up to date. It is really important that we have accurate information such as any changes to telephone numbers or emails. Thank you.

Vacancies: There are two fantastic opportunities to work here at Exminster. Take a look at the following roles as a Learning Support Assistant and additional Wrap Around Care opportunities. There will be a vacancy coming up as a kitchen manager. Keep an eye out on Devon Jobs for more information.

Autumn Rainbow Day: This is taking place on Monday 16th November which is also the beginning of anti-bullying week and odd socks day! Children are asked to come in their brightest rainbow colours and odd socks.

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ESA Updates: Following their latest meeting there are a range of exciting events coming up to help raise funds for our school. Keep an eye out in your inbox and in the newsletter for more details soon. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated. Why not join the ESA at their next meeting on Monday 9th November at 7.00pm at the Royal Oak Pub.

Mental Health Weekly Update: Please see attached this week's Parent Wellbeing and Mental Health newsletter. This week, the focus is on general mental health and wellbeing.

National Online Safety Guides: This week we have a guide on What Parents Need to Know about AI Chatbots.

Exminster School Tours: Please share details of our upcoming School Tours to friends or family with children starting school next September. See attached poster with details on how to book.

Harvest Celebration: Today we will be having a Harvest Celebration Assembly in school led by Reverend Vanessa Pestridge. There is still time to donate items to Exminster Food Larder; any non-perishable in-date goods would be very welcome (see flyer for more details). **Please drop any contributions off by the end of the school day.**

If you, or someone you know, needs support please speak to Hannah Parker or email the school via admin@exminsterschool.co.uk using the subject Foodbank. School can issue vouchers for this and food boxes can then be collected from the Westbank.

Half Term Activities: Are you looking for fun activities during October half term? Click on the link for ideas.

https://devonwithkids.co.uk/halloween-in-devon-whats-on/

Exminster Community Garden: Go along and see the Community Garden on Friday 30th October. See flier for details.

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 21st October 2026.** Entries should have class details and initials on the back and be returned to Little Tesco.



