The EPICentre of Learning

Thank you and goodbye: to Beth, one of our loyal cleaning staff members. We would like to say thank you to Beth for her work over the years at Exminster, decorating the school over the weekends for Christmas to surprise the children and staff and for her contribution to our Exminster community with her work and kindness. We wish her all the best for the future. We are welcoming Charlie onto the team after half term.

Support Our Outdoor Learning Spaces: Our Nature School and school allotment, led by Ranger Pike, provide invaluable opportunities for children across the school to learn, explore and grow. Through hands-on experiences, children develop their knowledge of British plants, trees and birds, observe the changing seasons, and explore important themes such as biodiversity and pollinators. Beyond the curriculum, outdoor learning nurtures teamwork, collaboration, confidence and a sense of responsibility for the natural world. Our older children also take on the rewarding role of Rangers, supporting and learning alongside their younger peers.



Last year, we were incredibly grateful for the support of My Handy Chap, Tuckers Country Stores, Exminster Post Office, Bigwave Marketing, Wales and West Utilities and EDP Environmental. Their generosity, alongside the support of others, has helped make these wonderful learning experiences possible.

Could you or your business help us continue to grow these spaces? We welcome sponsorship through financial contributions or donations of useful items such as planters, seeds, compost and gardening equipment. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference to our children's learning and experiences.

Friday 23rd October 2026

Future Dates

Friday 23rd October – 3.30pm ESA Tuck Shop Outdoor Classroom

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

Monday 2nd November – First day back to school

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

Monday 16th November – Rainbow Day

Friday 20th November – School Disco (details to follow) and Non-Uniform Day for a Hamper contribution

Thursday 3rd December – Reception Nativity

Tuesday 8th December – KS1 Nativity

Wednesday 16th December – Year 1 Christmas Extravaganza in the Hall – details to follow

Carols in the Yard 6.30pm

Friday 18th December – Teacher for the Day

As a thank you, all our sponsors will be invited into school at the end of the year to enjoy a delicious cream tea and hear about our outdoor learning successes!

If you, your business or someone you know would like to support us, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Mrs Barr or Ranger Pike.

Thank you for helping our children learn, grow and flourish outdoors!

Scene competition cover: last shout for entries into the Scene's design a front cover for their December edition. Send them into school by 5 November. What should I draw? You can choose anything that makes you think of Christmas or Winter. Think about:

- Festive Christmas trees, twinkling stars, and cosy lights.
- Friendly snowmen, reindeer, and cheerful robins.
- Wrapped presents, stockings, and bright holly berries.
- Snowy rooftops, warm woolly hats, and winter magic.

The Rules To make sure your design can be printed, please follow these steps:

- Keep it flat: Use pencils, crayons, felt tips, paint, or pastels. Please do not use 3D items like cotton wool, glitter, or googly eyes!
- Paper size: Use a piece of A4 paper.

Reminder: Toys & "Squishy" Items at School We kindly ask for your support in ensuring that personal toys, "squishy" fidgets, and other non-essential items remain at home. To keep our learning spaces clean, focused, and free from distractions—and to avoid lost or damaged belongings—personal toys should not be brought to school.

Please note: If your child uses a specific regulation or sensory tool as part of a pre-agreed plan with their class teacher or SENCO, those arrangements remain in place. For all other pupils, please double-check school bags before heading out in the morning. Thank you for your support.

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.

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 Nurturing Family Wellbeing during Mid Autumn.

National Online Safety guides: Each week we will send out a National Online Safety guide for your information to support you and your child in navigating the online world. These are really useful guides.

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.

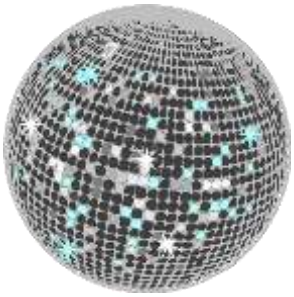
Half Term Activities: Are you looking for fun activities during October half term? Click on the link for ideas. https://devonwithkids.co.uk/halloween-in-devon-whats-on/

Exminster School Disco – 20th November: The children very much enjoy this event and it is a great fundraiser for the school. It cannot be held without parent volunteers organizing it and supporting on the evening. **Please email - esa@exminsterschool.co.uk to volunteer.**

Entry costs £3 payable on MCAS under clubs: Price includes unlimited squash/water and a packet of sweets.

Tattoos and Glow Sticks will be available to buy for 50p each (These will not be available at the reception disco so reception children do not need to bring money to school).

Reception Disco: **3.30pm - 4.10pm** (children will go straight from their classroom at the end of the day. It's Non Uniform on Friday for a Christmas hamper donation already so they can come in their party clothes)



Years 1/2/3 - 5.25pm – 6.10pm

Years 4/5/6 - 6.25pm - 7.10pm

Please note: All children, including years 5 and 6, will need to be collected by a responsible adult. Pick up and drop off from the back gate please.

School Uniform Policy: Please click on the following link to our School Uniform Policy Parents and carers are responsible for providing their children with the correct uniform and ensuring that it is clean, presentable and the correct size.

We understand that temporary issues can arise or that children quickly outgrow clothing. Half term is the perfect opportunity to review school uniforms. We want to ensure that obtaining uniform items is as simple and affordable as possible for all our families:

- Non-logo uniform items (such as trousers, skirts, shorts, and plain shirts) can be purchased affordably from high street stores and supermarkets.
- The school operates a pre-loved school uniform system to enable parents and carers to obtain pre-loved uniforms for a nominal or zero cost. If you would like to request items from our pre-loved uniform supply, please feel free to email admin@exminsterschool.co.uk or speak to the school office.

Exemptions: If your child requires a relaxed uniform policy or temporary exemption for a specific reason (e.g., medical reasons or physical injury), please contact the Headteacher so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Summary of School Uniform Expectations

Standard Day Wear:

- Grey or black trousers, skirt, shorts, or pinafore
- Yellow logo polo shirt
- Navy logo sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black or grey socks or tights

  - Black school shoes or boots (trainers are not permitted for non-PE days)
  - Pale blue gingham summer dress (optional for warmer weather)
- **PE Kit:** Plain yellow round-neck t-shirt or yellow logo t-shirt
  - Navy blue, grey, or black shorts, joggers, or leggings
  - School sweatshirt or cardigan
  - Trainers
- **Jewellery:** The only permitted jewellery that may be worn is:
  - One pair of stud earrings (no other piercings are permitted)
  - A sensible wristwatch (not a smartwatch



Oral Health Improvement - Supporting Children:

The Oral Health Improvement Team are hosting ***free*** online Oral Health Improvement training sessions aimed at parents, teachers, carers and anyone who lives with, works with or enables **children of all ages.**

Next online training session: **Wednesday 18th November 2026 at 6:30pm - 8pm**

Microsoft Teams: Click on the *booking form*

Learning Outcomes:

- Recognise how good oral health contributes to overall health and wellbeing
- Explain the consequences of poor oral health
- Identify the causes, symptoms and ways to prevent tooth decay and gum disease
- Understand the techniques needed to help children maintain good oral hygiene
- Locate the local pathways for accessing dental care

Royal Devon Paediatric Bladder and Bowel Team Facebook page: The Royal Devon and Exeter Bladder and Bowel Team would like to share their new Facebook with you! It is packed with helpful tips, advice, resources, and updates for parents and carers around toileting, continence, and healthy bladder and bowel habits. Click on the link Paediatric Bladder and Bowel Facebook Page where you can access relevant support and information.

Annual 2nd Exminster Scouts Fireworks Display: Friday 6th November at Deepway Green here in the village! Save on the day by getting your tickets in advance from Exminster Post Office, Teign Bean Cafe or the Royal Oak pub. We will have a BBQ, licenced bar and hot drinks on sale along with lots of fun games and stalls to keep everyone entertained before the big event at 7pm (cash or card accepted). All proceeds go to supporting our village Scouts, Cubs and Beavers groups throughout the year. We are also looking for volunteers to help on the night (free drink included!). Sign up here: https://signup.com/go/cEQXJPH

Have you heard of the Village's Eco Refill Station?

We're open every Saturday morning, and we'd love to see more of you popping down to say hello!

Did you know you can stock up on everyday household essentials, including:

Washing-up liquid, Laundry liquid & laundry sheets , Cleaning spray tablets, Stain remover sticks, Dishwasher sheets And so much more!

The best bit? **We're NOT FOR PROFIT!** That means we aim to keep our prices as low as possible, helping you save money while reducing plastic waste.

There's no need to buy in bulk either – buy as much or as little as you need!

Where? Immanuel Chapel, next to Berrybrook Motors

When? Every Saturday morning

What to bring? Just an empty container to refill!

Whether you're a regular visitor or you've never popped in before, we'd love to welcome you.

Save money, reduce waste and support your local community – one refill at a time!

Please help us spread the word by sharing this post with friends, family and neighbours