The EPICentre of Learning

Eco team: This year our Eco team have set out their vision for the year. This is what they have said they want to focus on:

- For our school environment to be eco-friendlier and more efficient
- For our school to be litter free
- For everyone to do a little bit to help make a difference
- For us to use less water and create less waste
- To be involved in more growing to grow food and attract insects

As a start to this we are launching our Ch-Angels project in school and we would love for you to get involved at home.

Be the change you want to see. Please join us at home in making a pledge to help our environment. Every little helps. Please make your pledge then make an angel out of recycled materials. The ch-angel will help remind you of your pledge to change. This could be one tiny change to help the environment:

- *Turn off the lights when you leave a room*
- *Turn off the water when you are brushing your teeth*
- *Walk or scoot to school instead of going in the car*
- *Have shorter showers*
- *Create less food waste*
- *Eat vegetarian once a week*
- *Have a single use plastic free lunch box*

Or anything that you can do to help the environment…….create your own pledge. We would love to hear about your home pledges. Please email admin@exminsterschool.co.uk

Y4 residential: We are exceptionally proud of our Y4 children who took part in their residential visit. 4BC went for the first half of last week and 4S went for the second half. They went to the Wildside Experience in Hemyock for 3 days and 2 nights. They were offered activities such as night walks in the woods (with no torches), zip wire, archery, feeding the animals, games in the woods, learning about the birds of prey and handling them and making a wood craft badge as a memory of the experience. We definitely have a new favourite game to play - 'Camouflage'.

The new staff at Wildside were very welcoming and impressed by the manners, the enthusiasm, the appetites and the cooperation of our children. A huge thank you to the staff that have organised and attended the residential. It is a huge organisational undertaking, so thanks to Mrs Haynes and Mr Moore for all their work on this aspect, making it a memorable experience for children and staff alike!

Friday 2nd October 2026

Future Dates

Monday 5th October – Deadline for ordering school lunches w/c 12th October

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

Friday 16th October – Photo catch up day – Harvest Celebration Collection

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)

Reporting absence: To help us keep all our students safe and maintain accurate school records, please remember to report any student absence before 8:50 AM on each day of non-attendance. When notifying the school, kindly provide specific details regarding your child's symptoms—such as a sore throat and headache, a high temperature, or sickness—rather than simply stating they are "unwell." Specific details allow us to track health trends accurately, **but**

most importantly, prompt and detailed reporting ensures that every child not in school is accounted for and safely in the care of their responsible adult. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

Get Creative! Design the Cover for "Scene" Magazine! Competition for our children: Do you love drawing and painting? The people who make our village magazine, Scene magazine, need your help! They want YOU to design the front cover for their big Winter and Christmas issue. Imagine your artwork being delivered to every house in the village!

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.
- The right way up: Make sure your paper is Portrait (tall like a door, not wide like a TV).
- Your details: Write your name and class on the back of your picture.

How to Enter

- Finish your masterpiece by: **Friday 16th October.**
- Hand it in: To Mrs. Whalley or take it to the School Office.

The makers of the magazine will pick one lucky winner to be on the front cover for everyone to see!

Computer Donation: A huge thank you to the School Association for their donation, which has funded a brand-new set of Chromebooks alongside a charging trolley. The trolley has been a fantastic addition, helping with storage and organisation. The new technology is already making a huge difference in the classroom—as two of our Year 5 pupils noted, "They are really fast and load really quickly!" Having such speedy, reliable devices allows our teachers to integrate digital learning into lessons and greatly enhances how we support the curriculum across all subjects. We are very grateful for the continued support in providing our children with the best possible learning tools.

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 via 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. Don't forget to order photographs before 23rd October as you will have free delivery. We will give a further order-by date for the catch up photos after the 16th.

Mental Health Weekly Update: Please see attached this week a Parent Wellbeing and Mental Health newsletter This week, we focus on removing pressure.

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Thank you to "Postscript Independent Bookseller", who, through a parent at our school, have donated lots of fabulous new books. These are just a few of the 150 books that we have received. Some have been placed in our library, and others will be given to the different year groups in order to update their reading for pleasure collections.
Here is a link to their website, if you would like to have a look at the range of books that they sell: https://www.psbooks.co.uk/

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

Harvest Celebration: On Friday 16th October, we will be having a Harvest Celebration Assembly in school led by Reverend Vanessa Pestridge. As part of this, we would like to donate items to Exminster Food Larder; any non-perishable in-date goods would be very welcome (see flyer for more details). **This collection will take place on Friday 16th October.**

Please drop off your donations in the crates by the front or back gate either at the start or end of **Friday 16th October.** School can issue vouchers for this and food boxes can then be collected from the Westbank. If you, or someone you know, needs support please speak to Hannah Parker or email admin@exminsterschool.co.uk using the subject Foodbank.

Half Term Halloween Party: Friday 30 October, drop in between 1 and 4pm. Free, suggested donation £2. Celebrate Halloween at Thelma Hulbert Gallery this October Half Term with spooky art activities, creative crafts and Halloween treats. Why not get into the Halloween spirit and come in fancy dress! More

Exeter Youth Orchestra are looking for new players. For more details or to book a free trail please click on this link **www.exeterchildrensorchestra.co.uk** and see the attached flier.

Adults Disco update: Our first adult school disco was a huge success! Thanks to your support, we raised **£1,034** for the school. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket and joined us on the night.

We'd also like to extend our thanks to the following local businesses for generously donating raffle prizes:

CrossFit Isca
Hodgson Sport Massage
Turf Locks
Teign Bean
Exeter Golf and Country Club
Pizza A Legna
Post Office
Quay Climbing Centre

Powderham Castle
Saddles and Paddles
DB Physio
VGA Design
Exploding Bakery
Postscript Books
Exeter Chiefs

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 and entries should be returned to Little Tesco.**



