The EPICentre of Learning

Y3 Walkability: Last Friday, Year 3 took part in an invaluable Road Safety Day designed to help keep our pupils safe and confident when out and about. Three expert instructors worked with our classes across the morning and afternoon, reviewing key rules from the Highway Code and watching the classic Think! Hedgehog safety video to spark some great group discussions. Putting theory into practice, the children then split into small groups for a guided walk through the village. Instructors demonstrated how to navigate various junctions and manage real-world hazards, supporting the children step-by-step until they were practising safe crossings on their own. It was a brilliant session, and we would like to extend a huge thank you to the instruction team for helping deliver such important, lifelong skills to our children!

Spotlight on Oracy, The 'ABC' of Class Discussions: It has been fantastic to see our pupils embedding the 'ABC' framework into their daily classroom discussions:

A – Agree: Supporting a classmate's point with further reasoning.

B – Build: Expanding on an idea to take the discussion deeper.

C – Challenge: Respectfully offering a different perspective.

This structured approach teaches children how to learn both *through* talk and *from* talk. It gives pupils the tools to engage in thoughtful debate, challenge ideas respectfully, and understand that changing your mind in light of new information is a key part of learning!

Hub of Hope: https://hubofhope.co.uk/

What is the Hub of Hope? Provided by national mental health charity, Chasing the Stigma, the Hub of Hope is the only directory of its kind in the UK that brings local, national, peer, community, charity, private and NHS mental health support services together in one place.

Tens of thousands of services are listed on the Hub of Hope, with numbers growing every day. It is free to use and available on desktop and from the App Store and Play Store. It is also free for organisations to register their details.

Each year +300,000 people find help for themselves and others via the Hub of Hope - you can too.

This is a great resource for adults and children.

Wraparound Care Booking Go Live Dates for the rest of the year: In order to help you plan ahead please note dates for upcoming booking dates.

Tuesday 1st December – 3pm for January and February (Spring 1)

Tuesday 26th January – 3pm for February and March (Spring 2)

Tuesday 2nd March – 3pm for April and May (Summer 1)

Friday 9th October 2026

Future Dates

Monday 12th October – Deadline for ordering school lunches w/c 19th 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

Friday 23rd October – 3.30pm ESA Tuck Shop

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

Friday 20th November – School Disco and Non Uniform Day

Tuesday 4th May – 3pm for June and July (Summer 2)

Tuesday 6th July – 3pm for September and October (Autumn 1)

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.

Get Creative! Don't forget the Design the Cover for "Scene" Magazine! Competition for our children: The people who make our village Scene magazine 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!

You can choose anything that makes you think of Christmas or Winter. Think:

- 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:

- 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!

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.

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, we focus on Neurodiversity and Family Wellbeing.

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National Online Safety Guides: This week we have a guide on What Parents Need to Know about App and Play Stores.

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

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 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/

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 trial please click on this link **www.exeterchildrensorchestra.co.uk**.

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 have class details and initials on the back and be returned to Little Tesco.**



