



# The EPICentre of Learning

**Attendance:** If your child is not well, or is going to be absent from school for any reason, you must let us know as soon as possible. You can call us and leave a message on our voicemail, you can email us on [admin@exminsterschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@exminsterschool.co.uk) or you can use the School Gateway app by sending us a message through the speech bubble at the bottom of the screen or through the reporting section; click on attendance, then the blue button at the bottom 'Advise of Future Absence'.

**Early Epic and Epic Eve bookings:** Bookings for the April-May half term, Summer 1, will open on School Gateway on Monday 3 March at 3pm.

**ESA Bags for Schools:** thank you for all your support in the bags for schools. Your homes are 620kg lighter of clutter and we raised £310 for the school.

**Gender equality – over the last couple of weeks our assemblies have focused on gender equality.**

Assemblies in Years 1 and 2: KS1 have been highlighting differences physiologically between men and women and discussed why they compete separately at sporting events, such as the Olympics etc, to enable fairness. They have talked about gender not limiting access to sport and all sports for all people. They also looked at Kathrine Switzer (first female to compete in a marathon). They have talked about women and men in Science with a focus on women and men who have made breakthroughs – was it different for either scientist? How did their gender impact?

Assemblies in Years 3-6: KS2 have been talking about the Dove Self Esteem Project - 57% of teenage girls are quitting sport – and low body confidence is the number one reason why. See link: <https://www.dove.com/uk/stories/campaigns/confident-sports.html> They have talked about gender equality in Sport by learning about Kathrine Switzer (first female to compete in a marathon). See link: <https://www.teachwire.net/teaching-resources/gender-equality/> They have also focused on female contributions to science, discussing issues from the past where female scientists, Jocelyn Bell and others', work was claimed as work done by males.

**Gender equality and The School Learning Team:** every other week the School Learning team meet with me. At the moment our focus each time ties in with our focus about Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Each time, we talk about a particular theme, the children go back to their class and discuss this. The children then come back with an overview of their class discussions and we get to hear what the whole school think on certain topics. In case the School Learning Team members forget what to talk about, they go back to class with a sheet explaining the focus and their task. With our focus this half term on gender equality, the team have been talking about stereotypes, what gender equality is and what gender inequality is. They have been having a discussion about women and football and about the changes over time and popularity now of the women's football. Some classes talked about women referees and also about the lesser audience/crowd for watching women's football. This week they are having discussions about male ballet dancers, stereotypes associated with ballet and challenges to this.

**Ideas for the half term holiday:** Are you stuck for ideas on how to entertain your children for the half-term holiday? Look no further, take a look at: [devonwithkids.co.uk](http://devonwithkids.co.uk) This is a website packed with ideas for places to visit, things to

## Tuesday 6 February 2024

### This week

**Thurs 8 Feb** – KS2 BSO concert at The Great Hall

### Dates for the future:

**12-16 Feb - HALF TERM**

**Mon 3 Mar** – Epic Eve and Early Epic bookings open 3pm

**Headteacher: Mrs S Whalley**

[www.exminster-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.exminster-primary.devon.sch.uk)

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do, ideas for rainy days, and free printable activities. If you sign up for their newsletter you will be kept up to date with what's on in Devon.

**Gymnastic Competition:** We are excited to launch our annual Gymnastic Competition 2024! The competition is open to all children from Reception to Year 6.

Reception to Year 2 can enter in a non-competitive capacity and every entry submitted to Mrs Barr will receive a certificate and be celebrated in assembly. Please send videos to Mrs Barr via [pe@exminsterschool.co.uk](mailto:pe@exminsterschool.co.uk) with their name, class and entry level.

KS2 Year 3-6 any child in KS2 can also submit an entry that they do not want submitting for the competition in the same way, just stating it is for a certificate only. For those children who wish to enter from Year 3-6, they will have an opportunity to enter the DSSP competition held at Dawlish on March 12th 2024.

How to enter children:

- Children can enter for as many levels as they would like, we would encourage children to enter more than one level as we can only take 3 children from each level from Year 3/4 and from Year 5/6 (total 6 per level) This way we will be able to take as many children as possible with us. Children are not chosen purely by ability alone, we will be taking a mix of students to the competition.
- Practise the routine and record your best video and then send it to Mrs Barr - [pe@exminsterschool.co.uk](mailto:pe@exminsterschool.co.uk) - each video must be labelled with the child's name - class and the level of entry.
- Any videos which can't be identified may not be entered. **Videos must be with Mrs Barr by 9am on February 20th 2024** to be considered for entry and must have been sent to her PE email address.

If for any reason a child is unable to record or send a video to us their class teachers have spoken to them about other ways that we can ensure they can submit their routine in person. Please contact me if you have any difficulties. This is always a popular competition and is for children at every level of gymnastics and is to encourage participation and fun. Attached are a few resources to help you get started. Enjoy!

**Early Years Entitlement Funding:** Additional government funding for some working parents, is being introduced for younger children. From April 2024, some 2-year-olds will be eligible for up to 15 hours funding per week and from September 2024, some babies from 9mths old will be eligible. The entitlement will increase from September 2025 to up to 30 hours a week. The Early Years and Childcare Service are holding some information sessions for parents, early years and childcare providers, colleagues who work with children and families, partners who offer services to parents with early years children and anyone who has an interest in learning more about all Early Years funding and other sources of financial help that's available for parents with childcare costs. Please see the attached poster for more details

**KS2 Parenting Support:** Let's Talk is pleased to announce to the launch of two more 20-minute bitesize videos on our YouTube Channel - <http://www.youtube.com/@letstalkdevon>. The first session is about our young persons' wellbeing and is available at [Let's Talk Emotional Wellbeing](#). The second talks about the online challenges our young people face today and is available at [Let's Talk Online Challenges](#). These recordings are openly available for everyone to view so please feel free to share along with [Let's Talk Healthy Relationships](#) and they are around 20-minutes long.

**Headteacher: Mrs S Whalley**

## Exminster Messy Church

**11 February 2024 at 3:30pm to 5:30pm**



At Exminster Methodist Church

We are a friendly group who meet once a month and are always pleased to welcome new families. We share a bible story, crafts and fun activities. We always have a delicious meal such as lasagne, pizza, soup, jacket potatoes with cheese or baked beans and ice cream or cake. Some sessions are messier than others!!

We ask that all young people are accompanied by an adult.

If you would like to join us our next Messy Church is this Sunday 11 February at the Methodist Church. There is no charge but any donations are most welcome.

Further details can be obtained by emailing Anne at [ab@lovelygarden.plus.com](mailto:ab@lovelygarden.plus.com)



I just wanted to highlight a couple of workshops we are running during half term, that link in with our current exhibition, which is looking at the sounds of Climate Change.

More info about the exhibition here:

[Mikhail Karikis - Acoustics of Resistance | Thelma Hulbert Gallery](#)

This animation workshop is aimed at any age from 5 and up:

[Half Term Workshop - Code Red animation | Thelma Hulbert Gallery](#)

This sound walk workshop is aimed at any age from 15 and up:

[Sound walk with Emma Welton | Thelma Hulbert Gallery](#)

We also have a drop-in activity where you can make an origami crane – to take home or add it to our increasing flock of hopeful birds!

Anna Aroussi Engagement Officer

Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Elmfield House, Dowell Street, Honiton EX14 1LX T: 01404 45006  
[thelmahulbert.com](http://thelmahulbert.com)

**Headteacher: Mrs S Whalley**