The EPICentre of Learning

Staffing News: We are thrilled to announce that Mrs. Thompson is expecting her first baby in August! Please join us in sending her our warmest congratulations as she and her family prepare for their new arrival.

Online safety: While Safer Internet Day officially took place in February, the school believes that staying safe online should be a daily habit rather than a once-a-year event. Recently, within school we looked at the theme "Smart tech, safe choices," which allowed the children to learn how to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) responsibly and how to keep their personal data secure when using new digital tools. In Key Stage 1, the children were introduced to the benefits and potential dangers of voice assistants like Alexa, and then they discussed personal online safety plans alongside interactive activities on Purple Mash. Meanwhile, Key Stage 2 children tackled more complex scenarios involving group chats and smart technology, identifying potential issues and learning effective management strategies before testing their knowledge with the official Safer Internet Day quiz. We encourage you to have regular conversations at home regarding Internet safety. Please see the article in this newsletter and resources on our website which can help with this: https://www.exminster-primary.devon.sch.uk/safeguarding/keeping-children-safe

Friday 13th March 2026

Future Dates

Friday 6th March – Power Down Day

Monday 16th March – Deadline for ordering school lunches W/C 23rd March

Monday 23rd March – Science Poster competition deadline

Thursday 26th March – Year 6 Maths Fluency Workshop

Wednesday 1st March – last day of Spring term

Monday 20th April – first day of Summer term

Epic Clubs for Summer 1: Bookings for Early Epic and Epic Eve sessions for the first half of the Summer term (April - May) are now open. You can also book the after-school sports clubs for the Summer term. **Epic Eve and Early Epic can be found on MCAS under Wraparound care and the sports clubs can be found under Clubs**. Both should be paid for a point of booking either by card or voucher. If you're paying by voucher please send across a screenshot as proof of payment so we can apply the credit as soon as possible for you.

Day of the Week and Time	Club	Year groups	Session dates	Total for 10 sessions
Monday 3.30 – 4.30pm	Reception Multi-sports	Reception	27th Apr, 11th, 18th May, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th June, 6th, 13th July	£45
Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30pm	KS1 Cricket	1 and 2	28th Apr, 5th, 12th, 19th May, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th June, 7th July	£45
Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30pm	KS2 Cricket	3,4,5 and 6	28th Apr, 5th, 12th, 19th May, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th June, 7th July	£45
Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30pm	KS2 Choir	3,4,5 and 6	28th Apr, 5th, 12th, 19th May, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th June, 7th July	Free
Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30pm	KS1 Multi-sports	1 and 2	29th Apr, 6th, 13th, 20th May, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th June, 1st, 8th July	£45
Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30pm	Y5-6 Netball Club	5 and 6	29th Apr, 6th, 13th, 20th May, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th June, 1st, 8th July	£45
Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30pm	Art Club	3,4 and 5	29th Apr, 6th, 13th, 20th May, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th June, 1st, 8th July	£45
Thursday 3.30 – 4.30pm	KS2 Golf	3,4,5 and 6	30th Apr, 7th, 14th, 21st May, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th June, 2nd, 9th July	£45
Friday 3.30 – 4.30pm	Y2-6 Dartmoor 3ball	2,3,4,5 and 6	1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd May, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th June, 3rd, 10th July	£45

Power Down Day, The Results: Thank you to everyone for supporting our Power Down Day last Friday. Mr. Broom has been crunching the numbers to see how much energy we saved compared to our usual daily average.

The Daily Difference:

- Average Usage: 182Kw units
- Power Down Day Usage: 171Kw units
- Total Saved: 11Kw units

The Environmental & Financial Impact: By making small adjustments, we saved £2.53 and 2.255kg of CO2 in just 24 hours. Over the course of a year, these small habits add up to a significant impact:

- Annual Financial Saving: £131.56
- Annual Carbon Saving: 823kg of CO2

We are determined to keep this momentum going. As the saying goes: *every little helps!*

National Online Safety Guides: Please see attached this week's guide on What You Need to Know about Apple Guided Access.

Year group maths fluency workshops: A member of each year group team will lead a session in the hall, explaining more about maths in your child's year group and how to support with maths at home. The children will then join the session in the hall, working alongside you to complete some games and activities.

Year Group	Maths Fluency Workshop Date (2.45 – 3.20 in the hall)
R	Tuesday 21st April
Y1	Wednesday 29th April
Y2	Thursday 7th May

Year Group	Maths Fluency Workshop Date (9:00 – 9:45 in the hall)
Y3	Friday 8th May
Y4	Thursday 4th June
Y5	Wednesday 17th June
Y6	Thursday 26th March

Mental Health Wellbeing Week 3: Online Safety.

As our children grow, their "world" expands—moving from the physical boundaries of the home to the vast landscapes of the internet. This week, we are focusing on how to keep those explorations safe, positive, and balanced.

Meet Techosaurus: Your Online Safety Guide

We are thrilled to introduce **Techosaurus**, our new friendly dinosaur dedicated to online safety! Children today are "digital natives," using screens to learn, play, and connect. While the internet offers incredible benefits, it also requires a roadmap. Techosaurus is designed specifically for "little ones" to help them form healthy habits and routines from the very start.

Why Start Now?

- **Builds Trust:** Regular chats make your child more likely to come to you if they see something that worries them.
- **Sets Boundaries:** It helps establish "tech-positive" behaviours before they become independent users.
- **Simplifies the "Scary":** Techosaurus keeps the conversation light and positive, focusing on skills rather than fear.

Tips for the "Tech Talk"

Talking about the internet doesn't have to be a formal "sit-down" lecture. Here is how to make it part of your routine:

- **Make it Daily:** Treat it like asking "How was school?" Ask, "What was the coolest thing you saw online today?"
- **Be a Student:** Ask your child to show you their favourite app or game. Let them teach you how it works!
- **Identify "Safe Adults":** Ensure they know who to talk to if something feels "weird" or upsetting online.

Meet Techosaurus, our new online safety dinosaur!

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/techosaurus/

Why Talk About Online Safety?

It might feel daunting, but talking regularly with your child is the single most effective way to keep them safe. By starting early, you prepare them to explore the internet with confidence and—most importantly—ensure they know **who to speak to** if something feels "off."

How to make it easy:

- **Make it routine:** Ask about their digital day just like you ask about their school day. "What made you laugh on your tablet today?" or "Who did you play with online?"
- **Listen more than you lecture:** Give them space to share the apps they love. When they feel heard, they are more likely to come to you when they have a worry.
- **Keep it relaxed:** If the conversation is casual, the "scary stuff" becomes much easier to report if it ever happens.

Annie – the musical: The award-winning Exeter Musical Society proudly brings the smash-hit family musical Annie, starring one of our students, to the Exeter Northcott stage in April 2026. Set in 1930s New York during the Great Depression, the story follows the spirited young orphan Annie as she dares to dream of a brighter tomorrow. Rescued from the clutches of the wicked Miss Hannigan, Annie's life is transformed when she finds an unexpected home with billionaire Oliver Warbucks.

Brimming with heart, laughter, and toe-tapping energy, this much-loved musical features iconic songs including It's the Hard Knock Life, Easy Street, and the timeless anthem Tomorrow. Perfect for audiences of all ages, Annie is a joyful celebration of optimism, resilience, and the power of family.

The link for tickets is: https://exeternorthcott.co.uk/events/annie-the-musical/

British Science Week Competition: Please see details attached. If you have a job in the Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths (STEM) background and would be available at 3:30pm on Wednesday 25th March for a judging panel, please get in contact through the office FAO: Mrs Chafer.

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

THE THEME!

What makes children's lives positive?
What will a positive childhood look like in the future for children your age?

What did a positive childhood look like in the past? It might be useful to consider the past and how things have changed over time, to help you think about what could be different in the future.

Make your poster

Once children have had the opportunity to explore the questions and collect their thoughts, it's time for them to respond by creating their own poster to present their ideas. Posters must be A4 or A3 in size and you'll need to be able to supply a 2D image of them (e.g. photo, jpeg or PDF file) so they can be sent to us online for judging. Children can use pop-up pictures, pull out tabs or materials such as pencils, paints, crayons, collage and paper to create their posters. Digitally created posters are also allowed. Shortlisted posters are often shared publicly, so please don't include any personally identifiable information such as names or photos of real people.

JUDGING:

We will be asking all entries to be handed into school for judging by **Monday 23rd March 2026**. *(These can be the physical copy of a 2D image, sent to the school).*

We will be holding a judging panel that includes *Mrs Chafer, Mrs Whalley, Eco Team Members and Parents from the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Background.* This will take place on **Wednesday 25th March.**

The Winning posters will be announced in the celebration assembly on **Friday the 27th March.** We will then send these off for the official poster competition on behalf of the school.

Career Fair

We will be holding our biennial careers fair on

Friday 19th June

2.30-3.15pm

in our school hall.

If you are interested in sharing your expertise and knowledge in your field of work please email

Fiona Jones careersfair26@gmail.com