

**Wedding Bells at Exminster!** We celebrate two wonderful staff weddings. A huge congratulations to Mrs Carr (formerly Mrs Collins), who tied the knot just before the half-term break. She enjoyed a beautiful celebration with her family, and we are delighted to have her back with us.

The celebrations continue this weekend as we wish Miss Perry the very best of luck for her wedding day! We hope she has a magical weekend, and we look forward to welcoming her back next week as Mrs Chafer. Congratulations to both couples!

**Attendance communication:** twice a year, there will be a named letter coming to all families, like the one received this week, about our attendance policy and not authorising time off during term time. The same letter goes to all families. At other points of the year, you may receive an individual letter or an invite to an attendance meeting at school. This is part of our ongoing monitoring of attendance.

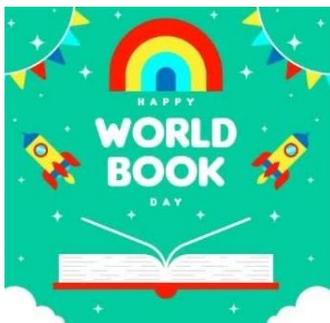
A break during term time may seem like only a couple of days. As a school, our average attendance is 96.7% currently. Once a child's attendance drops below 95%, we may be contacting you to discuss this further. 90% Attendance sounds high but in reality, it means your child is missing half a day every week. 80% attendance equates to missing one full year of schooling by the time they finish their primary journey.

**A Note on Term-Time Holidays:** We know that travel is a fantastic way to see the world. However, we must kindly ask that families do not book holidays during term time or tagging extra days onto the start or end of scheduled school breaks.

### Why we ask this:

1. The Catch-Up Struggle: It can be stressful for a child to return to a classroom where everyone else is mid-project.
2. Momentum: The first and last weeks of term are often when we set the stage for new topics or provide vital closure on learning.
3. The Law & Policy: Like all schools, we are required to follow local authority guidelines regarding unauthorised absences.

We want to work with you to ensure your child feels confident and prepared.



**World Book Day 2026:** World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March. On this day, children will have the choice to dress up as a book character and bring the book to school to share if they would like.

Ideally, we want to avoid buying anything new so repurposed or homemade costumes are encouraged. The theme this year is **Go All In** to tie in with the National Year of Reading. The children will work on book related activities at school on this day. We have even themed our usual Thursday menu around the popular Snail and the Whale book.

## Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Future Dates

**Monday 2 March** – Deadline for ordering school lunches W/C 9 March

**Wednesday 4 March** – ESA meeting at the Royal Oak 7pm

**Thursday 5 March** – World Book Day – dress as your favourite character

**Friday 6 March** – Power Down Day

**Power Down Day – Friday 6 March:** We are excited to announce that our school's Eco Team will be inviting the whole school to participate in our Power Down Day, a hands-on initiative designed to reduce our environmental footprint and spark a conversation about sustainability. On this day, children and staff will work together to cut back on energy use by switching off unnecessary lights, lowering/switching off the heating, and ensuring all electronics—from laptops, chrome books to projectors—are switched off when not in use. To make the impact tangible, we'll be taking real-time energy readings to calculate exactly how much power we save. It's a fantastic opportunity for our children to see how small, mindful changes can lead to a big difference for our planet, and we hope it inspires some energy-saving habits at home, too! This is all part of our Climate Action Plan that we are collectively working on.

**Energy-Saving Tips for the Whole Family:** If you'd like to keep the momentum going at home, here are a few simple ways to involve your children in saving energy and protecting the planet:

- ❖ The "Last Out, Lights Out" Rule: Assign a "Light Monitor" for the week. Their job is to ensure that whenever a room is empty, the light switch is off.
- ❖ Power Hunt: Did you know electronics use power even when "off"? Walk through the house together and unplug chargers, gaming consoles, or kitchen appliances that aren't being used.
- ❖ The 4-Minute Shower Challenge: Use a kitchen timer or a favourite song to encourage shorter showers, saving both water and the energy needed to heat it.
- ❖ Layer Up, Dial Down: Before reaching for the thermostat, try putting on a cosy jumper or using a blanket. Dropping the temperature by just 1°C can significantly reduce your energy bill.
- ❖ Sunlight over Switches: During the day, open curtains and blinds wide to make the most of natural light and warmth instead of turning on lights/lamps.

**National Online Safety Guides:** Please see attached this week's guide on supporting children with Self-Regulation.

**Mental Health Awareness Update – Week 1:** Keeping our children safe and happy is a team effort. This week, we are focusing on an essential tool for body safety.

**Let's Talk PANTS!** We are proud to support the NSPCC's **Talk PANTS** campaign. Since 2013, Pantosaurus has helped over six million parents start this vital conversation. It's a simple way to help children understand that their body belongs to them.

**Start the conversation early.** You don't need a formal "talk"—just a simple chat during bath time or while getting dressed can make a BIG difference. Learn about Talk PANTS with Pantosaurus.



[https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/pants-underwear-rule/?utm\\_old=pants](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/pants-underwear-rule/?utm_old=pants)



## What are the PANTS rules?

- Privates are private
- Always remember your body belongs to you
- No means no
- Talk about secrets that upset you
- Speak up, someone can help

**Numbots/TTRS:** Year 1 and 2 enjoyed lots of maths fun on Tuesday 24th February, dedicating their morning to Numbots or Times Table Rockstars. We encourage children to practise little and often at home to develop their fluency with counting and number bonds (Numbots) and X2, X5 and X10 tables (TTRS). We look forward to celebrating in KS1 assemblies this half term who is working hard to improve their fluency.

**ESA Meeting:** The ESA is the parent association group - if you can spare any time to help us raise money for our school contact us at [esa@exminsterschool.co.uk](mailto:esa@exminsterschool.co.uk) or come along to a meeting! Meeting dates for 2026 to be held at 7pm at the Royal Oak are: Weds 4th March, Tues 28th April - summer fair planning! - Weds 3rd June and Tues 14th July.

**Live free concert for our children:** On Thursday 26 February, our children enjoyed a free live music performance in school from Duo Tutti. We are very grateful to Vive La Musique who pay for this experience for our school. Vive La Musique is a local charity who supports music making and has regularly supported our school in a live music experience from Duo Tutti (Ruth Molins and Alex Wilson, flutes and piano). Vive La Musique is inviting families to a special, free concert by Duo Tutti (flute and piano) on Saturday 28th February, at St Michael's Church, Teignmouth. Starting at 11:00 am—with free refreshments available from 10:30 am—this performance celebrates the launch of the Duo Tutti's new album, Dances and Dreams, which features classical pieces specifically chosen to engage listeners. The event is a highlight of this year's Teignmouth Classical Music Festival. While attendance is completely free, any voluntary donations will help fund future musical experiences for children across our community. We are very grateful to Vive La Musique for their continued support in giving our children the experience of live, engaging music. See poster.

**Year 3 Plea:** If you have any gently used fidget toys at home that your child no longer uses, or you would like to donate we would be incredibly grateful for any of the following **quiet** items. Please could you pass them to Mr Herring or the office labelled for Mrs Miller. Thank you so much!

- **Tactile Items:** Stress balls, squishies or marble mesh bags.
- **Structural Fidgets:** Tangle toys or infinity cubes.
- **Sensory Tools:** Pop-its (small/medium), fidget cubes, or textured sensory strips.

**Free NHS-funded Oral Health Webinar Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 10am:** This session is suitable for families with children aged 0–12 years, and provides practical, evidence-based guidance on supporting good oral health at home. This opportunity is open to all families. Please click on this link: [Big Brush Club Webinar - Saturday 28th February at 10am - For Parents and Caregivers of young children](#)



## Career Fair



We will be holding our biennial  
careers fair on

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:careersfair26@gmail.com)

**Headteachers: Mrs S Whalley and Mr I Moore**