

**Family Learning Conferences:** Family Learning Conferences (FLC) will be taking place on Thursday 10 October and Monday 21 October 2024. This will be an opportunity to hear about your child's learning. Teachers who work on a Monday will be attending the Monday FLC and the teachers who work on a Thursday will attend the Thursday FLC. On Monday we emailed out class specific letters with booking links to make an appointment with your child's class teacher. If you have any issues with booking an appointment please call or email us in the office.

**Y1 Nature School Experience:** We had a beautiful day for the first of our six seasonal nature school sessions with Ranger Pike. We will cover a variety of topics over these sessions which include;

- Tree identification including deciduous and evergreen
- How trees communicate - mycorrhizal
- Animal behaviours, hibernation and migration
- Animal classification
- Plants including names, their parts and the insects they attract.
- Planting - planting our own sunflowers, sweet peas, ferns and herb garden
- Insects and bugs and their habitats including life cycles.
- The study of butterflies.

Each session has a book focus, a game and an activity. The children have an opportunity to explore the nature school area independently through den building, chalk pictures, the mud kitchen, wheelbarrows, colouring and foraging. We are also thrilled to invite back our Mini Rangers from Year 5. We have all had a super day and we look forward to the year ahead.



## Friday 4 October 2024

### Dates for the future:

**Thurs 10 Oct** – Family Learning Conferences -online and in school

**Thurs 17 Oct** - 6.15pm online safety parent workshop

**Mon 21 Oct** – Family Learning Conferences in school



**Harvest:** On Tuesday 15th October, we will be having a Harvest Celebration Assembly in school led by Reverend Vanessa Petridge. As part of this, we would like to donate items to Exeter Food Bank; any non-perishable in-date goods would be very welcome (see below for more details). **This collection will take place on Friday 25th October.** Please drop off your donations in the crates by the front or back gate either at the start or end of **Friday 25th 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](mailto:admin@exminsterschool.co.uk) using the subject Foodbank. Thank you for your continued support.

#### Give Help

- Tinned Meat.
- Tinned Fish.
- Jam & Spreads.
- Custard.
- Pasta sauce.
- Noodle snacks.
- Small coffee.

**ESA donation:** A huge thank you to our volunteers who have raised funds for the ESA. At the very end of last term, the ESA agreed to release £700 to purchase a range of new texts to diversify our range within school. These books will be used for a focus for Book of the Week, PSHE learning, assembly focus and for enjoyment of reading.



**Exminster School Association (ESA):** thank you to those parents who attended the first ESA meeting of the year last night. It was great to have some current parents return and new parents join for the first time. As a parent, you are automatically a part of this organisation and we would love for you to get involved. All of our active volunteers have

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

family and work commitments and just commit to giving their ideas and suggestions or organising an event with a group of friends or other volunteers – it can be as much or as little as you like. This term we will be having a disco for the children, teacher for the day (where one child per class is randomly selected to be the teacher for that day), bags4schools (collection of second-hand items, paid by weight of collection).

**Exminster School Association (ESA) positions needed:** We are very thankful to Nina who has been our ESA chair over the last couple of years. Nina would now like to hand this role over to someone else. We also have the secretary role available. Please consider the roles below – come and see Mrs Whalley, Mr Moore or Miss Greenslade if you are willing or we can put you in touch with a member of the ESA to find out more – please consider these much-needed volunteer roles.



These positions within the ESA can be a shared role:

**ESA chairperson:** build an agenda with the secretary, chair the meetings, organise the committee, make decisions along with the committee on how to spend these funds, supporting the ethos of the school.

**ESA secretary:** setting agenda in conjunction with the chair, communication with ESA members, writing minutes and keeping effective records.

**Devon County Council, Governors (message from Devon County Council) – supporting schools with your expertise:**

DCC is working with education charity Governors for Schools to help fill some of the school governor and trustee vacancies across Devon. Schools need the support of a talented and committed board to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive, and we're encouraging our fabulous residents/ colleagues to get involved. School governors volunteer at board-level to set the strategic vision for the school, provide challenge and support, and oversee finances. It's a fantastic opportunity to have a real impact in your community whilst gaining skills that you can bring back to work. You can find out more about becoming a school governor and apply online through the [charity's website](#). If you're unsure if you're suitable, then [take a two-minute quiz](#) to find out if you could be a school governor. You can also register for [an upcoming webinar](#) to be held at 12.30-13.30 on 12 November 2024, where you can hear more about the role and the support provided.

**Community Library:** We have a selection of books that are available for families to borrow. They cover a range of subjects and can be found in our Community Library. We will be regularly sharing some of the titles in our school newsletter. To access these books, please come to the main school office and you will be directed to the community library cupboard. Please remember to sign the books out so that we can find them if needed. Any questions, please contact Mrs Fuller.

