

Happy New Year to all of our families! We hope you have had a restful break and your children are raring to go for Spring term 2024.

Staffing: Congratulations to Mrs Hyde, who had her baby girl on 22 December – named Margot (Maggie). We are looking forward to meeting Maggie soon.

Congratulations and good luck to Miss Kerr who has started her new role. We will be seeing her now and then as she remains on our bank for support staff.

Tuesday 9 January 2023

Dates for the future:

Thurs 8 Feb – KS2 BSO concert at The Great Hall

12-16 Feb - HALF TERM

Early Epic and Epic Eve bookings for next half term: Bookings for next half term, *Feb-March up to Easter*, will open on the School Gateway app at 3pm on Monday 15 January. **PLEASE NOTE**, There are a small number of parents who started out paying by card for their Epic sessions and then moved to childcare vouchers and could no longer book their own sessions due to a system constraint with School Gateway. We have found a fix for this so those concerned can now book their own sessions. Please email the office if you were affected by this issue so we can apply the necessary fix to your child/ren's account.

Eco Team: the Eco team is a group of pupils, 2 from each class from Y2-6, who meet with me every 2 weeks. Last term they had a focus on litter and, as part of their solution, requested new bins for the playground. These have now arrived in school and been placed around the site. They have also been gathering ideas about things they already do, and things they would like to do, to support the environment.



School Learning team: the School Learning Team is a group of pupils (2 from each class from Y1-Y6) who meet with me every 2 weeks. Each meeting, we talk about whole school initiatives or tasks, the children then go back to their classes, complete a task or discussion with their class and then feed back to the whole School Learning Team at the next meeting. This half term, the focus of their work will be gender equality – understanding what this means, how it applies in school and in the world around them. All of our assemblies will focus on a different aspect of this. We will update you with the work and discussions children are involved with about this.

Information for parents – Nits: Unfortunately we are currently experiencing an outbreak of nits in the school. This can happen regularly as head lice are very common amongst primary school children. They can easily be transferred by head to head contact. Prevention is the key and we therefore recommend that all long hair is tied back and you check your child's head on a weekly basis. Regular application of lots of conditioner and combing through thoroughly using a nit comb before rinsing out is also recommended for the ongoing management of nits alongside the use of chemical treatment when nits are found. We appreciate your support by regularly checking your child.



The EPI Centre of Learning

School Census Day- Census Day will take place next Thursday, 18 January, and is an important day for the school. On this day, data is collected from the school which is used to calculate some of our funding for the next financial year. As well as recording the number of children on roll it also records our uptake of Free School Meals (FSM) and Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) on that particular day. This then informs our funding to run the kitchen for the next year. We do not make any money from the kitchen and school does need to use other funds in order to run it however we do get some grant funding that supports this.

It is for this reason that we are asking for your support to ensure that we maximise meal numbers on that day. As far as possible, we would like every child who is entitled to a Free School Meal or a Universal Infant Free School Meal (all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children) to have a school lunch. If they normally have a packed lunch and would like to try a dinner on this day, they can do this and still bring in their packed lunch in case they do not like it.

Neighbourhood Development Plan: You may have seen the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Development Plan questionnaire link in the newsletter last year, 'What does Exminster Need?'

We would like our school and the larger school community to be a part of the development plan for our village. We know that there is a bigger need than we're able to meet for before school childcare provision. Our Early Epic Breakfast Club is very quickly fully booked almost every day due to limited space and capacity. We would very much like to create an indoor space as a community room to allow us to have more children at Breakfast Club to meet the demand from our families. Not only would the extra space allow more children to attend our wraparound childcare provision and summer/half term holiday clubs, we would also then be able to free up our current hall earlier for more community groups and hiring for gym clubs, dance groups etc. We feel that this is a community need and your response to the neighbourhood plan will help for this to be considered, please complete the survey using the link below putting the proposal under the 'Infrastructure' question.

<https://www.exminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk/what-does-exminster-need/> Thank you for your support

Exminster Messy Church



14 January 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 14 January 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

Headteacher: Mrs S Whalley