



The EPI Centre of Learning

Where does the time go? One half term completed already. Our new Reception children have settled exceptionally well, as have the rest of the year groups into the new routines and patterns of their new year groups. Have a great half term – we are thankful that Halloween falls within the holiday! The children return to school on **Tuesday 5th November**.

Year 6 applications for secondary school: The application system to apply for year 7 in September 2025 opened on 1 September and **will close on 31 October**. Please [apply online at the Citizens Portal](#) if you haven't already done so.

Lost Property: We have over 50 jumpers and cardigans and 8 coats/jackets in lost property. If your child is missing any uniform please come and have a look in the box beside the front door. **Any uniform not collected by the end of today will be recycled.**

DISCO! - The school disco is back on Friday 22nd November! A payment item is now live on School Gateway. The last one was so successful thanks to all the volunteers. If you could spare some time for one or multiple of the disco slots please contact Toni Hatton on 07841680614

Reception 3.30-4.10

Y1/2 4.25-5.10

Y3/4 5.25-6.10

Y5/6 6.25 - 7.15

Reading workshops: Reception and Year 1 have recently held reading workshops for parents. After half term, there will be sessions for Years 2-6. This is an opportunity for parents to hear how we teach reading in school and suggestions for how you can support at home with an opportunity for the year group to join adults in the hall and do a carousel of activities focused around reading. The dates for these workshops are below, in the school hall from 9am until approximately 9.45am:

Year 6: 7th November

Year 5: 14th November

Year 4: 21st November

Year 3: 28th November

Year 2: 5th December

Friday 25 October 2024

Future Dates:

HALF TERM Mon 28 Oct-Fri 1 Nov

Mon 4 Nov – Occasional Day -school closed

Thurs 7 Nov – 9am Yr 6 Reading workshop

Fri 8 Nov – Deadline to order photos-see info

Thurs 14 Nov – 9am Yr 5 Reading workshop

Fri 15 Nov – Non uniform in exchange for a donation to Nayamba

Mon 18 Nov – Rainbow Day -wear bright colours

Thurs 21 Nov – 9am Yr 4 Reading workshop

Fri 22 Nov – Non -uniform in exchange for a Christmas raffle item

-School Disco! -payment item on School Gateway

Mon 25 Nov – Epic bookings open for Spring term 3pm

Thurs 28 Nov – 9am Yr3 Reading workshop

Thurs 5 Dec – 9am Yr2 Reading workshop

Wed 18 Dec – Carols in the Yard-info to follow

Headteachers: Mrs S Whalley and Mr I Moore

Volunteer days: Many companies now offer volunteering days to support local good causes where they will pay their employees for a day, or possibly longer, each year to go into an organisation such as a school and support them. If you work for a company that offers this, we would love for you to put our school forward as an organisation to support. Having you and/or your work colleagues come in during a school holiday and either decorate classrooms or complete some site tidying / gardening would be very much appreciated as budgets continue to be squeezed for schools. If you are not sure if the organisation you work for offers this, it may be worth an ask. As always, many thanks for your continued support.

Menu swap: When we come back to school after half term there will be a different menu due to not having deliveries during the week.

Tuesday 5th Nov

Cheese and Ham Wholemeal Pizza
Cheese and Tomato Wholemeal Pizza (v)
Jacket Potato with Cheese
Jacket Potato with Tuna
Sweetcorn / Garden Peas
Seasonal Fruit Crumble with Custard (optional)

Wednesday 6th Nov

Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes
Vegetable Stir Fry (v)
Jacket Potato with Cheese
Jacket Potato with Beans
Green Beans / Carrots
Cheese and Biscuits

Rainbow Day, Monday 18 November: On Monday 18 November we are inviting children to come dressed in their own clothes, as bright as they want to be, to celebrate our first Rainbow Day of the academic year. We have one Rainbow Day every term, on this day the normal curriculum is replaced with focused activities around different themes.

During our whole school Rainbow Day this term, we will be looking at: Anti Bullying, 'Choosing Respect' and Road Safety. Our KS2 children will also have a short input and roleplay from a company called 'Tiny Travels'. During this session they will explore situations where people stand up to racism. KS1 children will have time to explore a range of books with an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) focus, as well as practise using the zebra crossing safety outside of school.

We have set up a payment item for any families who would like to make a donation on Rainbow Day. Any money raised from this day will go directly to our community library to add some additional titles that we want to purchase to support families. The total cost of these titles is £115 so any money raised on this day will support with these books and other future titles to expand our diversity of texts.

Future donations days: we will give you further information about these dates nearer to the time but these are two future dates when we will be asking for donations:



The EPI Centre of Learning

1. **Friday 15 November, money donations in exchange for non-school uniform, via School gateway:** we will be raising funds for Nayamba charity (further information to follow) <https://www.nayamba.org/>. Vanessa Pestridge, trustee and co-founder of the charity, will be coming in to talk to the children about the school on Friday 8 November and how the funds will support the future development.
2. **Friday 22 November:** hamper donations in exchange for non-school uniform. On this date we ask that families donate an item for hampers that will be made up, ready to sell draw tickets at our Rec, Y2 and Christmas carols in the yard events (items such as mince pies, chocolate, toiletries, wine, candles, tea/coffee, biscuits etc). The hampers are made up by our ESA volunteers and tickets sold for these at the Reception nativity, the Y2 performance and the Carols in the yard.

SWGfL e-safety workshop: A huge thank you to the Exminster School association (ESA) who funded this workshop. The ESA identified that this would support all age groups and an aspect that is so essential for parents to have highlighted the positives, the difficulties and thoughts on how to support their children through the digital world. A great enrichment opportunity for parents with essential information that will help parents support their children.

It was a very informative online safety session with Boris Radanovic who works for the South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL). [SWGfL](https://swgfl.org.uk/) are a charitable trust dedicated to empowering the safe and secure use of technology. They are proud to be a world leader in online child safety. More information and support can be found on their website: <https://swgfl.org.uk/>. The training session provided parents with an insight into popular technologies and how young people utilise them. Boris was able to discuss the massive benefits and potential pitfalls through an interactive presentation. We are hoping to share some of the resources in the near future.

School Photos: Sample photos have now been sent home. Orders will need to be made no later than Fri 8 Nov.

Early Epic and Epic Eve bookings: Please note bookings for Spring 1 (Jan-Feb 2025) will open on School Gateway at 3pm on Monday 25 Nov.

Parish Church Community Survey: Win a hamper of goodies worth £100! All you need to do to be in with a chance of winning is to fill in our survey! It'll take about 5 mins and you'll have a free entry into our draw! Simply grab a cuppa and a biscuit (recommended but not essential) and click on this link - <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/ma64o7> or scan this QR code:



Exminster Parish Church is really wanting to listen to the views of the wider community about their experience of the church, the challenges they see our community facing and their hopes for the future. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact vanessa@exminster.church

Headteachers: Mrs S Whalley and Mr I Moore



Christmas dates for the diary

Tuesday 3 December 2.45pm: Reception Nativity (details of tickets released after half term)

Tuesday 10 December 9.30am: Y2 performance (details of tickets released after half term)

Tuesday 10 December 2.30pm: Y2 performance (details of tickets released after half term)

Monday 16 December 9.10-11am: Y1 Christmas craft sessions (details to be released after half term)

Wednesday 18 December 6.15pm: Carols in the Yard (no tickets needed, weather dependent)