



Mrs S.L. Whalley  
01392 824340  
admin@exminsterschool.co.uk

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Happy New Year to all our families. We are looking forward to another busy term.

Welcome to Mrs Gilbert who has started teaching in Reception with us. Welcome also to Mr Fox who is teaching in Year 3.

Congratulations to Miss Vass who got married over the holidays and is now Mrs Chandler.

Congratulations go to Mr Moore and Lynda who had their baby boy, Ethan, on 15 December. Congratulations also go to Mrs Nowell and Dave who had their baby boy, Monty, on 23 December.

Year 3 have had an exciting start to their term. They came into a classroom that had been turned upside down with red tape and danger/warning signs everywhere. The children were being introduced to their new English sequence and topic work on earthquakes and natural disasters. Look at the website and Year 3 section to find out more.

Years 5 and 6 have had an artistic start to their learning, thinking about [Austin's Butterfly](#) whilst creating mythical creatures and Wanted Pictures. Have a look at the display created by Year 6 on display by the back door.

Year 1 children have enjoyed showing their models of homes to their parents on Thursday afternoon. They carefully constructed them, made chimneys, windows, doors, gardens and introduced their topic of homes.

You will receive a curriculum letter next Friday which gives an overview of what your child will be learning this term.

### **Class Games Morning**

This term, instead of inviting you to a class assembly, we are inviting you to a games session. These are timetabled below. It is an opportunity for you to come and play some specific games with your child to support their learning at school and then potentially at home. The sessions will be for half an hour in the school hall. We ask that you make your way to the hall, there will be a signing in sheet in the hall, the children will join you once they have completed their register and made their dinner choices. This is for the Spring term only initially. We would welcome your feedback on these new sessions. Year 6 will be doing their games morning in the Summer term.

### **Class Games Mornings, Thursday, 9-9.30am, invite to parents:**

Games with adults and children, focus on skills that they can reinforce at home.

Class	1MS	1M	2B	2BC	RGM	RGL	3M	3FM	4W	4S	Y5
Date	12 Jan	19 Jan	26 Jan	2 Feb	9 Feb	23 Feb	2 Mar	9 Mar	16 Mar	23 Mar	30 Mar

### **Spring Term Parent Meetings**

Last year, we held our parent's evenings in the Autumn and Summer term, giving a written report in the Spring term for Years 1-6. This year are having parent's evenings in the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms, with a shorter more concise report in the Summer term.





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Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will follow a new format called Family Learning Conferences. Years 5 and 6 trialled these in the Autumn term and were very successful so we are using this format across Key Stage 2 from the Spring term. Below is an explanation:

**Family Learning Conferences:** This will have a 'trilogue' (three way dialogue) format.

**It is very important that children attend the Family Learning Conference with their adults.**

During a Family Learning Conference, your child will be leading the session by discussing their proudest moments in their learning and identifying their next steps for improvement. Throughout this time, you will be encouraged to ask your child questions, using prompts provided to support you with this. There will then be time for the teacher to share their input on your child's attainment, progress, next steps and attitude towards their learning. Finally, you will have an opportunity to ask any questions.

The next steps identified by both the child and teacher will then be reviewed in the next Family Learning Conference.

We hope that you will find these Family Learning Conferences informative and enable you to get a greater picture of your child as a learner while helping you identify how you are able to support them at home.

In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, we would like to encourage children to attend with their adults but also recognise that some appointments are later in the day when children are tired.

The Family Learning Conferences will be held on: Monday 20 March and Thursday 23 March. You will receive a letter nearer the time reminding you about the process and an appointment slip. We would welcome your feedback on the process once you have been through it.

### **Census Day**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January** is an important day for the school in terms of school meals as we have to collate the number of children who actually have a 'Universal Free School Meal' on that day and inform the local authority who, in turn, then apply for funding that comes into school to enable us to provide the facility. It is the 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 'Universal Free School Meal' (all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children) to have a school lunch. The menu for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> will be changed as follows:

<b><u>Thursday:</u></b>	Battered Fish and Chips Quorn Bolognaise Jacket Potato with Baked Beans Plain Jacket Potato Ham or Cheese Packed Lunch option Chocolate Drop Biscuit	<b><u>Friday:</u></b>	Lasagne Sweet potato and Lentil Curry Jacket Potato with Cheese Plain Jacket Potato Ham and Cheese Packed Lunch option Fresh Fruit Salad
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### **Could you be entitled to register for Pupil Premium?**

Your child could be entitled to Pupil Premium funding which school could use to support them if:

- You are a service family
- You have adopted your child
- You are on certain benefits. Please see the list on the attached application form.

Even though this does not mean Free School Meals until they are in Year 3, it does mean that educational visits will be half funded and that school will be in receipt of Pupil Premium funding which could be used to support your child in school. If you think you could be entitled, please speak to a member of the School Office as soon as possible.





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Tempest will be in school on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February to take class photos. These will be photos of the whole class and not of individual children. We will also put a reminder in the newsletter nearer the time.

### Exminster Summer Playscheme

Just to remind you that there is a QUIZ NIGHT this SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 8.00pm at THE ROYAL OAK. Teams should consist of up to 4 people, costing £2 per person with cash prizes and a raffle. The pub is very kindly hosting quiz nights on a regular basis now, with all proceeds towards a designated group or charity. The first quiz in November, raised £156 for the local pre-school, and the Playscheme has been kindly chosen for this month, so we are looking to raise a similar amount if not more! Our thanks go to the pub and Paul Ham for their support and for setting the questions. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

We can also confirm the AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be on WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 7.30pm at THE ROYAL OAK. We would welcome some new faces to the committee to ensure this wonderful event can continue for many more years. If you are keen to be involved, but unable to attend the meeting, please let me know.

Many thanks.  
Anne Snell (Committee member)  
Tel no: 832763

### New School Menu

We have introduced a revised school menu this term, with healthier new dishes for your children to enjoy. As with anything new, it can be a little daunting. If your child would like to sample a new dish on any given day, please encourage them to ask the school cook for a taster. This would be in addition to their choice of the day. This may in turn give them the confidence to select this option when it is repeated during the term.

All packed lunch options will be served with 2 slices of apple, 2 pieces of cucumber and 2 pieces of carrot. Children will be encouraged to try the fruit and vegetables but under no circumstances do they have to eat them if it will cause distress.

### Roblox

Roblox is an online gaming platform that allows children to become members of a chat group in addition to playing games and embarking on adventures. It has been brought to our attention by a concerned parent of a child who uses this site that the group chats may have been hacked and inappropriate content is appearing. If your child is a user, please be vigilant and check your child's account for inappropriate use by external hackers. In the event of abuse, please report your findings to CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) <https://ceop.police.uk/>

