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At our school we believe that the children should be actively involved in their learning. We encourage them to discuss and suggest ideas that may be taken on board by their teachers. We provide opportunities for this by having a range of 'teams' that meet on a regular basis. These teams include:

- The School Learning Team;
- The Rainbow Value Ambassadors;
- The P.E. Learning Team;
- The Eco Council;
- The Pupil Librarians;
- The Facilitators of Learning Forums; and
- The Digital Leaders.

They each have a different role to play in the development of the curriculum and ethos of the whole school. Here is a little bit more about one of those teams.

The School Learning Team

Written by Jack and Primrose, Y5:

"The School Learning Team (SLT) has children from year groups 1 up to Year 6. We meet in the lounge area of school. During the meetings we write down the questions that we have to take back to our class mates. It is not just our job to make suggestions but it is our job to talk to everyone in our class and record their ideas. This is called "Pupil Voice". We like discussing the different ideas and feel that we really are helping the teachers see what we think about what is happening in school. It really is OUR school. At the moment we are looking at how to improve our English learning and our GOAL time. Soon Years 5 and 6 are going to be doing tours of the school – we will be looking at the learning and teaching in the different classes. We will be reporting back to Mrs Whalley and will get to talk about ideas that we might have to help develop the brilliant things that are already happening. We love that we get to represent our classes and that things in school may be improved and changed by looking at things from our perspective as children."

Jack, Y2: "We have to write down ideas from what Mrs Whalley tells us to think about. Me and Lila write it in a big book and we go back to the meetings to tell Mrs Whalley what the children have said. She listens and writes down ideas and tells other teachers. I like going to the meetings because I like helping Mrs Whalley. She is the head teacher and she has lots to do."

We feel it is important to us that we find out what the children think about aspects of our school and that they can give their voice to it. They can then see how we make changes based on their voice. The meetings are run as formal meetings, with the children adding to the agenda and taking minutes. We have a time keeper and a facilitator to each meeting. Often, we will discuss issues using a 2:6:2 approach: 2 minutes to introduce the issue, 6 minutes to discuss and suggest possible strategies/ideas and finally 2 minutes to review and decide, looking at what we want as an outcome. The children all take the role very seriously and have an important job - what they feedback from their classes represents the voice of the school and changes being made. I enjoy listening to their views and the school acting on them, you can never predict them!

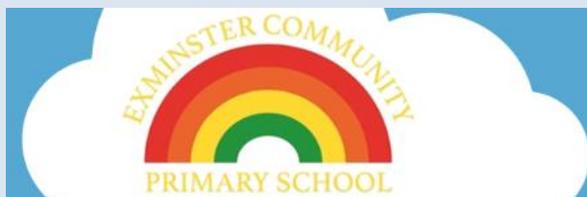
Sports News

On Tuesday 17th January 2017 eight children from years 4 and 5 took part in a DSSP Badminton Event at KEVICC (Totnes). The children were playing by the standard rules of badminton, where they scored a point if the shuttlecock landed in the opposition half of the court.

The children got split into A and B teams and our children came an overall 5th. Well done to all the children who took part.

Evie said, "I really enjoyed it because I had never played badminton before. Hopefully next time I'll be able to play more games."





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Census Day

Thursday 19th 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 19th and Friday 20th will be changed as follows:

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|------------------|---|----------------|---|
| Thursday: | Battered Fish and Chips Quorn Bolognaise Jacket Potato with Baked Beans Plain Jacket Potato Ham or Cheese Packed Lunch option Chocolate Drop Biscuit | Friday: | 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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Exminster Victory Hall Community Event



Come and celebrate Burns Night at Exminster Victory Hall on Saturday 28th January.

Ceilidh dance from 8pm to music from the Mooncoin Ceilidh Band.

Tickets £5.

To reserve tickets or for more information please contact Caroline on 07850 627803 or email carolineaird@hotmail.com

Exminster Summer Playscheme

Just to remind you all that the AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be held on WEDNESDAY 25TH JANUARY, 7.30PM at THE ROYAL OAK. We hope to see some new faces to join our committee, and 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.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all those who supported our recent quiz at The Royal Oak. It raised £164, which was brilliant, and all these proceeds will go directly to Playscheme.

Anne Snell (Committee member) Tel: 01392 832763

