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Newsflash

Carol Troy is finishing in her role as our Crossing Patrol person. Carol has been doing this role for 10 years and 3 months, come rain or shine! Carol loves the interaction with our families and children but has decided that it is time for something different. We would like to say a huge thank you to Carol for her years of dedication to our school, for her caring nature and keeping us safe for so long. We shall really miss Carol at the crossing. Carol is finishing at half term.

INSTEAD

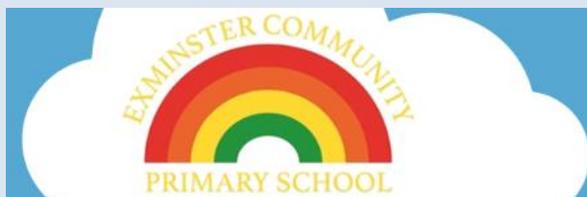
Last week, we invited 4 headteachers into our school for 2 days to scrutinise and challenge us. This was a voluntary process, something that we decided would progress the school. I have had the opportunity of going to the 3 other schools involved and last week, it was their turn to visit us. There is one lead reviewer who comes from outside of Devon, with the other 3 reviewers being Devon headteachers. Below is a list of activities the reviewers carried out during their 2 days:

- Lesson observations
- Talking to parents
- Interviewing the School Learning Team
- Tour of the school with the School Learning Team Y5/6 representatives
- Data meetings
- An interview with governors
- Interviews with many of our school leaders: English and maths team leaders, Pedagogy and Curriculum team, Learning Environment team, Student and Family Support team, Assessment for Learning team, PE team, Senior Leadership team, Pupil Premium team
- Book trawls
- Learning walks to focus on key aspects eg. Use of Learning Support Assistants, most able children

There will be a detailed report produced from this process. Feedback over the 2 days of our strengths is outlined below:

- Quality of teaching and learning is high
- Relationships across the school are strong
- Behaviour is strong
- Children were engaged and positive in all their learning
- Rainbow Values are well embedded and applied in all aspects of school, children talk about them regularly. One child described them as 'the heart of the school'.
- There is a strong community feel across the school
- The GOAL learning is developing well across the school
- The Specials Education Needs provision across the school is strong
- Pastoral support and Family Support is a strength
- Safeguarding is a strength
- Verbal reasoning in maths is clear in lessons
- There was lots of evidence of higher order questioning across the school
- Children have a clear understanding of what they are learning and what their targets are
- The School Learning Team are articulate and clear about their role in the school
- Leadership teams at all levels across the school own the School Development Plan
- Pupil performance data is used well and all leaders are knowledgeable about it
- Staff are empowered to lead and have a good overview of the whole school
- Learning Support Assistants are a strength, moving children's learning on and their relationships with the children are strong
- Parents are involved in their children's learning through a variety of ways
- The children's books in maths and English show that children take care and pride in their learning
- The Pupil Premium provision is strong
- Governors are knowledgeable about the school, offering challenge and support





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The headteachers were overwhelmingly positive about our school. They particularly noted how motivated children were about their learning, how polite the children were and how they were really keen and articulate when talking about their learning. They talked about the children being appreciative of their environment and the opportunities they were given. They talked about how children talked with pride and excitement about our school.

The developments are aspects that are in our School Development Plan and are about embedding aspects that have started to be a focus this year:

- To further develop our GOAL/RE/Science so that there is a parallel between the quality in our English books and our GOAL work – using a wide range of genres and use of English targets.
- To further develop editing skills to ensure that it improves the quality of outcomes
- To extend our external moderation (currently done extensively in EYFS, Y2 and Y6)

The INSTEAD process was a gruelling process but a useful one as we learn most from the wide collaboration that we are involved in. We are continuing to work on these developments in our journey to make our school an outstanding EPICentre of learning.

Eco Learning Team - Second-Hand Book Sale – Thursday 9th February 3.30pm

The Eco Learning Team would like to announce that they will be holding a Second-hand book sale to raise money for new science equipment. Donations of good quality, pre-loved books are welcome from Monday the 6th of February; please place them in the box outside the office.

Come along on Thursday 9th February from 3.30pm to bag a bargain!!



Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

We are once again collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. Over recent years, with your help, we have been able to supplement our sporting and cookery equipment, which helps the children learn to eat well and how to keep fit and healthy.

There is a voucher collection box outside the School Office – next to the post box. Please support the school's collection and spread the word to your friends and family.

Annual Parish Meeting

You are warmly invited to attend this year's Annual Parish Meeting for Exminster, which will be held at the Victory Hall on Tuesday 28 March. The evening will start from 7.15pm with cheese and wine, tea/coffee. The meeting itself will commence at 7.30pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting is very much a community meeting. It is the opportunity for the Parish Council to report to residents on what has been accomplished in the preceding year and an ideal opportunity for all to come along and share plans and visions for the coming year.

At this year's meeting we are looking forward to a talk from Richard Pike on the Nayamba School Project, something that has been supported by our Community for many years.

