

# Exminster

## Community Primary School



Mrs S.L. Whalley



01392 824340



admin@exminsterschool.co.uk



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Welcome to William (Y1) who has joined us since half term.

The final week before half term was a busy one in school:

- The children in Reception thoroughly enjoyed visiting Exeter Forest School. The visit was linked to the story 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. The children challenged themselves to climb, and explore the forest as well as toasting yummy marshmallows and drinking hot chocolate over the campfire! More recently, they have been busy choosing the music for their dance, understanding the life cycle of a plant and putting this into a dance.
- Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed their Australia day thanks to the generosity of the Webster family. The children enjoyed finding out a little about the history of Australia, tasting foods and learning about the different climate.
- Our Year 2 children have amazed us with their confident approach to swimming. Every child has made a huge amount of progress and returned to school full of enthusiasm. Thank you for all the support from the parents who made sure the children were prepared and ready with the correct equipment every week. We are already looking forward to our next block of swimming lessons in Year 4!
- Year 3 had the opportunity to share their amazing home learning with each other and their families, all about 'diversity'. There was such a huge range of learning, it is always great to see how everyone produces such incredible projects and seeing how proud the children are at sharing their learning and receiving such positive feedback from other children and adults.
- Our Year 4 children thoroughly enjoyed their swimming sessions and it was great to see them getting excited about swimming. Over the weeks the children developed their confidence and technique in the water and many were able to swim a whole length by the end. Well done to all of the children involved!
- Year 5 shared their home learning 'boxes' and artist study work across the year group. I learnt so much more about the children from being invited to look at their boxes, what was important to them, their interests and some key memories. They are boxes to treasure in the future as well as now.
- Year 6 shared their home learning with each other and their families. The projects were really wide in terms of what they had chosen to focus on and the different ways of presenting them. Everyone viewing the work was impressed with the engagement and thinking behind these projects.
- Rainbow Day: the whole school enjoyed our Spring term Rainbow day. The children were working across different age groups in a range of creative activities focusing on problem solving, team work, engagement, motivation and thinking skills. There was also a focused session of Drugs education for the different age ranges. A big thank to all the year six children who planned and ran activities in KS2. Their support and enthusiasm supported the staff to make our Rainbow Day a big success!

### Accreditations and Associations



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### E-safety Awareness Parent meeting

A reminder about our e-safety meeting that will be held in school on Thursday 3 March 7-8.30pm in the school hall. This will be led by an expert from South West Grid for Learning. Please do come along to this informative event, see the separate letter sent out yesterday for further details.

Our thanks go to the police with their support in educating our children in e-safety. This week, Years 5 and 6 have had an internet safety awareness assembly delivered by our local PCSOs Paul Wilson, Vanessa Pike and local policeman Jon Croft.

### Water bottles in school

Please send your children into school each day with a water bottle. Children are given access to their water throughout the day. We recognise the importance of drinking frequently.

### Arts week

Next week in school is Arts week with exhibitions on Thursday and Friday in the school hall at the end of the day for reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (Thursday) and Year 3-6 (Friday). There will be an opportunity to purchase your child's work, buy tickets for the raffle and view the whole year group collaborative pieces of art. All the money raised from this event goes directly back into the arts, purchasing resources for future projects. Raffle tickets are available **every morning before school this week and next** from the reception office area.

### World Book Day – Thursday 3 March

In the middle of our Arts week, there is a national event, World Book Day. Children are asked to come dressed as a book character and bring in their favourite book for a 'book share' with another year group during the day. We will also be holding a special book assembly where teachers will share their favourite books with the children. In classes, a range of books will be available for the children to enjoy and investigate on that day. Do look out for a £1.00 book token where your children will be able to take this to well-known bookshops and supermarkets to exchange them for a free special world book day book.

Year 1 will be at a dance festival on this day in the morning. Year 1 need to come to school dressed in their school PE kit. They can bring in school uniform or a costume for the afternoon as they will be celebrating World Book Day in the afternoon.

### Food bank donations

Many thanks for all the donations so far to Exeter Food Bank. This will be delivered to the food bank next week so the final day for any further donations will Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Year 4 would like to thank everyone for their support for this community project.

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## Euros

We would like a small supply of Euro coins to assist with our MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) curriculum.

If any of you have any euro coins lurking in your kitchen drawer and would be willing to donate them to the school, please bring them into the school office.

## ParentPay

With effect from 3 March all ParentPay users will need to have a verified email address as their username in order to login. If you currently have a username other than your email address you will be prompted to update this each time you login. A screen guide will then be provided to help you with the process. Remember – after 3 March you will be unable to login unless you have a verified email address as your username. If you have any queries concerning this, please speak to Mrs Welch or Mrs Perry in the School Office.

## Breakfast Club

Please would parents refrain from parking in the staff car park when dropping their children off at Breakfast Club. Parents should not drive along Hillcrest to the back entrance of the school at any time. Also, please remember to return your booking forms for Summer Term by Friday 4 March. Thank you.

## Lost Property

A large amount of lost property has built up again. If items are named we can return them to the appropriate children but we are finding an increasing number of unnamed items coming into school. Please would parents ensure that all clothing, including shoes and plimsolls, are named. Additionally, if your child brings in a book from home this should also be named. We would strongly advise that favourite personal items are not brought into school as it can be very distressing if these are mislaid. The lost property box is located outside the ladies toilet, near the side entrance to the hall.

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