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We are sad to announce that Carol Glover is leaving us at the end of this summer term. Carol has been a teacher at our school for 17 years and shown such a commitment. We would like to thank her for her years of dedication and will miss her presence in school. We wish Carol all the best on her next adventures.

Our School Learning Team was recently part of our appointment process. We advertised for 2 full time permanent teachers. From over 70 applications, we shortlisted to just 8 candidates. We put them through a gruelling day with teaching a maths session, a team planning task, an assessment task, a formal interview and the dreaded School Learning Team questions. These are the questions that you can never plan for! We were impressed with the quality of candidates and are very pleased to welcome Rachel Norris and Sam Slingsby to our permanent teaching team.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) – Thursday 19 May, School Census Day

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a 'Free School Meal' provided by the school as part of the Government's Universal Free School Meal Initiative.

Thursday 19 May 2016 is an important day for the school in terms of this initiative 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 the funding that comes into school to enable us to provide this facility.

It is for this 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. We have changed the menu that day as follows:

Red	Hot Dog
Green	Cheesey Wheel
Yellow	Jacket Potato & Beans

The purple, blue and orange options will be unchanged as will the dessert, which is orange shortbread.

So far on Census Days we have only once met the 87% uptake target which may have a future implication on the funding we receive. Your support on this day would be very much appreciated. In simple terms, the higher the number of children taking a 'Universal Free School Meal' on Thursday 19 May 2016, the more funding our school will get towards providing a catering facility.

Sports News

On Wednesday 4th May well over 400 children took part in the Year 3-6 cross country on a sunny evening at Stover School. There were 4 races throughout the evening (Year 3/4 girls, Year 3/4 boys, Year 5/6 girls and Year 5/6 boys). The races were hotly contested with many 'photo finishes'. It was excellent to see not only the effort the runners were putting in, but also the support and encouragement they were receiving from the school mates who weren't racing at the time; a real team effort by all. Well done to all of the 34 Exminster children who took part and a big thank you to parents who kindly helped us out with transport.

Healthy Snacks

I would like to remind you all that break-time snacks should be fruit or raw vegetables only. Snacks such as crisps, biscuits or muesli/energy bars are not permitted.





Reading Roundabout

Don't forget that the Reading Roundabout for KS2 takes place in the hall at 3.30pm on Wednesday 18th May. Children need to accompany their adults. If you would like any further information please speak to Mrs Badcott.

Community Library

Thank you to all the parents who visited our new Community Library of Friday and borrowed books. Remember the Community Library is open from 3.30-3.45pm every Friday and is located in the corridor outside Mrs Coville's classroom.

Reading Mixup

The week beginning the 16th May to the 22nd May the school will be doing a Reading Mixup. The project is being organised in conjunction with our local Usborne representative, Caroline Shezall, and all the money raised will go towards brand new books for our school. In addition to the sponsorship money, Usborne also will donate up to 60% of the total raised in **EXTRA FREE BOOKS** to the school. **So for every £600 raised we will get an extra £360 in FREE Usborne books!**

Please help us to enhance our reading resources for pupils by encouraging your child to spend a small amount of time each day either reading to themselves, to others, or being read to. They can read anything with words (for example comics, recipes, magazines) for as long or as little as they like.

If you require any more sponsorship forms, please ask at the office.

