



Mrs S.L. Whalley
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Are you interested in becoming a Parent Governor?

School governors have been given many new responsibilities in recent years and they have a significant role to play in overseeing the implementation of the national curriculum. Along with the Headteacher, governors are responsible for the strategic leadership of the school. They decide on key issues that affect the school, including standards and budgets. They also appoint the Headteacher and staff. Parent Governors can play an important part in the overall direction of the school. All parents, guardians and carers of pupils attending the school are eligible to stand for election. We try to ensure that the Governing Body reflects the local community.

The term of office for a Parent Governor is 4 years and we now have a vacancy. If there are more nominations than places available an election will be held. While specialist knowledge or relevant experience is useful, common sense and willingness to give time are key requisites. You do not need qualifications or professional skills to become a Governor. You can contribute as a Governor if you have experience of life and you:

- want to help to improve children's educational attainment;
- want to contribute to the local community;
- want to work as part of a team and can value the contribution made by different people;
- are willing to ask questions;
- are open to ideas and willing to learn;
- have enthusiasm and commitment.

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor please come and speak to me or complete the nomination form attached and return it to the school office no later than Friday 11th November. If an election is necessary all candidates will be contacted on Monday 14th November. Candidates will be asked to provide brief statements (not exceeding 200 words) about themselves, and a passport sized photograph.

Christmas Card Orders

We do apologise for the very poor service we are currently experiencing from Arts Projects for Schools concerning our Christmas cards and we have raised a formal complaint with them. Their website www.apfsorders.co.uk is now asking parents to try placing orders from the 14th October and they have agreed to extend the deadline for orders until midnight on 18th October 2016. Please ensure all artwork is returned to the school office by 3.30pm on Wednesday 19th October. We are very sorry but we cannot accept any artwork after this time.

Family Learning Conferences

Years 5 and 6: Thanks to our families in Years 5 and 6 for trailing the new format to our parents' evening. We have appreciated your feedback so far and look forward to continuing with this on Thursday. To be able to hear the children talk about their learning has been a positive addition and after Thursday, we will evaluate these fully and make any changes to improve the process further.

All year groups: if you have not had the opportunity to book an appointment time with your child's class teacher, please contact them directly.

Census Day

Thank you for your support and take up of school dinners on this day. The 'bell ringer for the week' was won by Oskar in Year 1 and the 'head teacher for the morning' went to Josh in Year 6. We are looking forward to seeing how Josh changes the school!

Shopaholic

Thank you to the ESA for arranging this event and to the staff who kindly modelled the clothing! It was a fun evening with chance to browse the rails of clothing, scarves and bags, view the clothes being modelled and catch up with friends. We have raised £400 so far which will all go towards the traverse climbing wall in the playground that the children voted on last year and we still have our commission from the clothes to go on top of this amount.





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Data Collection Forms

We still have a number of Data Collection Forms outstanding. Please return them to the school office by Monday 17th October. If your child has not brought a Data Collection Form home, please call in at the office and they can provide a duplicate.

Review of Medical Conditions

Again there are a significant number of Medical Conditions forms outstanding. Nil returns are required - we need a return for each child even if there are no medical conditions to report. Please return them to the school office by Monday 17th October. If your child has not brought a Medical Conditions form home, please call in at the office and they can provide a duplicate.

Breakfast Club

Whilst Breakfast Club runs daily from 7.40-8.40am the last time we can actually serve breakfast is 8.25am. We have been finding that if children arrive any later and need to eat they just don't have the time to do it comfortably.

Secondary School Transfer Applications

We have been asked by Devon County Council to remind parents of Year 6 pupils that applications for secondary school places must be made by 31st October. Parents can apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline or can contact MyDevon Customer Service Centre on 0345 155 1019 for a copy of the Step by Step booklet, which contains the application form. If you have any queries regarding this information please email the Admissions Team on: secondaryschooladmissions@devon.gov.uk.

Win a Giant Pumpkin!

The School's Allotment Club is offering all pupils the chance to win their giant pumpkin next week. The giant pumpkin will be on show in the school entrance by the office and competition entries can be bought there each morning Monday to Thursday before the 8.55 bell. Guess the weight of the pumpkin - 20p per guess or 3 guesses for 50p. The winner will be announced on Thursday and will be able to take home the pumpkin (help can be given to take it home if needed).

All proceeds will be used to purchase new supplies for the School Allotment Club. Many pupils learn valuable gardening skills at the School Allotment and all pupils visited it this year to learn about it and sample some of the produce. Good Luck!

Rainbow Day

This term's Rainbow Day will take place on Wednesday 16th November and the theme will be 'Let's make a noise about Bullying'. Children will mix within their key stages and work on age appropriate activities.

Donations towards the cost of the activities would be greatly appreciated and may be given to the class teachers.

Exminster School Association – Second hand uniform

Exminster School Association will shortly be opening a second hand school uniform shop. We are looking for donations of good quality boys and girls uniform.

Please can you bring your items, bagged up, to the main office. The items will then be washed and hung on the new clothes rail which will appear in school after the half term holiday. An honesty box will be placed with the clothes rail with a suggested donation price of 50p per item. We will be happy to receive donations of good quality second hand clothing all year round. Thank you.

Christmas Tree Festival

In recent years Exminster Primary School have displayed a KS1 and KS2 Christmas tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in the Methodist Church. This year we would like to take part again. If you would be able to donate or loan us an artificial tree (6-9ft) we would be most grateful. The festival runs from Friday 2nd to Monday 5th of December. Please contact the school office or Mrs Stapleton if you are able to help. Many thanks.





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Harvest Celebration

On Thursday 20th October we will be coming together to celebrate our Harvest Festival. The children will be looking at Harvest around the World. We would also like to support St Petrock's Homeless Charity in Exeter. Below is a list of much needed items. All donations will be greatly received and passed on to the charity. There will be a collection box outside the main office area.

Many thanks for your continued support.

ExAct Panto – Robin Hood

This year's village panto will take place in the Victory Hall from Wednesday 23rd - Saturday 26th November. Tickets, costing £6 for adults and £4 for children, will be available as follows:

Saturday 5 th November 9am-12	Partridges
Sunday 6 th November 2-4pm	Victory Hall
Wednesday 9 th November 8.40-9am	Exminster Primary School
Saturday 12 th November 10am-12	Partridges
Sunday 13 th November 2-4pm	Victory Hall
Wednesday 16 th November 8.40-9am	Exminster Primary School
Saturday 19 th November 10am-12	Partridges
Sunday 20 th November 2-4pm	Victory Hall

St Petrock's

provides a range of services to support local people who are homeless or vulnerably housed.



In 2015/16, our centre kitchen served **10,000+** cooked breakfasts and lunches to people without a home.

Can you help us continue this vital service by donating any of the following items?

Instant coffee	Kitchen anti-bac spray
Sugar	Handwash
Hot chocolate	Scouring pads
High-fibre cereals (Weetabix etc)	Febreze spray
Porridge oats	Solid air-fresheners
Squash	Large, strong bin liners
Custard powder	Tea towels
Tinned custard / rice pudding	J-cloths
Pepper	Kitchen aprons
Cooking oil	Washing-up liquid
Golden syrup	Toothpaste / toothbrushes
Honey / marmite	Feminine hygiene products
Comed beef / tinned ham	Roll-on deodorant
Tomato ketchup / brown sauce	Biro pens
Plain / self-raising flour	Bio washing powder
'Lazy onions' (tinned)	Tinned fish