

# Exminster

## Community Primary School



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### Exminster School Association meeting

**GET INVOLVED!** - The Exminster School Association (ESA) is here to support our school and give our children the best that we can. The ESA organises events that support fund raising for aspects like the Timber Trail, supporting the Creative Curriculum, new books for the school library and many, many more. As a parent at Exminster Community Primary School, you are automatically part of the ESA. Please do get involved, the more people that get involved, the more we can achieve. It doesn't mean you have to be available to help at every event. It doesn't mean you have to attend every single meeting. It doesn't mean that if you attend a meeting you will come away with loads of jobs to do, but it does mean that you will be helping our school community. Even if you have very little time to offer we would still like your involvement. Every person's contributions, however big or small, will make a difference. Come along to the next AGM and find out how what is going on, how to get involved and meet new people from our school community.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 19 January 2016, 7.30pm, Royal Oak**

### Tuesday afternoon 'snapshot'

If your child is anything like my children they will have done 'nothing at all' at school each and every day. I thought it may be good for families to hear a little more by giving you a snapshot of the afternoon of Tuesday 12 January. It was an incredibly busy afternoon and the motivation and engagement of children was amazing:

#### Reception

They are currently Gruffalo crazy! The unit had many activities set up centred around their core text of the Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson:

- making Gruffalo crumble with cornflakes and glitter, estimating, weighing and labelling;
- fine motor skills activities to get involved with;
- book making;
- exploring forest items with magnifying glasses;
- sequencing and acting out the story in the role play area, building houses out of Lego for the different characters, playing the missing object game and counting and sorting gogos.

#### Year 1

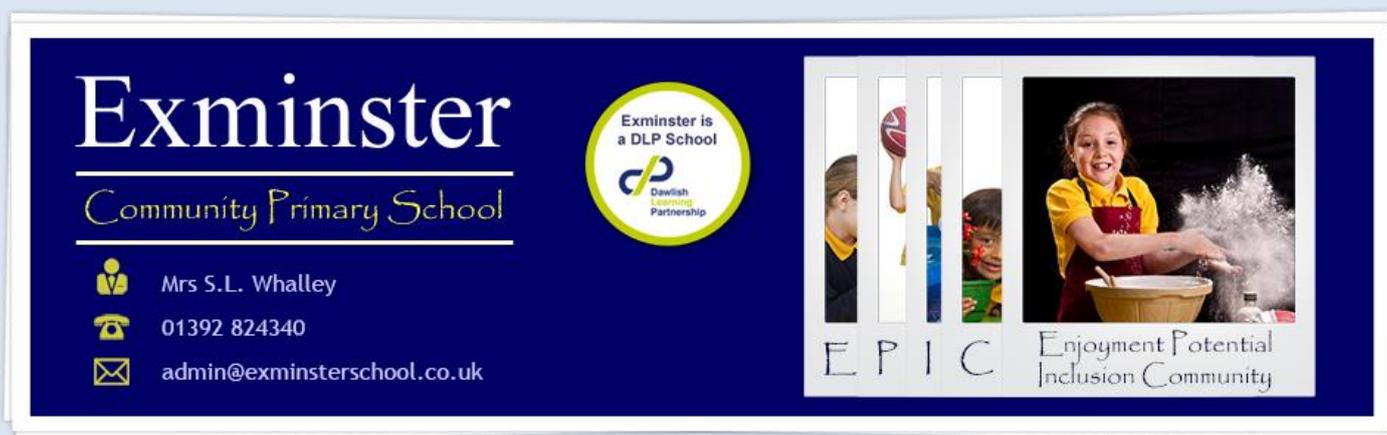
**Tracker time:** It was tracker time in Year 1 and there were a range of activities from across the curriculum for the children to access:

- guided writing linked to the core text 'Tooth and the Roof'.
- phonics games and activities
- world map game, finding different continents, linked to the core text about different traditions with wobbly teeth that fall out from around the world
- identifying halves and quarters and sorting them into 2 groups
- finding out about the Arctic and animals in the igloo

Amelia said "We learn stuff. In our topic we are learning about the fairy and how she takes teeth all over the world." Oliver said, "We're learning about igloos and cold places."

#### Accreditations and Associations





## Year 2

**Indoor PE:** gymnastics inspired by the Chinese New Year Dragon Dance. Dragons and Castles is the Y2 topic and they were looking at the theme and representation of dragons from around the world.

**Computing:** children were involved in an introduction to programming and a unit of work called 'We are Astronauts'. Children were directing one another from one planet to another and then debugging each other's instructions.

## Year 3

**French:** Children were learning and using the French alphabet to spell out words.

**RE:** children were looking at symbols in different cultures and were looking at Rangoli patterns. They looked at where these originated from, their importance to Hindu people and then looked at a range of them. Children started to design their own patterns ready to choose a design and build them out of a range of materials.

## Year 4

**Topic:** Life in the Iron Age. Each group was exploring a different aspect of Iron Age life looking at food, houses, life and jobs. Children were researching using the chrome books and other information they had been provided with. Children were recording their interesting facts and information on a poster then had to share the information they had with new groups, these consisting of at least one person from each research group. Children were then learning from one another and combining their information.

Sophie said, "I enjoy topic work because we get to find out and make posters.

Sam reported, "It's a new challenge for me."

Emily stated, "It's got harder in Year 4 but I like a challenge."

## Year 5

**PE:** for half the afternoon, Year 5 were working with a specialist PE teacher to learn the skills of handball. They started with warm up games, skills practise and then matches. The aim was to develop their skills and be involved in a high level of activity for the entire time, developing their fitness levels, developing team work skills and enjoying the game.

**Topic:** children were looking at the 3 cities that tie in with the artists they are studying. Children needed to use the chrome books to find out as much as they could about these places, looking at human and economic features.

## Year 6

**Topic:** Children were exploring their pupil voice question: What is immigration and why does it occur? Children had to create a time line from 1900-2000 with who came to Britain and why they came. Year 6 are using this information to feed into their 'Big Question' of 'What are our responsibilities for enabling a diverse and equal society?'

Jamie said: "I learnt about what immigration was. Ben and I made a huge timeline. After the war there were a lot of Polish refugees that came to Britain to help do many jobs".



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### Community Board

Thank you to all of you who contributed towards our Community Board 'What Britain means to me...' We had a fantastic range of collages, posters, information, photographs and pictures.

We would now like to ask you for a new contribution. We have recently talked with the children about our 'Rainbow Values'. We would like families – parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends – to produce a representation of these values. This could be a representation of a rainbow or take one arch of the rainbow and produce a representation of this eg:

*Enjoyment* – photographs of family/activities

*Potential* – information about what children want to do in the future, photographs about things they do outside of school

*Inclusion* – celebrating diversity through a representation of our similarities and differences

*Community* – a representation of groups children are part of – local, national, international

These are just examples. I am sure that in the creative community we have, you will come up with many of your own ideas. When completed, please send these in to your child's class teacher or the school office. We would like to put these up by the end of January. For more information on the Rainbow Values, please see last week's newsletter.

### Sporting success

On Friday 8th January, 8 Year 4 and Year 5 children participated in a badminton competition at King Edward VI Community College. The children played 5 games each, using timed round robin matches. Many of the children had little experience of the game beforehand and said that they had learned a lot and really enjoyed playing. The children progressed fantastically throughout the morning and displayed some brilliant shot selections and hard fought rallies. Well done to all of the children who took part!

Rianna: I've had fun and enjoyed it! I tried my best and so did the rest of the team!

Lizzie: I really enjoyed practising the 'keepy-uppys' at the beginning!

Toby: Badminton is really fun and I've got a lot better!

Austin: I didn't know much about badminton before or really like it - but now it's something I really enjoy!

### Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) – Thursday 21 January, 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 21 January 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.

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On the menu will be:

- Cheese & Tomato Pizza **OR**
- Jacket Potato with either:  
Tuna & Sweetcorn or  
Cheese and Baked Beans
- Served with Potato Sticks, Sweetcorn and Carrot Batons
- Apple and Chocolate Crispy Cake **OR**
- Yeo Valley Organic Yogurt **OR**
- Fresh Fruit

So far on Census Days we have not 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 21 January 2016, the more funding our school will get towards providing a catering facility.

### Call for flat-pack builders!

Are you handy with a screwdriver? Do you enjoy building Ikea furniture? If so we have some storage units and boxes which need assembly and we would really appreciate some help! If you think you could help us out, please speak to the ladies in the office.

### **Class Assembly Dates:**

Thursday 21 January	2CS	Thursday 3 March	4M
Thursday 4 February	4W	Friday 4 March	RLM
Tuesday 9 February	3R	Thursday 10 March	3BM
Thursday 11 February	1M	Thursday 17 March	5NS
Tuesday 23 February	RGG	Tuesday 22 March	5V
Thursday 25 February	1S		

All Class Assemblies start at 9am and families are very welcome to attend.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Friday 12 February	Occasional holiday – school closed
Week commencing Monday 15 February	Half-term week
Wednesday 23 March	Last day of Spring Term
Monday 11 April	First day of Summer Term
Monday 2 May	May Day holiday
Week commencing Monday 30 May	Half Term week
Friday 22 July	Last day of Summer Term

All important dates can be found on the school website.

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