

# Exminster

## Community Primary School



Mrs S.L. Whalley



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Issue 8 5.11.15

Welcome back after half term. We would like to welcome Max (Year 5) and Freya (Year 6) who have both started this week.

This Friday, there is a school disco. Foundation stage, Year 1 and Year 2 disco is from 6-6.45pm. The cost is £1.50. We ask that the children come into school through the main school back entrance. Reception class parents are asked to stay with their children to supervise them for the entire disco. Parents of children in Year 1 and 2 can leave their children. All the children will come out of the Reception room doors to the outdoor area to be handed to parents there. KS2 disco will be 7-8pm. Please bring the children in through the main school back door. To pick up your child, you will need to come in through the main back door, find them in the hall and leave through the new white doors in the hall.

### Attendance

We believe that in order for a pupil to fully benefit from their education, good attendance is crucial. As of September 2013, an amendment to the Education Regulations 2006 came in to force and greater clarity was introduced to the issue of schools authorising absence requests. These changes reinforced the Government's view that every minute of the school day is vital and that pupils should only be granted absences by the school in 'exceptional circumstances'.

An Education Welfare Officer can become involved if a child's attendance drops under **90%** (this figure was 85% last year) or if there are repeated unauthorised absences. An attendance sheet will now be sent home on a termly basis to inform you regularly of your child's attendance. Dropping to 90% amounts to missing about half a day a week, or 3 days over the course of a half term. You may receive a letter if your child has dropped to this threshold. There may be genuine reasons/illness/circumstances for this that we are fully aware of but we are notifying all families if your child drops below this threshold to ensure you are fully aware.

We are finding an increasing number of children are arriving at school after registration. This can have a significant impact on your child's learning if this is a frequent occurrence as they continually miss the teaching input to their lesson. It can also impact on how settled they feel. These can be recorded as unauthorised absences. Please ensure that your child arrives in time for the bell at 8.55am so that they can start the day alongside their peers.

This year, we have set an aspirational target of 97% attendance for our school. We fully recognise that increased attendance has a direct correlation to children's learning.

We understand that children may sometimes need to take medical appointments during school time. Where possible, please make appointments outside of school time although we fully recognise that this is not always feasible.

I would like to thank you for your support with the matter of attendance. Last year the overall attendance was 96.4%. It is therefore clear that the school community highly values good attendance.

### Holidays and Avoidable Absences in Term Time

We must take this opportunity to remind you, that should you choose to take your child out of school without the authorisation of the school, then Parental responsibility Measures could be instigated. This could mean receiving any of the following:



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- A Penalty notice
- A summons to the Magistrates Court which could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and/or term of imprisonment for up to 3 months.

Schools are requested to notify the Local Authority if a pupil has a number of unauthorised absences. Unauthorised absences can be acquired when;

1. Leave has been requested, but the circumstances are such that the school is unable to authorise the leave and it is taken anyway.
2. Leave is not requested and/or the school has grounds to believe that the child has been taken out of school for an avoidable reason (example – a family holiday). Only the headteacher can authorise an absence.
3. A child continually arrives late after the registration period has closed.

Should a Penalty Notice be issued as a result of an unauthorised absence then one notice will be issued to each parent/carer for each child involved. Currently, each Penalty Notice is for £120, which is reduced to £60 if paid within the first 21 days. If a Penalty Notice has been issued within the past 2 years then the Local Authority will proceed straight to Court.

We understand the disappointment that the refusal of leave may cause and we apologise, but as you can appreciate the school has a legal requirement and responsibility towards ensuring good attendance.

### Term Dates 2016-2017

Term dates for 2016-2017 are now on the school website. They can be found in the Parentzone section under 'Newsletters'.

### Suitable Outdoor Clothing

As we are now in November and the weather is becoming colder and wetter, please would parents ensure that **all** children come to school every day with a warm coat/raincoat, preferably hooded.

### Children In Need

'Children in Need' is Friday 13th November and we are asking the children to come in dressed as a Superhero or in non-uniform for a small donation to charity. Children in Key Stage 1 are also welcome to bring in a favourite teddy bear for our very own Pudsey Picnic on the Friday afternoon.

Children in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to take part in a sponsored challenge in a bid to raise as much money as possible!

### Request for coloured plastic bags

Reception children are going to be weaving on a circular hoop loom using coloured plastic bags and fabric. If you have any coloured plastic bags that you would be willing to donate, please give them to the Reception class teachers. Many thanks.

### Exminster School Association

The next meeting of Exminster School Association (ESA) will be in the staffroom on Wednesday 11 November at 7.30pm. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

### From St Martin's Church

Come and meet Father Christmas at St. Martin's Church Christmas Fayre on **Saturday 7th November 2015 in the Victory Hall, Exminster - 10 am to 12 mid-day.** Admission is 50p, children free.

There will be coffee/tea and mince pies available, a Christmas Draw and stalls selling Christmas gifts, cakes & produce, crafts, jewellery, books, CD's and DVD's, toys and tombola.

### Accreditations and Associations



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On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November Martin Burrows from SUSTRANS will be coming in to sell bright and reflective equipment for children to wear whilst cycling, scooting or walking to and from school. The idea is to make sure the children are visible near the roads in the coming darker months. The equipment is being sold at a wholesale price. Martin and some members of the PE Learning Team will be at the front of school from 3:30 – 3:45 selling the items. Below is a list of items that will be on sale and a price list.

Item	Price
Light set - Claud Butler 'Enigma 5' - 1 Watt front, 1/2 watt rear	£10
Light set - ETC - Beam front & LED rear set (4124)	£7
Light set - ETC - Ultrabright LED front & rear set	£5
Frog Eye silicon Light set	£5
Skully elastic mini light set	£4
Super bright combination lock (5 colours)	£5
Oxford 12mm Cable lock with key	£5
Oxford 'Shackle' D-Lock	£8
Childrens Hi Viz Yellow tabard - one size	£2
Reflective Slapband	£1

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