



The EPI Centre of Learning

School Improvement Partner: as a Devon Local Authority Maintained school, we have a School Improvement Partner that supports and challenges our school over the course of the year. This year, Mark Walker is our new School Improvement Partner and he made his first visit to our school last week. He made a lovely comment about our children and described the children: 'Their eyes are smiling'. He was impressed by the motivation of learning and how calm and focused the children were in their classes. We are always proud of our children and their attitude toward learning but it is also great to hear what visitors say about our school too.

Parent Governor election: There is a vacancy for a parent governor on our school's governing body and I am writing to invite nominations to fill this vacancy. Please think about becoming a governor, or encouraging others to volunteer. Parent governors are welcomed as valued members of the governor team and play an important role; the governing body works together as a group, meeting 9 times throughout the school year. Together they are responsible for the school's strategic direction, promoting high educational achievement standards and ensuring our resources are used to maximum impact. Life as a governor is interesting and varied and we feel sure there are parents prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us continue to improve the school's performance. Training and support will be available to help you develop in the role. This will include in-house mentoring and support as well as access to external governor training, those new to being a governor are expected to attend induction training. The term of office for parent governors is 4 years. For further information about the role please get in touch with our co-chairs of governors, Liam Hatton or Jamie Hulland via admin@exminsterschool.co.uk or myself who will be happy to help.

If you would like to stand for election please complete and sign the enclosed nomination form and return it to the school office no later than 12 noon on Friday 25 October 2024. If you wish you can include a few details about yourself and why you would like to become a governor (not exceeding 100 words). This will then be circulated to all parents to help them decide who to vote for if an election is required. You do not have to complete this section, but if you don't you may put yourself at a disadvantage if there is an election. An election, by secret ballot, will be held if more nominations are received than the number of vacancies. If an election is needed details of the procedure will be sent to all parents.

Lost property: frustratingly for everyone, we already have a pile of lost property. This is near the school lounge. Please label everything and over time, we hope that items will find their way back to you if they are labelled. If your child has lost an item this term, come and have a look and claim any missing items. We have set up an account with Stikins Name Labels; www.stikins.co.uk If you order a pack of labels from them and use our school code of **6994** we will receive 15% commission. The labels can be used on clothes, shoes, drinks bottles and all other school items. Our code, 6994, needs to be added in the box at the bottom of the order as shown below.

Friday 11 October 2024

Dates for the future:

Thurs 17 Oct – Photographers back in school for 4S and those missed

Mon 21 Oct – Family Learning Conferences in school

Fri 8 Nov – Deadline to order photos- see info

School Fundraising Number (Optional):

Please enter optional school number

Parentkind
APPROVED SUPPLIER

Headteachers: Mrs S Whalley and Mr I Moore

www.exminster-primary.devon.sch.uk

admin@exminsterschool.co.uk

01392 824340



The EPI Centre of Learning

Helping Your Child with Fears and Worries – an approach to support School Attendance, Online Sessions for Parents and Carers: The Devon Educational Psychology Service (EPS) is running online group sessions for parent carers based on the Overcoming Programme, which is effective in reducing anxiety in children and young people. The programme helps parent carers develop anxiety management skills that can be used even after the programme ends. Who Can Join? Parents whose children have low or falling school attendance and whose children are experiencing anxiety related to school. The Overcoming Programme is designed to support parent carers of children between 5-12 years of age, but it can be adapted for older children. The group facilitators work with parent carers where a more personalised approach is needed, for example if the child or young person has SEND. The programme may not be effective for parent carers of children and young people with long term or complex difficulties. Places are limited and we may not be able to offer every parent carer a place. If this is the case, we will provide advice on other support that may be available. We are running an online information session for schools and parents on Monday 21st October at 1.30pm. To request a link to the meeting please email Overcoming-programme@devon.gov.uk Programme Details:

- Duration: Six sessions, each 90 minutes long
- Schedule: Delivered over seven weeks with a one-week break between sessions 4 and 5
- Participants: Parent carers (children do not need to attend). We will include no more than 8 parent carers per group to ensure everyone can contribute and ask questions.

Additional Resources: Parents can purchase the book "Helping Your Child with Fears and Worries (2nd Edition)" by Cathy Creswell & Lucy Willetts (2019) for more information. Session Dates:

- Group 1: Starts Monday, 4th November, 3:45 PM - 5:15 PM, then every Monday
- Group 2: Starts Friday, 8th November, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM, then every Friday
- Group 3: Starts Weds, 8th January, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM, then every Wednesday
- Group 4: Starts Friday, 10th January, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM, then every Friday

How to Join? To request a place, parents need to complete an online form which can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/e/U5JuVdY6R3> For more details or questions, contact Dr Daniel Nicholls, Senior Educational Psychologist, at 01392 382 354 or Overcoming-programme@devon.gov.uk

On Cloud Nine project: Working with our school Mental Health Champions (2 children from each class from Year 2 to 6) in the last academic year, we discussed the need for children to be able to access a space to chill out and relax, if they needed, in a calmer and more peaceful environment. From there, the 'On Cloud Nine' project began. Many of you will have noticed a new fenced-off area between the Reception classrooms and the Nature School area. This is the start of transforming a space for exactly this purpose. This year the new Mental Health Champions discussed what they would like to see in this area and how this can be achieved. The children want this area to be a retreat where they can rest and relax through activities such as gardening, mindfulness colouring, arts and crafts, board games, yoga and reading. We plan to also train up the children in supporting each other with their mental health and have dedicated staff to lead the area during the break and lunchtimes.

As we all know, nothing is free and therefore your support and that of the wider community is going to be needed in order for us all to achieve this goal together. We will announce opportunities where we would like your support and

Headteachers: Mrs S Whalley and Mr I Moore



The EPI Centre of Learning

help as we progress through the year but to start this off, we have created an Amazon Wishlist of things the children have identified to begin this project. If you are able to support us with purchasing any of the items on the list, it would be greatly appreciated and please do share this list with friends and family. <https://amzn.eu/2ZzlO9x>.

We would also like you to consider if any of the companies/businesses you work for or use would be interested in contributing towards this project with either time, money or resources and put us in touch with the relevant people. Alongside the Amazon Wishlist, we are looking to build/buy small wooden hideaways for the children to cosy up in when the weather is wet or shade from the sun in and board fencing to go around the flower beds and then plants to fill these. We are also looking for turf to finish the grass section at the top of the area. If you would like any more information or to discuss with us how you could support us, please do get in contact via the admin email address admin@exminsterschool.co.uk.

Menu swap: When we come back to school after half term there will be a different menu due to not having deliveries during the week.

Tuesday 5th Nov

Cheese and Ham Wholemeal Pizza
Cheese and Tomato Wholemeal Pizza (v)
Jacket Potato with Cheese
Jacket Potato with Tuna
Sweetcorn / Garden Peas
Seasonal Fruit Crumble with Custard (optional)

Wednesday 6th Nov

Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes
Vegetable Stir Fry (v)
Jacket Potato with Cheese
Jacket Potato with Beans
Green Beans / Carrots
Cheese and Biscuits

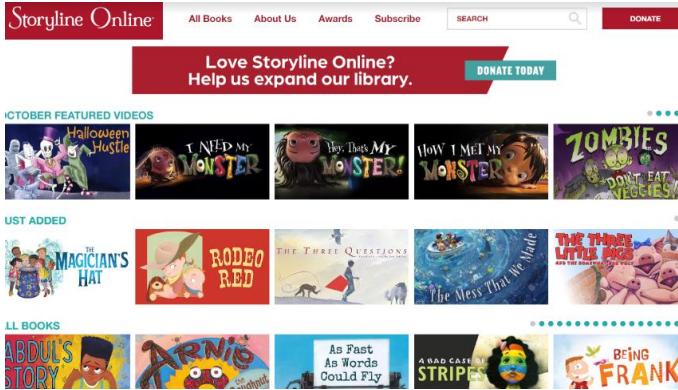
School Photos: The photographers will be back in school next Thursday, 17 October, to take 4S's photos and any children who missed their visit last month. Sample photos and details of how to order will be sent home the following week and orders will need to be made no later than Fri 8 Nov.

Eco team: The Eco team are asking families to get involved in a beach clean this October. This suggestion was made by Bethany in Y5 (who is part of the Eco team). There are many organised beach cleans or you could do your own one safely. If you do get involved, please send us a photo and we will promote this to encourage others to get involved too. Every little helps!

Pre-loved uniform: please do come and have a rummage in our pre-loved uniform. You are welcome to pop into the main office and they will guide you to where this is. Not only would it save money, but it is helping the environment too. There is a pot for donations or you can donate online through the 'School Fund' payment item.

Headteachers: Mrs S Whalley and Mr I Moore

Storyline Online



This website provides free videos of stories being read aloud - some are read by celebrities and some are read by authors but all are fabulous stories! Check it out and enjoying watching and listening to some new, fantastic stories.

[Storyline Online - Home](#)

Road safety: please be aware that Exminster Garage forecourt is private property. The garage is very concerned about the safety of families and children who are walking across the forecourt. There was a near miss at the beginning of term where a child, who was below the height of the car, was not seen by the mechanic who was moving a large car and (unknown to the child) was very nearly hit. Please avoid using the forecourt in the safety interests of all. We understand that crossing the road twice could be viewed as more of a risk but the garage are concerned about the safety of families if they are using this as a route to school.

Community Library: We have a selection of books that are available for families to borrow. They cover a range of subjects and can be found in our Community Library. We will be regularly sharing some of the titles in our school newsletter. To access these books, please come to the main school office and you will be directed to the community library cupboard. Please remember to sign the books out so that we can find them if needed.

Any questions, please contact Mrs Fuller.



When: **Thursday 17th October**

Where: **School hall**

Time: **6:15pm- 7:30pm**



How can we support
our children when
online?



Top tips, support and
an opportunity to ask
an expert questions.



Sunday 13 October

3:30pm to 5:30pm



Dear Messy Church families

Come and join us for **cottage pie, carrots, mushrooms, peas, ice cream and chocolate sauce**. There is no charge but donations are very welcome to help us cover the cost of the food. **Please let us know of any allergies.**



Would you like to be a king? At Messy Church we will be discovering how a boy called David, whose job it was to look after the sheep and protect them from wild animals like lions and bears, was chosen to be a future king.

We are going to be creative making sheep, bears or lions, trees streams and rocks. **Come and have fun and join us this Sunday.**



Please come along we would love to see you. We ask for all young people to be accompanied by an adult please.

Time: 3:30 to 5:30pm

Place: The Methodist Church, Main Street, Exminster. EX6 8BT (Near the Post Office)

For more information and to let us know you would like to come please email ab@lovelygarden.plus.com

Headteachers: Mrs S Whalley and Mr I Moore