



The EPICentre of Learning

Welcome back to all our families, we hope you have had a safe summer break. Welcome to our new Reception children and families – the children have settled into the school routines very quickly and we are amazed they have only been in school for one week. Welcome also to the families that have joined us in other year groups too.

Welcome to new staff at our school this year:

- Miss Katie Crane (Learning Support Assistant),
- Miss Sienna Pepperell (Learning Support Assistant),
- Mrs Maria Alford (trainee working in 1AM),
- Miss Jasmine Freemantle (trainee working in 5JN),
- Miss Eloise Newtown (trainee working in 6A),
- Miss Jess Seviour (4Se class teacher),
- Mrs Ellis Thompson (2T class teacher).

Tempest photography: The photographers will be coming into school on Thursday, 21 September, to take the children's photographs. We are aware that 4Se will be away on Residential so Tempest will be coming back on 29 September to take their photos. Any sibling shots involving children from 4Se will also be done on that day. Children who have PE on a Wednesday should come to school in their PE bottoms with their school polo shirt and jumper/cardigan on 21st. While we will endeavour to ensure every child looks their best we cannot take responsibility for hair styling. We are unable to offer photographs of preschool age sibling family groups.

PE Days: On their designated PE day, children are required to come to school in their PE kit which they will remain in for the school day:

RGP : Tues/Thurs

RMP : Mon/Wed

1AM: Mon/Fri

1BM: Tue/Fri

Year 2: Tues/Thu

Year 3: Tue/Wed

Year 4: Tue/Fri

Year 5: Mon/Wed

Year 6: Mon/Thu

Early Epic Breakfast Club and Epic Eve After School Club: Booking for next half term (Oct to Dec) will go live on School Gateway at 3pm on Monday 18 September. Please can we remind those families paying by vouchers to send a screenshot of your voucher payment so we can find and allocate the credit to your account.

Dogs: Unfortunately we're unable to have dogs walking on leads on the school site. We understand that some young puppies can't be left at the gates and as such they may be carried through the playground but must not be put down at any time. We ask that owners to be very mindful of children and adults who may be wary of dogs.

Tuesday 12 Sept 2023

Dates for the future:

Thurs 21 Sept – School Photos

Thurs 12 Oct – Family Learning Conference – info to follow

Mon 16 Oct - Family Learning Conference – info to follow

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RAAC: You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated. We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal. We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the [DfE on the Education Hub](#).

Don't forget to apply for Pupil Premium funding (also known as Free School Meals, FSM): All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically get universal free school meals. However, if you receive certain benefits, you are encouraged to apply for free school meals when you enrol at school, as this can help our school to attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support your child's learning. If you are eligible for Pupil Premium funding, it will also give you access to food voucher codes at all supermarkets, £15 per week per child over holiday periods, and completely free childcare during holiday periods. Please use this link: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals/> this is the quickest and easiest way and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

Grants/volunteer days: a huge thank you to Savannah's mum and the company she works for, Arcadias, for awarding us with a grant. We applied for and were awarded £200 for buying planters and herbs so that we can grow our own produce for use within our cooking. If your company offers grants to charities/schools or donate time with volunteer days, please let us know and how to apply for them (email admin@exminsterschool.co.uk, subject FAO Mrs Whalley Grants)

Pre-loved uniform: we have lots of pre-loved school uniform in a great condition, over-flowing for aged 5-6 and 7-8 years. If you would like an extra jumper, summer dress, shorts, skirts, pinafores, trousers, please come and have a look at what we have available. We just ask for a small donation if you can. We would love to see this uniform put to good use. Come and have a rummage and see what you can pick up – save some pennies and help to look after the planet by using pre-loved rather than buying new!

Exminster School Association (ESA): as a parent, you are automatically a part of our parent/teacher association. This is a group that meet half termly and form the trustees of our school-based charity to fund raise for our school. The aim of our ESA is to encourage good relations between staff, parents and others associated with the school, to support the school and to advance the education of the pupils in it. The objectives of the ESA are; to organise fund-raising activities, to involve as many people as possible and to make the activities fun! We need your support. Our first meeting of the year will be in the Royal Oak on Tuesday 19 September at 7.30pm. Please come and see what it is all about, bring a friend or pop along on your own.

Attendance: This is an important update about school attendance for the 2023/24 academic year. Our school is working in partnership with parents and the Local Authority to improve school attendance. A big thank you to the majority of parents who make sure their children attend school regularly! Your efforts, working in partnership with the school, will ensure that your child will have the best chance to achieve their academic potential and have real opportunity in further education and the world of work. It will also enable your child to:

- access the lessons needed to achieve

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- maintain friendships and develop new ones
- have access to events and visits offered by school
- develop work habits such as good punctuality which are essential to thrive in the world of employment – their start with school attendance at primary school sets a real precedent for how they progress into secondary and education beyond.

How does your child compare?

Attendance during one school year	Equals this number of days absent	Which is approximately this many weeks absent	Which means approximately this many lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons

If you are worried about your child/children's attendance the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with us directly. We have staff who may be able to help, and all schools work closely with Early Help, health and the local authority teams who may also be able to help if needed. We are committed to supporting you so it is important you contact us as soon as you have concerns.

Love reading: This is a great website if you are looking for book recommendations for presents or your child or another child, it includes approximate age ranges, types of books, book reviews and author information https://clicks.lovereadng.co.uk/v/clY/qxAR40_6ZbwsWKXH9ueqiy/861c66da



October Half Term @ Exminster

Great news - our October holiday camp at Exminster School is live and you can receive a huge 30% discount!

Simply visit www.premier-education.com to book!

For queries, contact dcrysell@premier-education.com

See you soon!

Headteacher: Mrs S Whalley