



The EPI Centre of Learning

Reception: the children have settled exceptionally well, they are learning the routines of the school day, they are playing together and alongside one another exceptionally well and they have enjoyed meeting their Rainbow buddies in Y6. We are enjoying getting to know them both as individuals and as a cohort.

Community Library: Our school has a Community Library, which was started by funding from Councillor Alan Connett. Over the last few years it has been built up further and we now have a great collection of books on topics that parents have asked for support with including sleep, anxiety, bereavement, divorce and lots more. The books available for parents to borrow on a Wednesday morning each week from 8:50am until the school gate close around 9:10am. They will be on display in the lounge area next to the office. Feel free to come in and have a browse or borrow one if you think it may be useful. There is a book to sign books out and back in.

Curriculum letters: these letters outline the learning for this half term. The Reception cohort will receive their weekly letter detailing what children will be learning for the week. Please do take some time looking at these:

Year 1: <https://www.exminster-primary.devon.sch.uk/curriculum/year-one/y1cletters>

Year 2: <https://www.exminster-primary.devon.sch.uk/curriculum/year-two/y2cletters>

Year 3: <https://www.exminster-primary.devon.sch.uk/curriculum/year-three/y3cletters>

Year 4: <https://www.exminster-primary.devon.sch.uk/curriculum/year-four/y4cletters>

Year 5: <https://www.exminster-primary.devon.sch.uk/curriculum/year-five/y5cletters>

Year 6: <https://www.exminster-primary.devon.sch.uk/curriculum/year-six/y6cletters>

Christmas Cards: Soon your child will bring home a piece of Christmas artwork and an order form. If you would like your child's artwork to be turned into Christmas cards, gift wrap, a small cushion, printed on a mug or coaster please complete the order form and make the appropriate payment via the Payment item on School Gateway. Return the order form with your child's artwork to school ASAP but no later than Monday 30th September. All orders and payments will need to be made by Monday 30th September. We will not be able to take late orders so please ensure a quick turn-around. You should receive your child's artwork by Monday 23rd September. We anticipate that products will be with us and ready to use/enjoy by the 7th November. If you would prefer your child to make a seasonal card, or you do not wish for your child to take part in this activity, please let your child's class teacher know.

Flu vaccines: The Flu vaccination team are due to visit school next Thursday, 19 September 2024. The vaccination is a nasal spray. You have been sent a parent information letter with further details by email. **If you would like the team**

Friday 13 September 2024

Dates for the future:

Mon 16 Sept –midday-deadline to consent to the Flu vaccine

Thurs 19 Sept – Flu vaccine in school

Sun 22 Sept- Closing date for Exminster Greenspaces photo comp

Thurs 26 Sept – School photographs

Mon 30 Sept - Bookings open on School Gateway for Autumn 2 Epic clubs

–Deadline to return Christmas card order forms and make payment on Gateway

Thurs 17 Oct - 6.15pm online safety parent workshop

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to vaccinate your child you must complete their online consent form by midday next Monday, 16 Sept. If you don't submit a form your child cannot be vaccinated. In order to access the online consent form, please enter or click on the following link: <https://www.kernowimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

PLEASE ENSURE YOU ENTER THE FULL UNIQUE SCHOOL REFERENCE CODE. Our school code is: **DV113201**

If you experience any problems accessing the form, please telephone 01392 342678 and the team will be happy to help.

Parenting Course: We have the opportunity for parents to take part in a programme called 'Timid to Tiger' led by two practitioners from Action for Children and our very own Mrs Parker. It will be completed over ten weeks, taking place on Thursday afternoons, 13:15-15:15. It will begin on Thursday 3rd October.

This programme will help you manage your child's worries and help them become more confident. Many parents tell us that they can be torn between pushing their child to face their fears but wanting to protect them when they're frightened and worried. It can be hard to know the best thing to do.

This programme is designed to help parents understand anxiety and to give them strategies for building their child's confidence. As a loving parent, you are in a great position to help them learn to deal with their worries.

Timid to Tiger is an entirely parenting-based approach to managing anxiety in children aged 4-9yrs. It is based on evidence that anxious children benefit substantially from a parenting style that is clear, calm and consistent. The group aims to explore the role of anxiety within a family and how it develops.

The 10 weeks will include the following topics:

1. Introduction to the program
2. Securing the parent-child bond through play
3. Understanding your child's anxiety
4. Using praise to build children's confidence
5. Using rewards to help get your children motivated
6. Setting limits on anxious children's behaviour
7. Using withdrawal of attention to manage children's behaviour
8. Managing worry
9. Managing really difficult behaviour, including time out to calm down and consequences.
10. Review and celebration

If this would support your family, please let us know you are interested. Unfortunately, there are limited spaces so not everyone who has put forward their interest will be able to attend in the first instance however, other support or a later running of the programme may be offered.

Parking: parking in Exe View has been a recent issue with a parent blocking a resident's driveway preventing them entering or exiting their driveway. Please do respect our neighbours with your journey and parking around school and ensure the safety of our children and families.

SAFS team: in school we have a student and Family Support team, see the table below. Hannah Parker is our Family Support Coordinator who can support families with bumps in the road; she also supports families through the Early Help process which encompasses housing, finance, safety, education and wellbeing. Claire Norman is our school Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator and supports children and families with referrals, those who

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need 'additional to and different from', making reasonable adjustments to be able to support individual children and supporting families with the Early Help process. As a full team, we meet every other week to look at how we are meeting needs that arise.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Photo |  |  |  |  |
| Name | Mrs Hannah Parker Family Support Coordinator | Mrs Claire Norman Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SEND) | Mr Ian Moore, Co-head and deputy | Mrs Sarah Whalley, Co-head |
| Working days | Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri | Tues, Wed, Thurs | Mon-Fri | Wed-Fri |

Attendance: This is an important update about school attendance for the 2024/25 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
- 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.

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Secondary school admission applications for September 2025 are now open! If your child has just started Year 6 you can apply now for their place at secondary school for September 2025. For most schools in Devon, there is an [admissions priority for children if they live in the school's designated area](#). You can also [explore other schools](#) to find which is the best fit for your child's needs and interests. Don't forget to check with the schools you are interested in to see if they are holding open days/evenings/tours. It's also important to be aware of the [school transport policy](#) so that you understand who will be responsible for getting your child to and from school before applying for or accepting a place. Once you've chosen a school(s), [use our online application form](#) to express your preference(s). You can name up to three different schools and these are equally ranked preferences, which means you can apply for the schools you most want without affecting your chances of a place at other schools. If you cannot apply online, please contact the Education helpline on [0345 155 1019](tel:0345 155 1019) and ask for a paper copy of the form to be sent to you. Applications must be made before the national closing date of **Thursday 31 October 2024**. If you apply after this date, the application will be considered late and may be at a disadvantage. The date that all allocations of school places are announced in England is known as 'Offer Day'. For September 2025 secondary school starters this will be on Monday 3 March 2025. [Visit Devon schools' website](#) for more information about applying for a secondary school place, including a [step-by-step guide](#).

Photos: The photographers will be coming into school on Thursday, 26 September, to take the children's photographs. We are aware that one of the Yr4 classes will be away on Residential so the team will be coming back at a later date, TBC, to take their photos. Any sibling photos involving children on residential will also be done on that day. Children who have PE on a Thursday should come to school in their PE bottoms with their school polo shirt and jumper/cardigan on 26th. 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.

Early Epic and Epic Eve: Bookings for next half term, Autumn 2, Nov-Dec 2024 will open on School Gateway at 3pm on Monday 30th Sept. A reminder that voucher payers must submit a screenshot of their voucher payment on the day they book sessions so we can allocate the credits.



Thank you to everyone who is supporting us for free on easy fundraising. Your continued support means the world to us! If you've not signed up yet, please join today and you can raise free donations for Exminster Community Primary School every time you shop online. Over 8,000 retailers like eBay, Argos, Marks and Spencer, John Lewis & Partners, Etsy, Tesco and Just Eat will donate at no extra cost to you. Plus, when you sign up today we could win a £100 donation! Sign up here or download the app from your app store:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/exminsterprimary/2XPXKA/c2s/FZ9Up2Ac/CE947/facebook/>

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