



The EPICentre of Learning

Rockstars and Numbots day: To launch **Maths Week England 2023**, children came to school yesterday in an array of robot (**Numbots**) and rockstar (**Times Table Rock Stars**). They had a fun filled day starting and ending with whole Key Stage assemblies. Maths, Maths and more Maths fun happened throughout the day, including 'Stop! Drop! Rock / Robot' where the children needed to stop everything and 'Rock/Robot' to solve either times tables or number fact questions. The lunchtime TTRS and Numbot clubs were full to the brim, too! A big **thank you** to our community at school for their enthusiasm and for our community at home for supporting children with their costumes. Keep on rockin' or numbottin' at home too - **little and often practise is the key to success!**

Children in Need: Don't forget we're supporting Children in Need this Friday, 17 Nov. Children can come to school in non-uniform in exchange for a donation to the charity. There is a Payment Item on School Gateway for donations.

Rainbow Day: Monday next week, 20th November: Our Rainbow days are days when the normal curriculum is collapsed for the day and we focus on one theme across the school, linked to our Rainbow Values. We hold one Rainbow day per term. On this term's Rainbow day we are celebrating and exploring cultural diversity across our school and our community. In their year groups, the children will be exploring cultures from around the world, with a focus on the diversity taking part in a range of activities linking to different cultures. This will be a non-uniform day; children are invited to wear their home clothes for the day. As a parent/carer, if your country of origin is beyond the UK, we would love to hear from you! We welcome all cultures and experiences and would be grateful for anyone who would like to share aspects of their culture with a class/year group. Please contact your child's class teacher to register an interest.

School disco: Please see the attached poster about the school disco. Entry is £3, there is a payment item on School Gateway. Tattoos/glow sticks/face gems will be on sale on the night.

- Reception Disco: 3.30pm - 4.10pm (children will go straight from their classrooms)
- Year 1 / 2 Disco: 4.25pm - 5.10pm
- Year 3 / 4 Disco: 5.25pm - 6.10pm
- Year 5 / 6 Disco: 6.25 - 7.15pm

Please note: All children, including years 5 and 6, will need to be collected by a responsible adult from the designated pick up zones on the school site. Pick up locations will be confirmed nearer the time.

Tuesday 14 Nov 2023

This week;

Fri 17 Nov – Children in Need-non uniform in exchange for a donation

Yr5 Reading Meeting

Dates for the future:

Mon 20 Nov – Rainbow Day-non uniform

Fri 24 Nov –School Disco

Wed 29 Nov – Yr1 Aesthetics festival – Shoe box appeal collection deadline

Thurs 30 Nov – Flu vaccine in school –see separate email

Fri 1 Dec – non uniform in exchange for a raffle hamper donation

Tues 5 Dec - Reception Nativity and raffle

Wed 6 Dec - Year 1 Christmas sing-song and crafting with raffle 9.30-10.45am

Wed 6 and Thurs 7 Dec – School Christmas Lunches

Tues 12 Dec - Yr2 Christmas 2.15pm Performance and raffle

Wed 13 Dec 6.15pm - Carols in the Yard and raffle

Fri 15 Dec – Teacher for a day

Headteacher: Mrs S Whalley

Shoe box appeal: This year we will be taking part in the annual Christmas shoebox collection for Moldova and Ukraine run by the members of Dawlish Water Rotary Club. The children are always truly thrilled to receive a Christmas shoebox; generally boxes should be wrapped and properly secured with string or ribbon. The shoeboxes can be for an individual boy or girl while a larger one could be for a family. Please label the boxes - boy, girl or family - with appropriate age ranges where feasible. We know times are difficult and so children are welcome to club together to donate joint boxes. We do hope you will be able to take part. Attached is a list of useful items for a shoebox. Please bring the boxes into school on Monday 27th Nov.

Teacher for the Day returns: On Friday 15 December, your child could have the chance to be a 'teacher for the day' in their own class. This is a fundraising opportunity, raising money to directly support the children through the Exminster School Association (ESA) support of the creative curriculum. Parents can pay 1 pound per go (you can have as many goes as you choose, deadline for this is 12pm Wednesday 13 December) for their child via School Gateway. Each payment needs to go through your child's account – these payments will then be selected at random – one 'teacher' chosen for each class. The children who are selected at random will be announced on the afternoon of Wednesday 13 December. On Friday 15 December they will then be the child 'teacher for the day' in their class and support the class teacher.

Is my child too ill for school: the NHS has produced guidance for parents to support them in deciding if they are able to attend school or not: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> It is really important that if your child is unable to come to school, you notify us with the reason why they are unable to be in school. Out of school hours, there is an answer machine facility.

Author visit to Y6:

Our Year 6 children enjoyed a visit from a local children's author on Monday! Alistair Gilbert is an author and university lecturer, working in Exeter. He read his book, *Miss McBraid* to the children. The children had lots of fantastic questions for him, asking him about the process of writing drafts, editing and thinking about structure and rhyming verses as part of their poetry sequence this term. Alistair's book is available on Amazon via this link: *Miss McBraid* <https://amzn.eu/d/eLIWjps>

Miss McBraid

In *Miss McBraid*, Mayor Bland orders the Ones to paint Oneville white. The titular heroine then helps restore colour by teaching a lesson about the importance of individuality and diversity.

The author, A. I. Gilbert, is a lecturer at the University of Exeter and trains his students to be therapists for children and adolescents.

From seeing common difficulties amongst children, he hopes his books can teach valuable lessons and morals to help develop useful ways of thinking which may ultimately help fight against low mood and anxiety.

If you're interested, please see the below QR code, or search 'Miss McBraid' on Amazon. Please note, if you do the latter, you may be required to override the auto-suggestion.

Happy reading!



Christmas Dates 2023:



1st December –non uniform day in exchange for donations for our raffle. We are planning to hold several raffles over December at various Christmas events. We are looking for the usual donations of chocolates, wine, bubble bath etc. to make into hampers. As well as these lovely hampers we would also be very grateful for things we could use as standalone prizes such as vouchers or larger items, do you work for a company that would be happy to provide a voucher or item for our raffle? The money raised from the raffle ticket sales will go towards visits, books, art materials and chrome books.

We will also need some volunteers to help put the hampers together and to sell tickets at each of the events. If you're able to help with any of this please complete the Google form below. We are so grateful to our families for being so generous with their time and donations. <https://forms.gle/khBoeF1cAx978cGm6>

Tues 5 Dec Reception Nativity and raffle – **Tickets are on sale on School Gateway now at £2 each**, 4 tickets are available per child. Doors will open at 2.30pm for a 2.45pm start. Reception will be using the ticket sales to buy construction toys for inside and outside use. We will also be looking to purchase pirate toys, knights and dragons and Polar animals to use for our small world. These items will hugely support our Early Years Curriculum.

Wed 6 Dec Year 1 Christmas sing-song and crafting with raffle 9.30-10.45am- We would love to invite you to our festive fun session! The session will be in place of a show as we feel like the children can have more involvement with you and enjoy singing and crafting! No tickets to buy but we would like parents to let us know if they're coming by completing the below Google form <https://forms.gle/gh1E4sQ8gsL9qxJfA> If you would like to make a Christmas donation to Yr1 to go towards additional resources a School Gateway Payments item will be set up.

Wed 6 and Thurs 7 Dec – School Christmas Lunches. Rec and Key Stage 1 lunches will be on the Wednesday and KS2 on the Thursday. All children should have made a menu choice via the Google form links sent previously.

Tues 12 Dec Yr2 Christmas Performance and raffle - **Tickets are now on sale via School Gateway at £2 each**, 3 tickets are available per child. Doors open 2:15pm for a 2.30 performance. All money raised will go directly to the Yr2 classes to buy wet play activities including dolls, small super hero characters and puzzles.

Carols in the Yard and raffle –Wed 13 Dec 6.15pm – come and join us on the school playground to enjoy some carols. Years 3-6 will be learning some carols to perform for you. Please arrive for a 6.15pm start – everyone is welcome, bring your singing voices with you. Parents/carers will be responsible for their own children at this event.