



# The EPI Centre of Learning

**Planned strike action by NEU union:** As you are aware, the NEU has planned strike action for its members on four dates, the first of which is tomorrow, Wednesday 1 February. The NEU is the largest of the teaching unions. The Government have significantly changed laws around strike action, the rules are complex. The only reason that strike action can be taken is pay of members. As is the case for other professions currently taking strike action, the issues are not only around pay. It is true that teachers received a pay rise in September – this increase was announced mid-financial year and had to be paid for from the in-year existing budget, schools did not receive any additional money to cover the increase. Like many other sectors, the Education sector has suffered from real-terms budgets dropping over the past ten years or so. The impact of this is seen across all schools as there are fewer services and resources; fewer staff and external advisors available to work in schools. This is not an 'Exminster' issue, it's a national one. We all very firmly believe in education, every member of staff is dedicated to providing the very best and fully rounded education for your child.

Whilst we can politely ask, teachers are not legally required to inform us of their intention to strike and they are legally allowed to change their minds. If they are striking, teachers do not provide learning and other teachers have a right to refuse to plan for a striking teacher. There are rules about who can and cannot do certain jobs in event of a strike. Above all else, there must be a full assessment across all aspects of Health, Safety and Safeguarding. This includes things like staff to pupil ratios in the event of an emergency, whether there are enough staff to ensure they get their break and lunch times and so on.

We aim to inform families about any school closure or partial closure before each NEU strike date. Please do remember that this is subject to change up to and including on the day. Please also remember that our staff may be impacted by other school closures and by illness on the day which may result in further unexpected changes/closures. **On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February, with the information we currently have, we are expecting to remain open. Any other updates to this information will be shared via School Gateway.** We do understand that the strike action will cause distress. We will assess our school action on each separate strike date.

**School Photos** - Photographers will be coming into school on Tuesday 28 February and Wednesday 1 March, to take the children's photographs. Children who have PE on a Tuesday or Wednesday should come to school in their PE bottoms with their school polo shirt and jumper/cardigan. 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.

## Tuesday 31 January 2023

### The week ahead:

**Fri 3 Feb** – 5A maths workshop 9am

**Fri 3 Feb** - Bubbles and Bingo tickets available now on School Gateway

### Dates for the future:

**Fri 10 Feb** – Yr4 Cake Stall- 5JN & 5D maths workshop 9am

### **HALF TERM 13-17 Feb**

**Fri 24 Feb** – Yr3 Cake Stall – Yr4 maths workshop 9am

**Tues 28 Feb** – School Photos

**Wed 1 Mar** – School Photos

**Thurs 2 Mar** – World Book Day

**Fri 3 Mar** – Yr1 Cake Stall - Yr3 maths workshop 9am

**Fri 10 Mar** – Yr2 Cake Stall – Yr2 maths workshop 9am

**Fri 17 Mar** – Yr1 maths workshop 9am -Movie night after school

**Fri 24 Mar** – Rec Cake Stall – Rec maths workshop 9am

**Fri 31 Mar** – Yr6 Cake Stall

**Fri 28 Apr** – Bags4Schools collection

**Headteacher: Mrs S Whalley**



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**Online Safety-** Please see the attached

**Bubbles and Bingo-** Tickets are selling fast on School Gateway for the Bubbles & Bingo event taking place this Friday 3 February!

Each ticket costs £7.50 and includes 2 games of bingo and a drink on arrival (Prosecco, Gin and soft drinks available). The bar will be open to buy more drinks, crisps and snacks throughout the evening. Bingo dabbers and extra bingo sheets will also be available to purchase. Bubbles & Bingo was a sell-out event in 2019 and 2020 so don't miss out!

**Maths workshops:** this week it was our first maths workshop for Y6. The sessions are held in the school hall and start with a parent only talk, followed by the children joining for some maths games. Thank you to our Y6 parent cohort for attending if you were able to, it is great to have the hall full of parents again. One of the main questions from parents was around understanding how various aspects of maths are taught as methods can be very different to how you were taught in school. The following link is really useful in breaking these areas down and explaining the different methods: <https://whiterosemaths.com/maths-with-michael#watch> Our website also has lots of information regarding how maths is taught across the school: <https://www.exminster-primary.devon.sch.uk/curriculum/subjects/maths/how-we-teach-number-and-calculation> There are other areas of maths you may find useful under the 'Curriculum' tab, then 'Subjects' and select 'Maths'.

**Maths Fluency Workshops:** Reminder – 5A Maths fluency workshop, Friday 3 Feb, 9am, school hall.

**Action for happiness calendar for Friendly February 2023:** <https://actionforhappiness.org/friendly-february#download-block-anchor>. Wednesday 1 February action – *send a message to someone to let them know you are thinking of them.*

**Amazon book wish lists:** THANK YOU very much for the books that have started arriving in school. We are really appreciative of your generosity and classes have loved receiving these. Please do put a message on them when you purchase them – we then know who has sent them in.

Reception: <https://amzn.eu/eo72A1e>

Year One: <https://amzn.eu/0O00vr8>

Year Two: <https://amzn.eu/4uTXAFm>

Year Three: <https://amzn.eu/0cA8TqZ>

Year Four: <https://amzn.eu/0quxWWV>

Year Five: <https://amzn.eu/dYRSK89>

Year Six: <https://amzn.eu/2LiJ0jU>

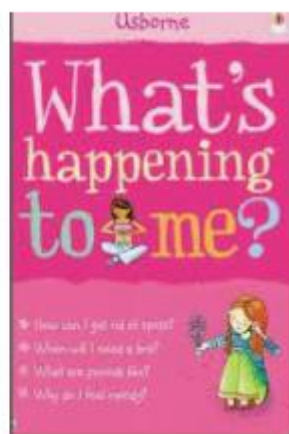
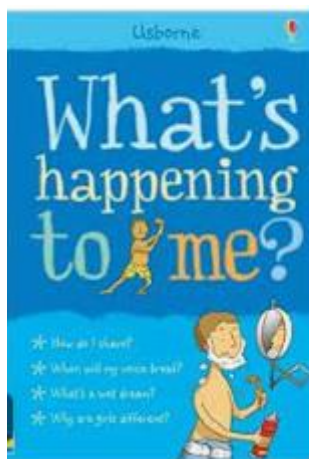
**Mental Health Ambassadors** - Our Year 5 and 6 Mental Health Ambassadors (MHA) have been exploring ways of making Exminster Community Primary School a 'Mentally Healthy' place to be. After going on a learning walk around school, the MHA identified that they want children to be able to ask for help if they feel worried or upset. To support this, they held KS1 and KS2 assemblies this week to remind children that they can always talk to their 'named special adult' if they have worries to share. The MHA reminded children about the difference between Red Spot problems (a

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difficulty you need an adult to help you solve) and Green Spot problems (a difficulty you could solve yourself). Finally, the MHA will be putting some uplifting posters in the school toilets to promote positive mental health.

**Community Library Books** - A message from Mrs Fuller: Have you borrowed a book from our community library in the last year? Is it still lurking on your bookshelf? Some of our books have not made it back to our Community Library cupboard - we would be really grateful if you could have a look and see if you still have them. There should be a label on the back stating that they are a Community Library book.

We are particularly looking for our books about puberty:



**Townfield and Hillcrest-** A polite reminder that Hillcrest and Townfield are residential areas with no parking for parents and carers on the school run. Please be considerate and mindful of our neighbours and their property whilst bringing your children to and from school.

**Year 1 Cake stall change of date** – The Year 1 cake stall will now be on Friday 3 March so it won't clash with the ESA Movie Night after school on Friday 17 March

**Early Epic and Epic Eve** –A reminder that due to the increase in energy prices, staffing costs and consumables we are going to be raising our prices by 25p per session at both Early Epic and Epic Eve. The price increase will come into effect when paying for sessions from Monday 6 March onwards. Our new pricing structure will allow us to continue to provide the excellent level of care that your children currently receive.

### New Session Cost from Monday 6 March

Early Epic = £4.00 per session

Epic Eve child 1 until 6pm = £9.00 per session

Epic Eve additional child/ren until 6pm = £7.25 per session

Epic Eve child 1 until 5pm = £7.50 per session

Epic Eve additional child/ren until 5pm = £6.75 per session

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. We are more than happy to help in any way we can.

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**Information for parents – Nits-** Unfortunately we are currently experiencing an outbreak of nits in the school. This can happen regularly as head lice are very common amongst primary school children. They can easily be transferred by head to head contact. Prevention is the key and we therefore recommend that all long hair is tied back and you check your child's head on a weekly basis. Regular application of lots of conditioner and combing through thoroughly using a nit comb before rinsing out is also recommended for the ongoing management of nits alongside the use of chemical treatment when nits are found. We appreciate your support by regularly checking your child.

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