

## Welcome back to the Summer term!

**Plea:** Ranger Pike is developing our onsite garden area. She would love any donations of top soil, compost and garden canes. We are hoping to have a small veggie patch for each year group which the children will help to plant out and tend to.

**After school sports clubs:** There are still a few spaces in the after-school sports clubs. Please see the attached letter for details of all the clubs we offer in school and how to book each one. All clubs start next week.

**Future dates:** Sports Mornings

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: Friday 6th June - 9:30-11:30

Year 3,4,5 & 6: Friday 27th June- 9:30-11:30

More information to follow

**ESA meeting.** Wed 30th April 7pm at The Stowey Arms. We will be discussing plans for the summer fayre -new volunteers welcome -if you cannot attend but want to help or have ideas, please e-mail [esa@exminsterschool.co.uk](mailto:esa@exminsterschool.co.uk).

**Mental Health Update:** This week, I have included some useful strategies if you are worried about your child's mental health from <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/>.

Ways to support a child or young person



### Be there to listen

Regularly ask your child how they're doing, to help them get used to talking about their feelings, and know there's always someone there to listen. You can get tips on [Young Minds: How to talk to your child about mental health](#).



### Support them through difficulties

Pay attention to how your child is feeling or behaving and try to help them work through difficulties. It may not be easy facing challenging behaviour, but try to help them understand what they're feeling and why. Learn more from [the Maudsley Charity on difficult behaviour](#).



### Stay involved in their life

Show interest in their life and what's important to them. It not only helps them value who they are but also makes it easier for you to spot problems and support them.

## Friday 25 April 2025

### Future dates:

**Wed 30 Apr:** ESA meeting 7pm at The Stowey Arms

**Mon 5 May:** Bank Holiday -school closed

**26-30 May - HALF TERM**

**Fri 6 June:** Rec, Y1 & Y2 sports morning 9:30-11:30

**Fri 27 June:** Y3, 4, 5 & 6 sports morning 9:30-11:30



## Encourage their interests

Support and encourage your child to explore their interests. Being active or creative, learning new things and being a part of a team helps connect us and boost our mental wellbeing.



## Take what they say seriously

Listening to and valuing what they say makes them feel valued. Consider how to help them work through their emotions in constructive ways. [Anna Freud Centre's guide on ways to support children and young people](#) has more on this.



## Build positive routines

Try to have structure around regular routines, especially around healthy eating and exercise. A good night's sleep is also important, so have a fixed time for going to bed and getting up. The [Sleep Charity has relaxation sleep tips for children](#).

**Mental Health workshops:** Would you like to find out about supporting your child's positive mental health and well-being? This workshop will give you the opportunity to explore how we support this in school and how you can support your child at home. We offering every year group the opportunity to attend a workshop in the hall and then the children will join us to engage in some mindfulness activities.

Class	Date
Year 6	21.5.25
Year 5	4.6.25
Year 4	11.6.25
Year 3	18.6.25
Year 2	25.6.25
Year 1	2.7.25
Reception	16.7.25

Weather permitting, we intend to spend time in our Nature School and Cloud 9 area. If you would like to attend, please complete this Google form and select the appropriate workshop for your child's year group.

<https://forms.gle/HSkYWBEdNJKiw3YLA>

**Cake stall fundraiser:** Thank you to Cora and Lily in Y3 who organised a cake stall. They wanted to raise money as part of working towards a Brownie badge and wanted to raise money for the school. They planned, baked and organised the stall and made an amazing £141.75. We would like to thank Cora and Lily for their motivation and enthusiasm to do this and an amazing amount they made through their hard work.

**Thank you:** to Harry (Rec), his Dad Tom Rapps and granddad Pete for putting up the posts and canopy in the nature area over the Easter holidays. Also thank you to 'Bake and Ivy' for donating the lovely pink shed in the new vegetable garden.

**Year 6 Civic Award:** As part of their Year 6 Civic Award, Talia, Indie, Violet, Eve, Millie and Florence will be taking part in a swimathon to raise money for something very important- their school library.

On Saturday May 17th, the six of them will collectively swim over 12 kilometres, which means that together they will need to complete 667 lengths of their local pool. They're determined to succeed in their challenge!

The girls have set themselves a target of raising £1000 for their school library. The funds will be put towards replenishing some of the existing books and expanding the library with exciting new resources for all of the school community to enjoy. They love to read and recognise the huge benefit that this money will have on so many; the raised money will bring happiness and education to all in the school.

We hope that you will support them in this special challenge. Every donation makes a big difference. Thank you so much! <https://gofund.me/06f02cfd>



**Quiz masters:** A team of Year 6 students took part in the Rotary Club Quiz before Easter, in competition with other schools. There were 3 rounds with 150 questions in total:

Round 1 - Things we learn in school - 39/50

Round 2 - Things we learn out of school - 46/50

Round 3 - It's a wonderful world - 43/50

The children worked incredibly as a team and wowed the adults with their general knowledge. The quiz masters, who were members of the rotary club, commented on what an asset to our school they were. Overall, Team Exminster placed 3rd - well done quizzers!

**A Night of Animated Magic at Barnfield Theatre!** On the last Tuesday of term our Year 5 children and the Year 6 dance club took to the stage of the Barnfield Theatre, delivering an unforgettable performance! The afternoon and evening were a celebration of dance and creativity, with our children bringing animated films to life through their dances. The atmosphere in the theatre was great and thanks to our parents who came to enjoy the performances which were built up over the Spring term. Our children, embodying the school's Rainbow Values, demonstrated great engagement and motivation, showcasing their potential on a professional stage. The enjoyment radiating from their faces was clear to see. The dances, inspired by popular animated films, were a testament to their dedication and the guidance of Premier Education's Daisy and our own Mr Pinnick over the last 10 weeks. The event, a "Showdown" organised by Premier Education, provided an opportunity for our children to experience the thrill of performing in a real theatre setting, essentially bringing a taste of the West End to our school community. Premier Education themselves were particularly impressed by the phenomenal participation from our school, noting how rare it is to see such high levels of involvement. This speaks volumes about our school's strong sense of community, ensuring as many children as possible had the chance to shine. We are incredibly proud of each and every child who took part and represented our school with such pride and enthusiasm. They truly did us proud! We'd also like to thank the staff team that made this possible, supporting the children in the lead-up to the event and on the day itself.



# The EPICentre of Learning

**Useful parental tool:** <https://forworkingparents.com/> there is a useful website that has been developed for adults navigating their children through the online world. This includes a regularly updated emoji guide that you can receive. For ease, a pdf version is attached but please do use the website to see the most up to date versions of this.

**Rainbow Day: A Vibrant Celebration of Learning!** What a fantastic "Rainbow Day" we had, filled with enriching experiences across all year groups! The children embarked on a journey of discovery, exploring diverse cultures, developing essential life skills, and broadening their understanding of the world around them. Here's a glimpse into the exciting activities each year group enjoyed:

## **Year 6: Mastering Money Matters**

Our Year 6 pupils delved into the practical world of finance, engaging in thoughtful discussions about income and expenditure. They gained valuable insights into credit and debit cards and explored typical family outgoings such as rent/mortgage, car expenses, food, and bills. A key focus was understanding the crucial difference between wants and needs, equipping them with essential money management skills for the future.

In the afternoon, **Year 5 and 6** enjoyed an opportunity to find out more about different cultures. The children enjoyed presenting their learning in various ways and found out lots of interesting information about their chosen country. They explored questions such as: What are some traditional games played by children in the country? How do families celebrate important holidays? What types of music and dance are popular in the country? What are some traditional clothes worn by people in the country, and why do they wear them? As well as this, they also enjoyed some French activities with Mrs Gibson and cultural games with Mr P.

## **Year 5: different cultures**

In Year 5 today, we looked at stereotyping in the workplace, what it means, and how we think about the types of people who work in certain jobs. Sometimes we all thought the same so we had to challenge this. Our next task involved research into cultural aspects of life in India, Zimbabwe, Romania and Sweden. The children put together their own presentations focusing on costumes, food, dance, games and family celebrations. Our Rainbow Values were at the forefront of our day.

## **Year 4: Expedition Planning and Budgeting**

Year 4 kicked off their day by tackling the concepts of wants and needs and the importance of budgeting. Applying this knowledge, they planned what they would pack for a hypothetical expedition. They then turned their attention to everyday food items, estimating and researching their costs. The children also considered aspirational purchases, calculating how long it would take to save for them and discussing ways to earn money, including pocket money. The concepts of debit and credit cards were introduced, leading to some surprised reactions at the cost of certain items and a wealth of new vocabulary learned!

The afternoon saw a wonderful celebration of Cornish, Irish, and Scottish cultures, prepared by Mrs. C, Mrs. Badcott, and Mr. Scott, respectively. Pupils explored key aspects such as language, cultural traditions, common phrases, and iconic landmarks, gaining a deeper appreciation for the diverse heritage within our Year 4 team.

## **Year 3: A Tapestry of Languages and Skills**

**Headteachers: Mrs S Whalley and Mr I Moore**



# The EPICentre of Learning

In the morning, Year 3 embarked on a linguistic adventure, learning greetings and basic phrases in a variety of languages spoken within our local community, including Spanish, French, Korean, Portuguese, Zulu, Afrikaans, Greek, Russian, Dutch, and Polish. They creatively made flag bunting adorned with multilingual greetings for their classrooms, proudly teaching each other their newly acquired words.

The afternoon focused on skills and interests, as children identified their own skills and then explored the diverse range of jobs that require these talents. This activity helped them connect their personal strengths with potential future career paths.

## **Years 1 and 2: Cultural Connections with Our Community**

Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a truly special morning with visits from parents who generously shared insights into their home countries and mother languages. They participated in four engaging sessions, exploring the vibrant cultures of Lithuania, India, and Ukraine. The children were captivated by the unique flavours of each culture, fostering a greater understanding and appreciation for the heritage of their classmates.

Highlights included learning key Lithuanian phrases like "Good morning" and "Thank you" from Rosie's mum, discovering the absence of 'q', 'w', and 'x' in their alphabet! Enrique's dad amazed them with the fact that 22 languages are spoken in India and that it is 14 times the size of the UK! Magizhini's mum shared insightful "Kurals" (good thought quotes) from Tamil in India, such as "To turn away a guest is poorest poverty" and "Anger kills both laughter and joy," and the children even tried repeating some Tamil words. Sasha's mum showcased stunning photographs of Ukraine through its seasons, highlighting the stark contrast between its snowy winters and hot summers.

Year 1 continued their learning in the afternoon by exploring what they knew about money. They compared coins and talked about what they might buy if they had all of the money in the world. They then listened to the book: Beautiful Oops, talking about how making a mistake can become a positive thing. They got creative with ripped paper and ink splodges - designing dinosaurs, umbrellas, sharks and monsters among other things.

Year 2 continued their learning in the afternoon by exploring simple budgets. They were given the costs of various household items and, working in pairs, had to prioritize their spending with a hypothetical weekend budget of £20, leading to some interesting discussions about needs versus wants – even sparking a debate about the necessity of a shower!

**Reception:** Exploring New Horizons Reception: Cai's mum came in to speak to each class about the Netherlands. She shared photographs about Holland and traditions. She showed some traditional clothing and taught the children how to count from 1 to 5. The children made tulip puppets as a popular flower from this country. She taught them about the landscape and the flag and traditional foods. They enjoyed listening to a story in Dutch. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about this.

Children enjoyed sharing new books to the unit that were based on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. The children explored these books and are able to take them home to share at home too.

Rainbow Day was a resounding success, providing our children with valuable learning experiences that extended beyond the traditional curriculum. We are incredibly grateful to our parent volunteers who generously shared their time and culture, making the day truly memorable and enriching for our students. Thank you for your continued support!

**Headteachers: Mrs S Whalley and Mr I Moore**