



“Mighty oaks from little acorns grow”

Our children join us as “little acorns” and through the teaching and modelling of our vision, values and aims by all members of our school community, our children leave us as “mighty oaks”, equipped with the transferable skills to continue their journey of life-long learning.

Message from the Head

Welcome back to the new school year! It may not have been the sunny summer we were all hoping for, but September’s warm weather has kindly enabled us to continue where we left off in July using all the available spaces on our site at breaktime and lunchtime. I have included a couple of photos, in the **fortnight in photos** section below, of our sports leaders who have done a magnificent job helping to settle everyone back into school life!

Thanks to everyone who attended yesterday’s Meet the Teacher event. A reminder that your child’s curriculum information overview for the term was e-mailed out earlier this week and that following a consultation and review process last year, we have decided to no longer send out termly Enrichment Home Learning sheets. Instead, we will be sharing our new approach to homework during next month’s parents’ evening sessions. The dates of these and others for the term are outlined in the section below. Please note these will be constantly updated.

It’s not just our approach to homework that’s changing! Firstly, classes will no longer have names attached to them, they will be referenced only by year group number. Secondly, we have launched our new school values which were planned and chosen by all our stakeholders. More information will be shared in the months ahead about these.



- 1) A huge thank you to our incredible PTFA who have helped fund new artwork around the school – look out for our values tree in the reception foyer (image on left hand side).
- 2) Some of our children working together to spell out the first letters of each of our new values:
Curiosity, Respect, Equality, Ambition, Tenacity, Empathy (Kindness)

RAAC Update

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in education settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. 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.

The DfE has been helping education settings and responsible bodies (such as local authorities and multi-academy trusts) to identify and manage the potential risks of RAAC since 2018. You can find more in the Education Hub article published by DfE.

We appreciate the concern this may raise, and we will always prioritise the safety of your children and our staff.

We do not have any confirmed RAAC in our buildings and have not been asked to close any areas. However, we want to take care and to be sure, and are currently working with the DfE to actively check whether RAAC has been used in the construction of any part of our buildings. If RAAC is identified, we will let you know straight away.

The change in guidance is precautionary in nature, and only affects education premises where the presence of RAAC has been confirmed. DfE is offering us access to surveyors who are helping us do these checks quickly.

If we need to put them in place, contingency plans will prioritise the continuation of education and ensure that, if RAAC is identified, any impact on students is kept to an absolute minimum. Rest assured that the safety of students and staff is of paramount importance to all concerned.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sports Updates



The weather was glorious for our trip on Wednesday 13th September to the Somerset Cricket Ground to watch Western Storm versus Central Sparks in a Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy match. A great time was had by all, and we even got signatures from some of the players!

A huge thank you to Hannah, Kim and Zoe for supporting us in making this trip happen.

Celebrations

Please see details below of the new certificates that we will be awarding each week to celebrate successes in school.



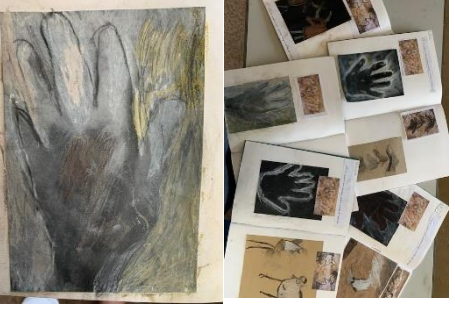



- Our **Values Champion** certificate will be used to acknowledge the efforts of those children who have represented the school values through their actions.
- Our **Learning Champion** certificate will be used to recognise those children who have demonstrated passion and pride in their work, delivering a moment or moments of brilliance in a subject that have captured their teacher's and their peers' attention.

| Values Champion | | | Learning Champion | |
|-----------------|-----------|--|-------------------|--------|
| Reception | Jacob | | Reception | Uliana |
| Year 1 | Toby | | Year 1 | Kaiden |
| Year 2 | Chester | | Year 2 | Theo W |
| Year 3 | Arlo | | Year 3 | Sophie |
| Year 4 | Charlie M | | Year 4 | Joey |
| Year 5 | Teddy | | Year 5 | Henry |
| Year 6 | Jasper | | Year 6 | Coby |

In assembly time, we have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!

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|--------|----------|--|
| Year 1 | Teddy | For obtaining Swim England Stage 1 badge. |
| Year 2 | Natalie | For swimming 1 mile (rainbow distance) and 2000 metres. |
| Year 3 | Harriet | For obtaining Swim England Stage 2 badge. |
| Year 3 | Phoebe D | For obtaining her Swim Time 25m distance award. |
| Year 3 | Phoebe G | For winning a 'Word Challenge' during her holiday. |
| Year 3 | William | For winning a quad bike and a karting race. |
| Year 4 | Isabella | For swimming 2500 metres and completing the Summer Reading Challenge. |
| Year 4 | Lara | For a winning entry in the Hen Harrier Day Poetry competition, completing the Summer Reading Challenge, completing her 50 books Book Quest and achieving her Chief Scout's Bronze Award. |
| Year 5 | Vaughn | For completing the Summer Reading Challenge. |

Our fortnight in photos

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Reception Class</p>  <p>In Reception, we have been exploring our new classroom and enjoying time with our new friends. We even became artists too, creating self portraits!</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Year 1</p>  <p>In English, we have enjoyed describing animals from our focus text 'Cave Baby'.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Year 2</p>  <p>In computing, we found out about the term information technology and identified examples around us.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Year 3</p>  <p>Year 3 have been exploring Cave Art in their art lesson this week. Children have used pastels, chalk, charcoal and a variety of papers to achieve these incredible outcomes in their sketchbooks.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Year 4</p>  <p>In PE, we have been exploring what qualities are needed to create an effective team.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Year 5</p>  <p>In tag-rugby, we have been learning how to use good footwork to evade a tackler.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Year 6</p>  <p>Year 6 have been enjoying their new book corner and the responsibilities of being the oldest in the school.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sports Leaders</p>  <p>Welcoming our new reception children.</p>  <p>Musical statues!</p> | |

Diary Dates

Please regularly check and review the Diary Dates section of the newsletter; we will be updating with details of further trips, events and activities as and when they are confirmed.

| Term | Commences | Finishes |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Autumn | 6 th September 2023 | 15 th December 2023 |
| Spring | 2 nd January 2024 | 28 th March 2024 |
| Summer | 15 th April 2024 | 23 rd July 2024 |

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| w/c 2 nd October | Y6 Residential |
| 12 th October | Y1 Trip to Tiverton Museum |
| 18 th October | Parents' Evening: 4.30-6.30pm - depending on class size |
| 19 th October | Parents' Evening: 3.50-5.50pm - depending on class size |
| 20 th October | Non-Pupil Day (school closed) |
| 23 rd – 27 th October | Half Term Week |
| Date TBC (2 nd November proposed) | PTFA Disco |
| 12 th November | Remembrance Wreath Laying in Bradninch |
| 17 th November | Children In Need – theme TBC |
| w/c 20 th November | Bikeability (Year 6) |
| w/c 27 th November | Bikeability (Year 6) |
| 22 nd November | Foundation Admissions Tours – 1.30pm |
| 23 rd November | Foundation Admissions Tours – 9.15am |
| w/c 27 th November | Book Fayre in school |
| 5 th December | Reception /KS1 Nativity (2.30pm) |
| 6 th December | Reception /KS1 Nativity (3.45pm) |
| 7 th December | Key Stage 2 Christingle rehearsal |
| 8 th December | Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Craft Morning-Parents (10.45-11.45am) |
| 11 th December | Key Stage 2 Christingle at St Disen's Church (2pm) |
| 12 th December | Key Stage 2 Pantomime trip to Northcott Theatre – <i>communication to follow</i> |
| 14 th December | School Christmas Lunch |
| 15 th December | Last day of term |
| 2 nd January | Spring Term starts |
| 2 nd January | Non-Pupil Day (school closed) |
| 4 th January | Reception & Key Stage 1 Pantomime travelling production (2pm) - <i>communication to follow</i> |
| 31 st January | Y5 Trip to O2 Arena (Young Voices) - <i>communication to follow</i> |



Our Sports Leaders have been hard at work helping Mr Roberts and Mr Edwards with the try outs for the upcoming Key Stage Two Killerton Cross Country event on Tuesday 3rd October. We were extremely proud of the tenacity and ambition demonstrated by all those children who completed the laps of the school site.

In the Community

Children and Families of Bradninch! Please get involved in Bradninch Town Fair 2023 on Saturday 16th September!

The Fair is a day for celebrating our town and its people, and that includes you! We hope you'll come and join in the fun on the day, but how about getting involved in some of these **free** Fair events, too?



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If you enjoy baking, growing or making, please enter the fun **Produce Show!** Categories include homegrown fruit & veg, misshapen fruit/veg, a cake with a fruity ingredient, a cheesy bake, homemade jam or chutney and some sort of flower display: could be fresh flowers, a picture or even Lego! Open to all ages - why not practise during the summer hols? No registration: bring your produce on the day!.....

How about entering the **Scarecrow Competition** with your family or friends? Build a Scarecrow out of recycled materials, then display it over Fair weekend for everyone to see! Please register in advance: <https://bit.ly/bradninch-scarecrows>



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If you like running or walking, why not sign up for the Bradninch Bolt Fun Run and Walk? Please register in advance if possible; children must be accompanied by an adult.
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For full info on these events and more, see:
<https://bradninchtogether.org.uk/town-fair>

