



“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 school and a very Happy New Year! After an action-packed end to 2023, the children and all our team are enjoying being back in a normal school routine.

Please look at page 3 for a snapshot of what the children have been up to over the last fortnight. For further details of what they will be covering over the weeks and months ahead, please look at the curriculum overview sheets that were sent out earlier today.

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
Spring	2 nd January 2024	28 th March 2024
Summer	15 th April 2024	23 rd July 2024

W/c 15 th January	Spring term clubs begin
31 st January	Y5 Trip to O2 Arena (Young Voices)
8 th February	Y4 Trip to Paignton Zoo
12th – 16th February	Half-term
24 th February	PTFA Quiz (communication to follow)
28 th February	Parents’ Evening: 3.50-6.30pm (communication to follow)
29 th February	Parents’ Evening: 3.50-6.30pm (communication to follow)
7 th March	World Book Day
15 th March	Parent event linked to British Science Week (14:45 to 15:25)
15 th March	Red Nose Day
20 th March	Y4 Dance Event at The Barnfield Theatre (communication to follow)
28 th March	Last Day of term

The Duchy School PTFA

Over the next fortnight, please keep an eye out for paper-based communication sent home with your child(ren) related to two approaching fundraising efforts for the school:

- Quiz (held at the school)
- Rainbow Hamper Raffle

Celebrations

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

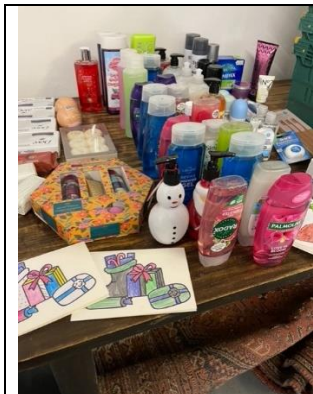
- Our **Values Champion** certificate will be used to acknowledge the efforts of those children who have represented the school values through their actions.
- Our **Learning Champion** certificate will be used to recognise those children who have demonstrated passion and pride in their work, delivering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

Values Champion			Learning Champion	
	12.01.24			12.01.24
Reception	Reuben		Reception	Sylvie
Year 1	Benjamin		Year 1	Elsie-Mei
Year 2	Alfie		Year 2	Sutton
Year 3	Georgia		Year 3	Albert
Year 4	Theo		Year 4	Anabelle
Year 5	Elias		Year 5	Dexter
Year 6	Olivia		Year 6	Emilia

Our fortnight in photos

<p style="text-align: center;">Reception Class</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 1</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 2</p> 
<p>In art, we have been learning how to use watercolours and how to mix them to make the colours we want.</p>	<p>In maths, we have been using practical resources to develop our understanding of the number 20.</p>	<p>In art, we were inspired by the work of architect Freiendensriech Hundertwasser and created our own patterned clay sculptures.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Year 3</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 4</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 5</p> 
<p>In our gymnastics session in PE, we have been looking at 'symmetry' and 'excellence' in our positioning.</p>	<p>In science, we have been examining how the digestive system works. As part of our learning, we spent time creating models.</p>	<p>In languages, we have been revisiting the sounds each letter of the French alphabet makes.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Year 6</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Reception and Key Stage 1 Theatrical Production</p> 	
<p>In our music lessons, we have begun to learn the C Clarinet. This week we worked on getting a sound from the mouthpiece.</p>	<p>Our younger children were treated to a fun, colourful and dynamic pantomime production of Aladdin last week.</p>	

School Council update



Message from Mary Richards founder of Catch 77 (a Community Interest Company, set up in 2020 - during the early part of the first Covid-19 lockdown - to help support children and families who were facing food shortages).

'This Christmas, Catch77 food boxes were supplemented with very kind and generous donations of toiletries given by children and families at the Duchy School. All the research into the cost-of-living crisis tells us that families are sacrificing the basics to try to stay out of debt and Catch77 worked with the School Council to work out the most helpful items a family might need to help them feel safe and clean at Christmas. Donations ranged from lovely toiletry sets to toothbrushes floss and shower gel. We offered families two deliveries of fresh, chilled and frozen food to help to alleviate some of the food costs over the festive period. We are looking forward to working closely with the Duchy School again in the future. Thank you, parents, and to the school council once again!'

In the Community

Duchy Preschool, Bradninch

Filled with creativity & adventure!



We offer before and after school clubs for
children attending the Duchy School

- Breakfast Club: from 7.45am - includes a light breakfast
- After school club: 3.30pm - 5pm - includes a light tea
- Late session - 5pm - 6pm

For more information, please contact us:

duchypreschool@gmail.com 01392 881975



Was your child born between
1st September 2019 and
31st August 2020?

How to Apply for a Primary School Place in Devon

You can apply online at
www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline
from 15th November 2023 to the 15th January 2024

If you cannot access the school
admissions website you can get
more information by calling our
Education Helpline on

0345 155 1019

or email: admissions@devon.gov.uk



Even if you have already given
details to a primary school, you
must apply for a place through the
Admissions Team. This is the only
way to apply; other forms or lists
held by schools will not count.