



“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

World Book Day

We are very excited to be celebrating our love of reading by taking part in World Book Day 2024; a letter was sent home last week with more information. This year, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. For anyone interested in taking part in the yoghurt pot challenge, full details are outlined towards the end of this newsletter!

British Science Week

A reminder that our next parent event, linked to British Science Week, will take place during the afternoon of Friday 15th March; we look forward to welcoming many of you into school then! This year’s theme ‘Time’ offers us a huge range of topics to delve into over the course of the week. If you would be interested in sharing your own experience of time (for example through involvement in a STEM career) please e-mail the office (duchy@ventrus.org.uk) before Friday 8th March.

Update from the Governors

The school's governors, or Local Governing Body (LGB), are a group of volunteers from the school and local community who support the Headteacher throughout the year. Governors meet four times a year and visit school at least once each term. The total time commitment is around 25 hours per year. We currently have several vacancies and would like to invite anyone from the community who might like to consider becoming a governor to sit in our Spring Term meeting to learn more about how we operate and what is involved. For more information, please contact Molly Southwood, Chair of Governors, at molly.southwood@ventrus.org.uk.

Update from the Office

Late arrivals

If your child is late (the gate closes at 8.50am) they must be brought in via the school office. We now have a new electronic sign in system whereby all children who are late must be signed in by their parent/carer in the school office – the child will need to be accompanied to the office to do this.

Celebrations

Please see details below of the 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		
	23.02.24	01.03.24			23.02.24	01.03.24
Reception	Uliana	Jack S		Reception	George	Ollie
Year 1	Ava	Evie		Year 1	Albert	Toby
Year 2	Olly	Marcus		Year 2	James Hay	Lilly-Mai
Year 3	Katy	Rohan		Year 3	Tom	Eddie
Year 4	Xander	Barnaby		Year 4	Rose	Harvey
Year 5	Zac	Tyler		Year 5	Oliver	Sami
Year 6	Anabelle	Archie		Year 6	Thomas	Piran

We have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!

Year 2	Natalie	For obtaining Angelfish 2, Angelfish 3 and 2,500m badge in swimming.
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Our fortnight in photos

<p>Reception Class</p>	<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Year 2</p>
		
<p>In maths, we have been learning about height. We built towers taller, shorter and the same height as ourselves.</p>	<p>In English this week, a dog, food and toys appeared in our classroom to introduce our new text 'Pig the Pug'.</p>	<p>In English, we have been enjoying sharing and reading our new 'favourite four' texts for this half term</p>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>Year 4</p>	<p>Year 5</p>
		
<p>In maths, we have been exploring length - using different units of measure.</p>	<p>In English, we used freeze frames to explore a character's feelings.</p>	<p>In English, we developed our speaking and listening skills by making our own version of the game 'Articulate'.</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>Premier Education Enrichment Days</p>	
		
<p>In Year 6, we have finished reading our class book 'Skellig' and have begun reading 'Windrush Child' by Benjamin Zephaniah.</p>	<p>On Friday 23rd February and Friday 1st March, pupils from years 1 to 6 had the opportunity for some sports enrichment from Premier Education. The sports coach focused on developing pupils' ball skills through a range of fun activities. Despite the cold and rain at times, plenty of enjoyment was had by all.</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
Spring	2 nd January 2024	28 th March 2024
Summer	15 th April 2024	23 rd July 2024

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 - Non uniform day
20 th March	Y4 Dance Showdown at The Barnfield Theatre
21 st March	Reception Class visit to St Disen's Church
28 th March	Last Day of term
29th March – 12th April	Easter Break
17 th April	Y5 trip to Coldharbour Mill
17 th April – 10 th July	Y4 Swimming every Wednesday
25 th April	Y3 trip to Rosemoor Gardens
6 th May	May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)
13 th - 16 th May	Y6 SATs week
22 nd May	Y2 Trip to Jacob's Ladder, Sidmouth (communication to follow)
24 th May	The Duchy Mile
27th May – 31st May	Half Term
3 rd July	Y2 Trip to Exeter Cathedral (communication to follow)

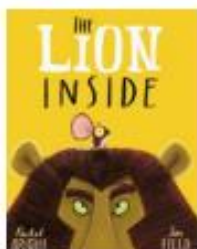
World Book Day

Thursday 7th March 2024

The Yoghurt Pot Challenge!

At The Duchy School, we love to read and will be celebrating books in lots of different ways for this year's World Book Day. You might like to celebrate by taking part in this year's creative challenge . . .

Take **one empty yoghurt pot** and use any craft materials you might have to make it look like a character from a book. Your pot should stay whole, but paint, pen, glitter, tissue, cardboard, paper, and other materials, can be added to the outside. If we can help with any materials, we will; please ask your class teacher.



A winning entry will be chosen from each class and a prize awarded.

Please bring your yogurt pot character into school on Thursday 7th March, clearly labelled with your name, class, and the name of your character.

In the Community

St Disen's Church Bradninch
All Age Worship
Church for Everybody
Sundays 10.30 am

Dates coming up: March 3rd

March 10th Mothers Day

March 25th Palm Sunday (start at 10.15 am
outside Guildhall with Donkey)

March 31st Easter Sunday 2024

FUN FRESH THOUGHT PROVOKING
FOR ALL AGES AND STAGES
PRAYER WORSHIP

Devon Children's Centre's Transitioning into Family Hubs

As you may be aware we are due to start a transition from Children's Centres into Family Hubs, across Devon from April 2024. Devon County Council have launched a questionnaire and published a press release (available in the links below) encouraging and inviting all families, professionals, and community groups to help shape what the new Family Hub support network will look like in Devon. We would really appreciate if you can take the time to complete this questionnaire, to have an input into shaping our developing service into a Family Hub.

Family Hubs publication- www.devon.gov.uk/news/families-invited-to-help-shape-future-support-services/

Questionnaire- www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/family-hubs-engagement/?fbclid=IwAR16y7jaDEgwFQeDvrmtn8pZDsAe8b9Y90FQYyEa74LaaPQ6TI4HFUR597I

There are questions for parents, professionals, and community services so this really does effect everybody, not just in Mid Devon but the whole county. **The questionnaire is open until the 23rd March.**

More information about Children's Centres transitioning into Family Hubs can be found here- [Devon family hubs - Devon Safeguarding Children Partnership \(devonscp.org.uk\)](http://Devon family hubs - Devon Safeguarding Children Partnership (devonscp.org.uk))