



“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

Over the past fortnight, we have been exploring one of our school values (equality) in depth. At The Duchy School, we believe that diversity is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit us. We strive to develop a culture of inclusion in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and ability to participate fully in school life. This week, we elected our new school council representatives (a formal group of pupils who act as representatives of their classmates). A democratic voting process was employed with the candidates securing the most votes (regardless of any discriminating factors, such as gender) elected as representatives. I am looking forward to hearing what ideas they have in helping me to make decisions about how the school is run and which projects we could take on to further support learning and development. A reminder to 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. We have several exciting new enrichment activities for the children already booked in for this year, including **skateboarding and scootering workshops, trampolining workshops, a circus skills day and outdoor learning activities**. It was our school councillors from last year who helped us in selecting these!

Message from the PTFA

The PTFA would like to thank everyone for their contributions to the second-hand uniform swap. We believe we have enough to meet the needs at the moment, so we are asking that no more donations are made until we ask again. Our ambition is to put the rails out every two weeks and have a selection of the stock out per age group, it won't be everything so if you can't see something you need, please ask one of the members and we can check in the stock we have available. There is new uniform in stock, but sizes are limited. The intention will be to stop buying more stock once this is gone. If you'd like to know what we have available, please email duchyuniform@gmail.com It is also possible to order direct from Thomas Moore who offer home delivery. Thank you for supporting the uniform swap and the PTFA.

Our new school councillors



Reception	Kip and Lyra
Year 1	Jack D and Hannah
Year 2	Hakeem and Orla
Year 3	Betsy and Jocelyn
Year 4	Violet and Arlo
Year 5	Elliott and Grace
Year 6	Teddy and Archie

Celebrations

Please see details below of the certificates that we are 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		
	27.09.24	04.10.24			27.09.24	04.10.24
Reception	Lola	Lyra		Reception	Beatrice	Oliver MY
Year 1	Olivia	Jacob		Year 1	Joshua	Florence
Year 2	Theo	Evie		Year 2	Airi	Ridhwin
Year 3	Chloe	Betsy		Year 3	Lexie	Margaret
Year 4	Violet	Harper W		Year 4	Monty	Elijah
Year 5	Murray	Amber		Year 5	James	Charlie M
Year 6	-	Troy		Year 6	-	Zac

We have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!

Year 1	Jacob	For completing 11 park runs which equates to a half marathon!
Year 1	Elsie	For obtaining STAnley 4 and STAnley 5 awards in swimming
Year 1	Florence	For taking part in the Bradninch Bolt
Year 2	Ava	For completing the Summer Reading Challenge
Year 2	Albert	For winning the “Little Superstar” award for Bradninch FC U6s for 2023/24
Year 2	Harrison	For winning the “Star Player” award for Bradninch FC
Year 2	Eleanor	For coming 1 st Place in the Bradninch Produce show with her fruity cake. She also came 1 st and Reserve in the Bradninch Town Fair dog show.
Year 3	Emily	For completing 11 park runs which equates to a half marathon!
Year 3	Marcus	For winning two 1 st prizes at the Cullompton & District Ploughing Association
Year 3	Thomas	For obtaining Rainbow Distance (10m) in swimming
Year 3	Natalie	For getting the Chief Scouts Bronze award and winning at water polo on holiday in Greece
Year 4	Charlie	For completing the Summer Reading Challenge
Year 4	Alice	For winning 1 st prize in the Plymtree Flower & Produce Show
Year 4	Alice	Joint winner in the Fastest Girl U8 Bradninch Bolt
Year 4	Lily R	Joint winner in the Fastest Girl U8 Bradninch Bolt

Year 4	Marlowe	Joint winner in the Fastest Girl U8 Bradninch Bolt
Year 5	Isabella	For getting the Chief Scouts Silver award and winning at water polo on holiday in Greece
Year 5	Deacon	For his award in U10s cycle speedway for Devon
Year 6	Tyler	For his football medal and taking part in the Pretty Muddy run

Message from the Trust

Merger of Ventrus and Tarka Learning Partnership

We are pleased to inform you that the application to the DfE for Ventrus and Tarka Learning Partnership to merge and form a new Trust is on the agenda to be heard by the South West Regions Group Advisory Board on Monday 21st October. As part of that process the DfE give an opportunity to submit comments about their published agenda and have asked us to share the following information with you. You may submit comments after their agenda has been published on 7th October.

If you have any comments about this agenda, please email RG.SW@education.gov.uk

Comments must be submitted by email by 14th October, 5-working days before the meeting. Any comments submitted after this deadline may not be considered in advance of the meeting.

In your email please include:

- The school/academy name and trust names, and the local authority of the school/academy;
- Your relationship to the school/academy
- Your comments on the proposal
- Any alternative proposal(s) you have and
- Any other comments on the school's/academy's future

Please note that we will not respond to emails. Any representations received via email may be required to be released if a Freedom of Information Request (FOI) is received by the DfE.

Our fortnight in photos

Our fortnight in photos		
<p>Reception</p>	<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Year 2</p>
		
<p>In Understanding The World, we have been talking about Harvest. We talked about how food is harvested and used vegetables to make a soup.</p>	<p>In PE, we have been working on their coordination skills. The children investigated different ways to roll a ball from one place to another.</p>	<p>In R.E, we found out about some of the core beliefs of Muslims who follow the religion of Islam. We explored their ideas about the God in which they believe, Allah.</p>
Our fortnight in photos		
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>Year 4</p>	<p>Year 5</p>
		
<p>Linked to our history topic about the Stone Age, we visited Kents Cavern and discovered how caves were made and what animals and humans lived in them</p>	<p>In history, we have explored the Anglo-Saxon heptarchy and examined how we still use many Anglo-Saxon symbols and names today.</p>	<p>In science, we have been exploring reversible changes. We observed the physical changes when heating and cooling an ice cube and how this modifies its state of matter.</p>
Our fortnight in photos		
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>Fundraising!</p>	
		
<p>In RE, we have been looking at the artist Hannah Dunnett.</p>	<p>Year 6 children and Mrs Daniels have been busy raising funds for the school recently!</p>	

Trips and Events

Year 1 to Tiverton Museum



Year 1 had a great time exploring Tiverton Museum. We looked at a range of artefacts that taught us more about food and farming in the past. We enjoyed our 4 workshops that focused on farming transport, farm machinery from the past, food and jobs linked to working on a farm and a creative activity making a pin wheel to scare the bird away.

Year 6 Residential



Last week, our year 6 children spent the week on their residential at The Dartmoor Training Centre. They took part in a range of activities during the week including: caving, climbing, abseiling, archery, orienteering, mountain biking and weasling. All the adults and children had a fantastic week and showed amazing tenacity throughout the week. For more photos of the week, please look on the year 6 page on our school website.

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	5 th September 2024	20 th December 2024
Spring	6 th January 2025	4 th April 2025
Summer	22 nd April 2025	23 rd July 2025

11 th October	Parent Forum Meeting
11 th October	Y4 Trip to Escot
14 th October	School Photographer in school (Tempest) - individual, sibling groups within school and class photos
16 th October	Parents' Evening: 3.50-6.30pm - please book your appointment on Arbor
17 th October	Parents' Evening: 3.50-6.30pm - please book your appointment on Arbor
18 th October	Team Rubicon sessions (scooter and skateboarding) – whole school
25 th October	Non-Pupil Day (school closed)
28 th October – 1 st November	Half Term Week
11 th November	PTFA Disco
4 th – 8 th November	Bikeability (Year 5)
6 th November	Y3 Trip to Vue Cinema (The Wild Robot)
10 th November	Remembrance Wreath Laying in Bradninch
11 th November – 15 th November	Bikeability (Year 6)
15 th November	Children In Need – theme TBC
20 th November	2025/26 Foundation Admissions Tours – 1.30pm
21 st November	2025/26 Foundation Admissions Tours – 9.15am
W/e 29 th November	Clubs end (Years 1 to 6)
4 th December	Vision Screening Check (EYFS)
6 th December	Christmas Jumper Day; Christmas Craft Morning-Parents (9.15am to 10.15am)
10 th December	Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) Nativity (2.30pm)
11 th December	Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) Nativity (3.45pm)
13 th December	Key Stage 2 Christingle at St Disen's Church (2pm)

16 th December	Reception Class Christmas Performance (3.45pm)
17 th December	Key Stage 2 Pantomime trip to Northcott Theatre
19 th December	School Christmas Lunch
20 th December	Last day of term

In the Community

Halloween party

Fancy Dress Welcome

HOSTED BY CULLOMPTON ACE MAJORETTES

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER

Disco

2PM-4PM

Refreshments Available to purchase

THE JOHN TALLACK CENTRE, CULLOMPTON

Glitter Tattoos

Halloween themed games

£2.50 ENTRY
CASH OR CARD ON ARRIVAL

Prize for Best Dressed