



“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 focussing in on one of our school values, respect, in depth. In school, the children have begun to develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of just how important it is as a foundational factor in the development and maintenance of a healthy learning environment.

- Reception to year 5 classes have participated in outdoor learning workshops - working with nature, not against it.
- Years 5 and 6 have been learning how to respect the rules of the road through completing their Bikeability training.
- All classes have explored activities connected to Anti-Bullying week, with this year’s theme: Choose Respect

Reaching out into the wider community and further afield, we have explored why respect is also celebrated as a fundamental British value in helping to create an orderly society. In their friendship groups the children came together to consider how and why we pay respect on Remembrance Day.



Our year 6 school councillors, laying our school’s poppy wreath, at the town Remembrance ceremony



Some of our year 2 children, participating in group activities, looked at survival skills, creating a den and a fire as part of the outdoor learning workshops.



Children from one of our friendship groups exploring the work of different artists and creating poppy designs in their unique styles.

Admissions policy for 2026-27: Annual Consultation

Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2026-27. The Local Authority is also consulting on its admission arrangements. You are invited to look at the proposals and have your say. Our proposed policy is on our admissions page <https://duchy.devon.sch.uk/about-us/admissions/> and you can see all policies at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy>. Further information is here: www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements

The formal consultation runs until 10th January 2025. Policies will be determined on 29th January 2025 and published in the same places by 15th March 2025.

Celebrations

Please see details below of the new 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		
	08.11.24	15.11.24			08.11.24	15.11.24
Reception	Vera	Naja		Reception	Scarlett	Koa
Year 1	Martha	Libby		Year 1	Poppy	Ida
Year 2	Bessy	Lily		Year 2	Elsie-Mei	Orla
Year 3	Daisy	Chester		Year 3	Olly	Theo C
Year 4	Phoebe G	Anya		Year 4	Harper W	Hattie
Year 5	Isabella	Florrie		Year 5	Summer	Kayden
Year 6	Marni	Lucy		Year 6	Lottie	Dex

We have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!

Year 1	Sylvie	For obtaining STAnley 3 badge in swimming and moving up to STAnley 4
Year 2	Helena	For obtaining Goldfish 3 award in swimming
Year 3	Jocelyn	For her medal in a Ballet show
Year 3	Margaret	For obtaining Goldfish 1 in swimming
Year 3	James Hay	For completing 12 park runs which equates to a half marathon!
Year 3	Natalie	For obtaining Shark 2 in swimming and for being awarded Blue Stripe in Taekwon-do
Year 4	William	For obtaining Goldfish 1 in swimming and completing an Air Experience Flight with Devon & Somerset Flight Training
Year 5	Isabella	For being awarded 9 th KUP in Taekwon-do
Year 6	Florence	Rookie Lifeguard Silver Stage 1 Award
Year 6	Rosie S	For coming 4 th at NSEA Championships

Our fortnight in photos

Reception			Year 1			Year 2		
								
<p>In Understanding the World, we have learnt about Diwali through stories and photos; we enjoyed making rangoli patterns out of different resources!</p>			<p>During English, we have been investigating where our new visitor (Ted) has come from. We are excited to learn more about him...!</p>			<p>In science, we have been using equipment to test whether different materials are waterproof or not waterproof.</p>		
Year 3			Year 4			Year 5		
								
<p>Year 3 went to watch 'The Wild Robot' at Exeter Vue. We have loved reading this book as a class and it has been interesting comparing the book to the film.</p>			<p>In English, children have begun exploring their new text, 'Tar Beach' where we have been inferring a character's feelings using freeze frame.</p>			<p>In DT, Year 5 have been evaluating different bread products – assessing colour, texture and taste!</p>		
Year 6			Bikeability					
								
<p>In art, the children have been exploring the work of Pablo Picasso.</p>			<p>Children in years 5 and 6 have been completing their 'Bikeability' training. They have been working hard to understand how to follow the 'rules of the road' to keep themselves and others safe.</p>					

Sports Update

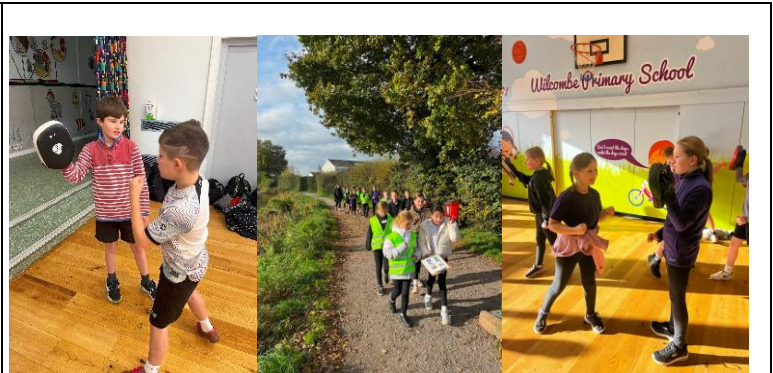
On Tuesday 22nd October, 32 selected children (taken from years 3, 4, 5 and 6) travelled to Killerton for the season opening cross-country competition for local schools. All pupils gave 100% effort racing around a challenging trail course; we had a high number of top-5, top-10 and top-20 finishers in the races. All children demonstrated tenacity, respect, and team-spirit throughout the afternoon, doing themselves and The Duchy School proud! Well done to all our runners and a massive thank you to all the parents, grandparents and other relatives who came to cheer the children on; your support really does make a huge difference.



On Wednesday 6th November, the year 5/6 football team hosted Willand Primary School in a friendly match. After conceding an early goal, The Duchy responded by applying pressure to the Willand goal; the team taking a narrow lead into half-time. The Duchy continued to dominate in the second half, eventually running out 5-1 winners. Thank you to all those who came to cheer on the team and in particular to debutant Matthew Lagrenade as team coach.



On Wednesday 12th November, Year 5 travelled to Wilcombe Primary School to take part in a sports enrichment day alongside six other other schools from across Ventrus. The children had the opportunity to take part in some competitive games of 'football rounders', become involved in some kickboxing training and even take in the surroundings by taking a walk along the Tiverton Canal. The children embraced all activities with enthusiasm and determination to do well. Well done Team Duchy!



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

20 th November	2025/26 Foundation Admissions Tours – 1.30pm
21 st November	2025/26 Foundation Admissions Tours – 9.15am
21 st November	The Duchy PTFA AGM – 7.30pm at The Castle – all welcome
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)
16 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
6 th January	Spring Term starts
8 th January	Key Stage 1 Pantomime travelling production
24 th January	Circus Skills Workshops (all classes)
30 th January	School Council Tree Planting at Killerton
7 th February	Parent Forum Meeting
17 th – 21 st February	Half-term
24 th February	Non-Pupil Day (school closed)
27 th February	Y5 Trip to Resorts World Arena (Young Voices event)
5 th March	Parents’ Evening: 3.50-6.30pm
6 th March	Parents’ Evening: 3.50-6.30pm

6 th March	World Book Day
7 th – 16 th March	British Science Week (parent event TBC)
14 th March	Red Nose Day – Theme to be confirmed
28 th March	PTFA event (QUIZ)
22 nd April	Summer Term starts
22 nd April – 15 th July	Y4 swimming every Tuesday
5 th May	May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)
8 th May	Y3 Trip to Rosemoor Gardens
12 th – 15 th May	Y6 SATS Week
14 th May	Reception Class Trip to Seaton Wetlands
23 rd May	The Duchy Mile
26 th – 30 th May	Half Term
2 nd June	Non-Pupil Day (school closed)
13 th June	Parent Forum
19 th June	Sports Day
26 th June	Reserve Sports Day
3 rd July	Eco Club trip to Exeter Energy for Waste
11 th July	PTFA event (Summer Fayre)
15 th July	Y5/6 Afternoon Performance
16 th July	Y5/6 Evening Performance
17 th July	Reception Parents' Welcome Meeting (9.15am)
18 th July	Y6 Homework reward trip to Crealy
22 nd July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly 9.30 am (Parents)
23 rd July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly (whole school)
23 rd July	Last day of term

In the Community

The Duchy School Bradninch PTFA AGM 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing to let you know that the PTFA is holding its AGM on Thursday 21st November 7.30pm, at the Castle in Bradninch.

We would like to remind you that everyone is welcome to join us, and we're always on the lookout for new committee members.

Thank you for your support,

The Duchy School PTFA Committee





*St Disen's Church Bradninch
All Age Worship
Church for Everybody
Sundays 10.30 am.
Refreshments from 9.45 am in St Disen's Hall*

*Dates coming up:
November 17th Café Church in St Disen's Hall 10.15 am for 10.30
am with refreshments
December 1st Advent All Age Service
December 24th Donkey Service 6 pm
January 5th 2025 New Year Starter All Age Service*

**FUN FRESH THOUGHT PROVOKING
FOR ALL AGES AND STAGES
PRAYER WORSHIP**