



“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

Last week, linked to our school value of respect, our school proudly participated in Road Safety Week. This provided us with a valuable opportunity to educate and reinforce key messages about the importance of staying safe on and around the roads. Throughout the week, children were taught essential road safety skills; they actively participated in discussions, and we saw great enthusiasm for learning how to protect themselves while walking, cycling, or riding in cars. We would like to take this opportunity to remind our parents about the importance of staying vigilant when driving or parking near the school. With many children walking or cycling to school, it's crucial that we all do our part to ensure their safety. Please be mindful of speed limits and parking restrictions during drop-off and pick-up times.

Christmas Lights Switch On!

Congratulations to Daisy in Year 6 and Bessy in Year 2 who were drawn to switch the Christmas lights on at The Guildhall tomorrow night at 7pm! Many thanks to Mayor Emily Ottery for coming into our assembly to do the draw.



Christmas in School

Christmas is soon upon us, and we are pleased to confirm we have now finalised all celebrations/events taking place in school over the festive period. Please pay close attention to the dates below.

| Children | Dates | Event |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| All classes | 6 th December | Christmas Craft Morning. Parents and carers are welcome to attend between 9.15 - 10.15am . Children can also wear a Christmas jumper (over normal school uniform). |
| Years 1 and 2 | 10 th and 11 th December | Christmas Performances – see letter emailed on 15 th November for full details. |
| Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 | 16 th December | Key Stage 2 Christingle Service at St Disen’s Church (2pm)– parents are welcome to attend. |
| Reception Class | 16 th December | Christmas Performance at 3.45pm - see letter emailed on 15 th November for full details. |
| Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 | 17 th December | Key Stage 2 pantomime trip to Northcott Theatre (afternoon – est 4pm return to school) |
| All classes | 19 th December | School Christmas Lunch – children can order on the day (main or vegetarian) - please note jacket potatoes will not be available on this day. |
| Reception, Years 1 and 2 | 8 th January | Travelling pantomime production in school. |

Celebrations

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

| Values Champion | | | | Learning Champion | | |
|-----------------|----------|----------|--|-------------------|----------|----------|
| | 22.11.24 | 29.11.24 | | | 22.11.24 | 29.11.24 |
| Reception | Rudy | Kimi | | Reception | Matilda | Ossian |
| Year 1 | Luka | Uliana | | Year 1 | Woodia | Reuben |
| Year 2 | Kaiden | Hakeem | | Year 2 | Eleanor | Bryony |
| Year 3 | Theo W | Maisie | | Year 3 | Jocelyn | Natalie |
| Year 4 | William | Rose | | Year 4 | Harper P | Georgia |
| Year 5 | Amber | Bobby | | Year 5 | Izzy | Xander |
| Year 6 | Rosie M | Oliver | | Year 6 | Lela | Noah |

We have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!

| | | |
|--------|----------|---|
| Year 1 | Tegan | For completing 12 park runs which equates to a half marathon! |
| Year 2 | Eleanor | For achieving Green Stripe in Taekwon-Do |
| Year 3 | Marcus | STANley 1 Award in swimming |
| Year 3 | Theo C | Goldfish 3 in swimming |
| Year 4 | Harper W | Rainbow distance (800m) in swimming |
| Year 5 | Bobby | Player of the Match for Bradninch Eagles for scoring a goal |
| Year 6 | Stanley | Goldfish 1 and Goldfish 2 in swimming |

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.

Our fortnight in photos

| Reception | | |
|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |
| <p>As part of Road Safety Week, we role played how to cross a road safely remembering to stop, look, listen and think.</p> | <p>In English, we have been story telling 'The Sea Saw' and are planning our own stories ready to write them next week.</p> | <p>In computing, we have been using different technology to accurately take photos in both landscape and portrait.</p> |
| Year 3 | | |
|  |  |  |
| <p>In science, we have been investigating how our bones affect what we can do whilst focussing specifically on the impact of the length of our bones on our movement.</p> | <p>In PE, we have been exploring emotions (anxiety and stress) and how they can be portrayed in our movements. Children have considered their body movements and the facial expressions.</p> | <p>In art, we have been exploring how patterns, colours and shapes were replicated in different ways through ancient Greek pottery. We had a go at experimenting with different resources to create our own ideas in our sketchbooks.</p> |
| Year 6 | | |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Clubs</p>   | |
| <p>In Year 6, we have completed our self-portraits based on the work of Pablo Picasso. The children have mixed colours to make tints, tones and shades.</p> | <p>Our Autumn clubs have now come to an end! The image on the left shows membes of the school community viewing the Photography Club exhibition of their favourite shots from the past 8 weeks; the image on the right shows the compost site created by Construction Club (with support from Lucy Mottram).</p> | |

Sports Update

On Friday 15th November, 12 pupils selected from across year 3/4 travelled to Bicton College to take part in the East Devon Cross-Country Finals, having successfully qualified following the first meet of the season at Killerton. All our runners showed great tenacity, with some making it into the top-20 in their respective races, containing as many as 84 runners. Special mention to Noah F and Marlowe R, who both received individual certificates for demonstrating passion. Thank you to all those parents who made the journey over to Bicton to support the runners: it was greatly appreciated.

Team Results:

Year 3/4 Boys – Team finished 5th out of 13 schools.

Year 3/4 Girls – Team finished 10th out of 14 schools.



On Monday 18th November, the year 3/4 football team kicked off their season with a friendly against Willowbank Primary School. Heavy rain over the course of the afternoon had made playing conditions particularly challenging with The Duchy struggling to knock the ball around comfortably on a sticky pitch. A moment of individual brilliance broke the deadlock going into half-time however. The Duchy came out from the break dominating the second half displaying fantastic resilience and teamwork; final score Duchy 4-1 Willowbank. Congratulations to all who represented the school (many for the first time!).



On Tuesday 19th November, the year 5/6 football team hosted Kentisbeare Primary School in the opening league fixture of the season. In bitterly cold conditions, The Duchy started slowly conceding an early goal. Although they fought their way back into contention with an equaliser, a second Kentisbeare goal condemned Duchy to defeat (1-2). Thank you to everyone who came along to support the team!



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 |

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| W/e 29 th November | Clubs end (Years 1 to 6) |
| 4 th December | Vision Screening Check (EYFS) |
| 5 th December | 2025/26 Foundation Admissions Tours – 1.30pm |
| 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 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) 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 | 2025/26 Foundation Admissions Tours – 1.30pm |
| 8 th January | Reception and Key Stage 1 Pantomime travelling production in school |
| 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 |

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| 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

Christmas Craft Fair

More than 60 Stalls to see

Saturday 30th November
Open From: 10am - 3pm

EXE VALLEY FARM SHOP AND RUBY RED CAFE

Come & Shop for:

- Handmade Crafts
- Christmas Gifts
- Decorations
- Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
- Charity Raffle
- Christmas Trees
- Meet Santa

FREE ENTRY & FREE PARKING

email marion@exevalleyfarmshop.co.uk

EXE VALLEY FARM SHOP

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Enjoy Breakfast with Santa and his helpers

SUNDAY 1ST DEC 2024
AT EXE VALLEY FARM SHOP
9.30AM START

Tickets:
£12.50 Adults, £12.50 Children

DELICIOUS BUFFET BREAKFAST,
CASUAL CHAT WITH SANTA,
SMALL GIFT FROM SANTA
STORY TIME WITH MRS CLAUSE AND SANTA

TO BOOK TICKETS PLEASE USE THE QR CODE
OR CALL 01392 861 403

*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:

*December 1st Advent All Age Service
December 15th All Age Café Church in St Disen's Hall 10.15 am for
10.30 am with refreshments
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**