



“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

As we come to the end of what has been a busy term, I would like to extend my thanks to all our families and to the staff at The Duchy School! I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, and I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 6th January.

Staffing Update

Today, we bid farewell to Miss Boston! Her contributions to our school community will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Christmas Celebrations

Over the past fortnight, we have enjoyed a wealth of festive treats; please see the pictures included below.

Parent Event (Craft Morning)



Christmas Lunch



Christmas Shows



Reception Christmas performance



Key Stage 1 production of The Big Little Nativity



Key Stage 2 Christingle at St Disen's Church



Key Stage 2 visit to the Northcott Theatre to watch a pantomime

Sports Update

On Monday 2nd December, the year 3 / 4 football team opened their league campaign with victory over Willand Primary School. It was a scrappy, well-contested game, with both teams putting up a strong fight. Despite the challenging conditions—especially as the light began to fade toward the end of the match—The Duchy managed to secure a 1-0 win.

A huge congratulations to all the players for their effort and sportsmanship! Thank you to all who came to cheer on the team as well.



Celebrations

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

Values Champion				Learning Champion		
	06.12.24	13.12.24			06.12.24	13.12.24
Reception	Theo	Kip		Reception	Oscar	Brooklyn
Year 1	Holly	Ida		Year 1	Erik	Jack S
Year 2	Bobbie	Teddy		Year 2	Joshua	Albie
Year 3	Ella Mae	Emily		Year 3	Sutton	Bonnie-Mae
Year 4	Jessica	Maia		Year 4	Charlie	Tom
Year 5	Edward	Harvey		Year 5	Jackson	Anabelle
Year 6	Vaughn	Flo		Year 6	Luuk	Daisy

We have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!


Year 1	Isabelle	Bronze Award at 1 st Cullompton Rainbows
Year 1	Martha	Chief Scout's Acorn Award for 1 st Bradninch Squirrels
Year 1	Jacob	Chief Scout's Acorn Award for 1 st Bradninch Squirrels
Year 1	Libby	Chief Scout's Acorn Award for 1 st Bradninch Squirrels
Year 1	Holly	For Rainbow Distance (25m) in swimming
Year 2	Lily	For STANley 6 Award in swimming
Year 2	Harrison	For STANley 6 Award in swimming
Year 2	Orla	For STANley 6 Award in swimming
Year 3	Emily	Bronze Award at 1 st Bradninch Beavers
Year 3	James Hay	Bronze Award at 1 st Bradninch Beavers
Sofia	Sofia	Bronze Award at 1 st Bradninch Beavers
Year 3	Meadow	Orange Stripe in Taekwondo
Year 3	Maximus	For STANley 7 Award in swimming
Year 6	Daisy	For completing the Book Quest by reading 50 books

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	Year 1	Year 2
		
<p>In maths, we have been looking at number bonds to 5. We have focussed on the language 'part' and 'whole' and found different ways of making 5.</p>	<p>In history, we had a debate. Who do we think achieved the most? Sir Francis Drake or Sir Francis Chichester?</p>	<p>In English, we have been working together to build our poetry performance skills. Our chosen poem was called '10 things found in a wizard's pocket'.</p>
Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
		
<p>Year 3 spent a DT day, tasting and evaluating various toppings, and making their own well balanced perfect pizza.</p>	<p>In DT, the children have been practising their back and running stitch to create their own Viking money pouches.</p>	<p>In art, Year 5 have been spending time developing their sculpting skills by creating their own carefully planned pieces of ancient Greek pottery from paper mâché.</p>
Year 6	Wellington Maths Challenge	
		
<p>In PSHE, we have been practising a range of first aid skills including knowing when and how to put a casualty into the recovery position.</p>	<p>Four of our year six children recently represented the school in the Wellington Maths challenge. Working together they had to solve a variety of complex mathematical problems.</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
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

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
W/b 20 th January	Spring Term clubs start (Yrs 1 – 6 inc)
21 st January	Y4 Sports Enrichment Day at Blundells (<i>communication to follow</i>)
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
W/e 21 st March	Spring Term clubs end (Yrs 1 – 6 inc)
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)
11 th /12 th June	Y4 Residential to Wildwood Escot (1 night)
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

Beer & Carols!
at The Castle
Weds 18th
8pm

**Carols by
Candlelight**
A service of
readings & carols
Sun 22nd at 6pm

Christmas at St. Disen's

Donkey Service
Christmas Eve
6pm

Midnight Mass
Christmas Eve
11.30pm

Come early to
meet the donkey!



All ages are invited to come and create a lantern on this year's theme of



THE ELEMENTS

ELEMENTAL

to parade through town on the evening of 6th January as part of Bradninch's quirkiest tradition!

Lantern Workshops:

Friday 27th

Saturday 28th

Sunday 29th December

10am - 4pm @ Bradninch Guildhall

Drop in any time!

£3 per lantern, towards costs,
please!

*Children must be accompanied
by an adult*

Come and join the 2025 Bradninch Bradninch



Parade and Festivities! Monday 6th January 2025

Join the Parade at your end of town, with lanterns and Christmas trees for burning.

- 6.30pm: West Parade leaves Westend Rd (top of Townlands).
- 6.35pm: East Parade leaves Parsonage St (Hornbeam Gardens).
- 6.40pm: Parades meet Bradninch Millers Morris and Mayor at Guildhall for dancing and Mayor's Speech.
- Parade then proceeds to Cricket Field for bonfire, burning of lanterns and Christmas trees, and merriment! Bar open and soup available from Bradninch Scout Group.