



“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

Welcome back to school and a very Happy New Year! After an action-packed end to 2024, the children and all our team are enjoying being back in a normal school routine. Please look at page 3 for a snapshot of what the children have been up to over the last fortnight. For further details of what they will be covering over the weeks and months ahead, please look at the curriculum overview sheets that were e-mailed out earlier today.

Attendance

Earlier this week, I met with our school’s Attendance Improvement Officer. She spoke passionately about how consistently good attendance can make a real difference to a child’s education, both academically and socially. We understand that on occasion, children are too ill to attend school or have critical medical appointments that can’t be made in the school day. However, please ensure your child is sent to school whenever possible and does not miss any time for minor illness or appointments that could be made outside of school hours. If you have concerns about your child’s health or attendance, please come and speak with us! A reminder that we do not authorise term time holidays unless the circumstances are exceptional.

Library Audit

Many children’s books and resources still contain cultural, racial, religious, gender, family, and disability stereotypes. We were recently visited by Kate from Tiny Travels who conducted an extensive Library and Resource Audit of the books we hold for these types of stereotypes. As a school, we firmly believe that diversity is a strength that must be respected and celebrated by all of those who learn with us and visit us. By challenging, questioning and making suggestions about the material we hold, Kate has helped us to continue develop a strong culture of diversity and inclusion in our school. A huge thank you to the PTFA who supported us in funding this.

Christingle feedback

A message from Lyn Lucy at the Children’s Society: *‘Duchy School! Just to let you know that the amount raised from the recent Christingle was £262.27. What a tremendous amount! Can you please say a huge thanks to the families who were so generous.’*

Celebrations

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

Values Champion				Learning Champion		
	10.01.25	17.01.25			10.01.25	17.01.25
Reception	Albie	Beatrice		Reception	Ollie	Alfie
Year 1	Georgie	Ollie		Year 1	Jack D	Harry
Year 2	Ethan	Kimmie		Year 2	Helena	Teddy
Year 3	Margaret	Sofia		Year 3	Brodi	Chloe
Year 4	Tom	Alfred		Year 4	Noah	Alice
Year 5	Fleur	Charlie M		Year 5	Joey	Casper
Year 6	Henry	Tom		Year 6	Elias	Rory

We have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!

Year 2	Helena	Kingfisher 1 in swimming
Year 3	Natalie	For swimming 3,000 Metres
Year 4	Violet	Goldfish 2 in swimming
Year 5	Isabella	Bronze Award Advanced Swimmer
Year 6	Flo	For swimming 5,000 Metres

Sports Update

This week, 18 children from across Years 5 and 6 took part in a netball event at Cullompton Community College. Despite lack of participating schools, our children used this experience as a great opportunity to focus on developing their knowledge of the game, consolidating some of the rules and practising some of their netball skills against one another. Sports Leaders from CCC ran a range of activities and skill-based drills to develop their passing, positioning and shooting! Well done to all involved.



Our fortnight in photos

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
		
<p>In music, we have been learning how to play the glockenspiel.</p>	<p>In maths, we have been learning the value of numbers up to 20. We have looked at how to represent them in multiple ways.</p>	<p>In science, we have been learning about the importance of eating a balanced diet, with foods from all 5 food groups.</p>
Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
		
<p>In science this week, we have been identifying different types of rocks based on their appearance. We have started to gather a word bank of different properties for these rocks.</p>	<p>In geography, we explored how the world is represented on globes and maps. We used longitude and latitude coordinates to identify specific locations around the world.</p>	<p>In science, we have begun to explore the topic Earth and Space. This week, we created our own rotating models of the Earth.</p>
Year 6	Reception and Key Stage 1 Theatrical Production	
		
<p>Year 6 have begun completing their homework in preparation for their SATS tests in May. Each week, they receive Maths, Grammar and Reading homework.</p>	<p>Our younger children were treated to a fun, colourful and dynamic pantomime production of Beauty and the Beast last week.</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

W/b 20 th January	Spring Term clubs start (Yrs 1 – 6 inc)
21 st January	Y4 Sports Enrichment Day at Blundells
24 th January	Circus Skills Workshops (all classes)
30 th January	School Council Tree Planting at Killerton Estate
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)
27 th February	Reception Class visit to Cullompton Library (<i>communication to follow</i>)
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)
24 th March	National Child Measurement Programme in school– YR and Y6 only
28 th March	PTFA event (QUIZ)
2 nd April	Y4 Dance Showdown at Barnfield Theatre (<i>communication to follow</i>)
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)
4 th June	Y6 Surfing Trip
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

*Coming up at St Disen's Church Bradninch
Spring Term 2025*

*19th January 10.30am in St Disen's Hall
Café Church
WORSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD AND FUN*

*2nd February 10.30 am All-Age Worship
FUN FRESH THOUGHT PROVOKING
FOR ALL AGES AND STAGES
PRAYER WORSHIP
Refreshments from 9.45 am in St Disen's Hall*

*Sunday 9th February 3pm
St Disen's Church Bradninch
Plough Service with Devon Farming Community Network
vintage tractors and a plough
Praying for Gods blessing on our Bradninch farmers and their
land, the soil, the water, the weather and all involved!
Local dignitaries and farmers invited
High Tea to follow*

*Sunday 16th February 10.30am in St Disen's Hall
Café Church
WORSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD AND FUN*



Cafe
CHURCH
St Disen's
Hall
third
Sundays
at 10.30am

REFRESHMENTS SERVED FROM 10.15AM
NEXT DATES: 19 JAN, 16 FEB, 16 MARCH
WORSHIP, COMMUNITY, FOOD AND FUN!

ST DISEN'S BRADNINCH
*all Age
Worship*
CHURCH FOR EVERYBODY!
FIRST SUNDAYS AT 10.30AM
NEXT DATES: 2 FEB AND 2 MARCH

+ FUN + FRESH +
+THOUGHT-PROVOKING +
+ FOR ALL AGES AND STAGES +
+ PRAYER + WORSHIP +

FCN | THE FARMING
COMMUNITY
NETWORK
Here for *you*

You are warmly invited to
**The Farming Community Network
Plough Service 2025**

St Disens Parish Church, Bradninch
3 pm, Sunday 9th February 2025

Speaker: Rev Hazel Britton

Followed by refreshments at the church (Parking throughout village, for details - 07725057327)

