



### ***“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 one of our school values (tenacity) in depth. As part of this work, we were visited by Lucas Jet (a circus performer) who presented a whole school circus show followed by engaging circus skills workshop sessions with each class. Lucas’ key message to the children was about the ‘value in failure’ and the importance of finding new ways to engage our brains and our bodies. The staff, children and one of our parent governors were blown away by his resilience and determination!

#### **School Council Tree Planting**

Yesterday, the school council spent time planting trees for the Community Forest. When mature, the new trees will extend the popular circular walk from Danes Wood towards Columbjohn. Led by National Trust staff, the children learnt about local flora and fauna. Pictures included in our fortnightly photos section below!

#### **Staff Training**

Our support staff recently undertook some practical training activities, in school, run by colleagues from the University of Exeter. This SEND interactive experience was designed to help support staff better understand and support neurodivergent children in school.

#### **Parents’ Evening**

A reminder that face-to-face parents’ evening appointments for Spring Term are now available to book in the usual way on Arbor. If you have any issues, please get in touch with the office.

#### **Farewell**

At the end of this half-term, we will be saying farewell to Mrs Souch who is leaving us to pursue a new career challenge – she will be sorely missed.



## Celebrations

Please see details below of the certificates that we will be 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		
	24.01.25	31.01.25			24.01.25	31.01.25
Reception	Samuel	Evie		Reception	Lola	Ezra
Year 1	Arthur	Joshua		Year 1	Arlo	James
Year 2	Bryony	Ridhwin		Year 2	Svitlana	Rupert
Year 3	Olly	Mia		Year 3	Betsy	Emily
Year 4	Georgia	Albert		Year 4	Sophie	Lily SV
Year 5	Theodore	Olivia		Year 5	Charlie A	Summer
Year 6	Lela	Layla		Year 6	Sami	Hudson

## We have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!

Year 4	Solly	Sports Star of the Day at Basketball Tournament – Y4 Sports Enrichment Day at Blundells
Year 4	Noah	Sports Star of the Day at Basketball Tournament – Y4 Sports Enrichment Day at Blundells
Year 4	Katy	Level 4 Learn to Swim
Year 6	Stanley	Goldfish 3 Award in swimming

### Book Fair

Many thanks to all the parents and carers who have supported our book fairs. Each book you buy helps towards the school receiving new books for the library – our latest deliveries in the attached picture! Please keep supporting us by shopping with us at the next book fair in the summer term.



## Sports Update



On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, a selection of children from Years 5 and 6 took part in a preliminary round of basketball fixtures at Cullompton Community College. All of the children representing the school demonstrated great determination and enthusiasm throughout the event.

Year 6 Results: 2-1 Victory, 0-0 Draw, 1-1 Draw, 0-0 Draw.

Year 5 Results: 0-5 Loss, 1-1 Draw, 0-2 Loss, 1-0 Victory.

Congratulations to our Y6 team, who will go on to represent The Duchy at the Culm Valley Finals next Tuesday.


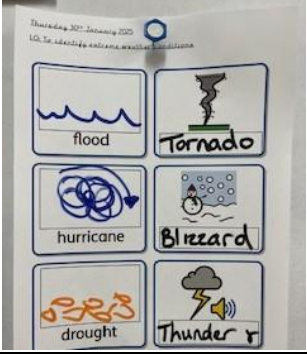









On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, Year 4 travelled to Blundells School to take part in a sports enrichment day alongside seven other schools from across Ventrus. The children had the opportunity to engage in some competitive games of football and basketball and participate in a dance workshop. The children embraced all activities with enthusiasm and determination to do well. Well done, Team Duchy!



On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January, Reception class had their first school trip. They visited Exeter Trampoline Academy and had the opportunity to be coached by professionals. They learned how to do spins, shape jumps and seat drops. The children were ambitious and tenacious and incredibly well-mannered. They all enjoyed this new experience and learning new skills. Well done Reception!

Our fortnight in photos

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
		
<p>In Understanding the World, we have been learning about the RSPB Big Bird Watch. We have used binoculars to spot birds around school and painted pictures of common birds we might see.</p>	<p>In geography, we have been learning about different types of extreme weather.</p>	<p>In science, we have been observing the way that exercise impacts our bodies. We used stopwatches to time exercises and then measure our heartbeats per minute.</p>
Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
		
<p>In RE, the children have been exploring what submission means to Muslims.</p>	<p>In music, we have been writing and performing our anti-bullying rap.</p>	<p>In PE, we have been exploring what it takes to create a good counterbalance.</p>
Year 6	School Council	
		
<p>In science, we have been exploring theories of evolution and finding out about how animals and plants have adapted over time.</p>	<p>On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January, the school council planted 24 trees at Columbjohn Farm in the Killlerton estate.</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
<b>Autumn</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
<b>Spring</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
<b>Summer</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025

5 <sup>th</sup> February	Y1 Trampoline Taster Session
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Forum Meeting
17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>Half-term</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Non-Pupil Day (school closed)
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Y4 Trampoline Taster Session
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Y5 Trip to BP Pulse Arena (Young Voices event)
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Reception Class Trip to Cullompton Library
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 Trampoline Taster Session
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Y4 Maths Enrichment Day at Colyton Grammar (selected children only)
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening: 3.50-6.30pm (All years)
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening: 3.50-6.30pm (All years)
6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening: 3.00-5.30pm (Y3 only)
7 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week (parent event TBC)
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 Trampoline Taster Session
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day – Theme to be confirmed
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 Trampoline Taster Session
W/e 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Spring Term clubs end (Yrs 1 – 6 inc) - exc Multi Skills and Basketball which will run for an extra week
24 <sup>th</sup> March	National Child Measurement Programme in school – YR and Y6 only
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Y2 Trampoline Taster Session
28 <sup>th</sup> March	PTFA event (QUIZ)
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Y4 Dance Showdown at Barnfield Theatre

22 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>Summer Term starts</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> April – 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Y4 swimming every Tuesday ( <i>communication to follow</i> )
5 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Y3 Trip to Rosemoor Gardens ( <i>communication to follow</i> )
12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 SATS Week
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Reception Class Trip to Seaton Wetlands ( <i>communication to follow</i> )
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	The Duchy Mile
26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Half Term</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Non-Pupil Day (school closed)
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Surfing Trip
11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> June	Y4 Residential to Wildwood Escot (1 night)
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent Forum
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Reserve Sports Day
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Eco Club trip to Exeter Energy for Waste
11 <sup>th</sup> July	PTFA event (Summer Fayre)
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5/6 Afternoon Performance
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5/6 Evening Performance
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception Parents' Welcome Meeting (9.15am)
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Homework reward trip to Crealy
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly 9.30 am (Parents)
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly (whole school)
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Last day of term

## In the Community

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW JUNIOR PLAYERS AT ALL AGE GROUPS TO JOIN US FOR THE 2025 SEASON AND BEYOND!

# JUNIOR PLAYERS WANTED

- HARBALL & SOFTBALL CRICKET FOR BOYS AND GIRLS WITH TEAMS FROM U10+
- MIXED TEAMS & U11 & U13 GIRLS TEAMS
- ALL STARS & DYNAMICS PROGRAMMES FOR THOSE NEW / GETTING IN TO CRICKET

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO GET INVOLVED, PLEASE CONTACT [info@bandkcc.co.uk](mailto:info@bandkcc.co.uk)

[WWW.BANDKCC.CO.UK](http://www.bandkcc.co.uk)

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

*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*