



“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

We would like to wish you all a very happy and restful half-term break. Please read on below for details of events and key updates planned soon after we return.

World Book Day

We are very excited to be celebrating our love of reading by taking part in World Book Day 2025! This year, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. For anyone interested in taking part in the ‘Toilet Roll Challenge’, full details are outlined in the attachment to this newsletter! Please note that a letter will be sent home, after the break, with further details on what the day will involve for the children.

Science Week Request

Our next parent event, linked to British Science Week, will take place soon after the half-term break during the afternoon of Friday 14th March; we look forward to welcoming many of you into school then! This year’s theme ‘Change and Adapt’ offers us a huge range of topics to delve into over the course of the week. If you would be interested in sharing your own experiences (for example through involvement in a STEM career) please e-mail the office (duchy@ventrus.org.uk). We would love to share our community’s collective experiences and expertise with the children.

Staffing Update

And finally, Mrs Emma Horn will be filling the vacant teaching assistant position left by Mrs Holly Souch who leaves us today! Mrs Horn will continue to teach in reception for one day a week, however.

Parent Forum Group

Mr Roberts met with the Parent Forum Group last week. Please contact your class representative directly should you wish to have any feedback from the discussions held or are seeking responses to any issues or queries you may have raised to them. As always, we are keen to seek parental input and feedback. If you are interested in becoming a class representative, either filling one of the vacant positions or one of the posts currently held by another parent, please e-mail duchy@ventrus.org.uk.

- Reception: Vacancy
- Year 1: Maddy Harvey-Howe
- Year 2: Vacancy
- Year 3: Vacancy
- Year 4: Eve Malatjie
- Year 5: Jess Carpenter
- Year 6: Becky Tyler

Celebrations

Values Champion			Learning Champion		
	07.02.25	14.02.25		07.02.25	14.02.25
Reception	Scarlett	Koa	Reception	Isabelle	Jesse
Year 1	Jacob	Poppy	Year 1	Olivia	Hannah
Year 2	Elsie-Mei	Albie	Year 2	Imogen	Hakeem
Year 3	Olive	Lilly-Mai	Year 3	Isla	Daisy
Year 4	Edwin	Phoebe D	Year 4	Eddie	Marlowe
Year 5	Grace	Lara	Year 5	Rose	Florrie
Year 6	Tyler	Rosie M	Year 6	Bailey	Lucy

We have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!

Year 1	Elsie	STAnley 6 Award in swimming
Year 2	Toby	Rainbow distance in swimming
Year 3	Theo C	Angelfish 1 in swimming
Year 4	Charlie	Learn to Swim Level 4
Year 5	Bobby	Taking part in the Guard of Honour at Exeter City v Oxford United FA cup match
Year 6	Stanley	Kingfisher 1 in swimming
Year 6	Flo	Shark 3 in swimming

Sports Update



Last week, selected children from Years 5 and 6, who qualified for the Culm Valley High 5's Netball and Mini Basketball Finals, travelled to Uffculme School to compete in the next round of the competition. The children had to show great tenacity to overcome some challenging opposition from across the local area.

Overall, some great basketball and netball skills were demonstrated by all of the pupils involved. After a series of closely fought and competitive matches, Duchy finished 6th overall in the netball and 8th overall in the basketball. Thank you for the efforts of all children who took part and to those who came to support them.

Our fortnight in photos

Reception			Year 1			Year 2		
								
<p>We have been reading the story The Giant Jam Sandwich. It inspired us to make our own jam sandwiches; they were delicious!</p>			<p>In English, Pig the Pug appeared in our classroom. We asked questions and described characters from the book.</p>			<p>In music, we have been learning how to play a range of notes on the woodwind instrument the ocarina.</p>		
Year 3			Year 4			Year 5		
								
<p>In art, we have been exploring the work of JMW Turner. Using him as an inspiration, we used pastels and watercolours to create our own investigations in sketchbooks.</p>			<p>In geography, we were visited by a representative from Fairtrade. During the visit, children learnt that Fairtrade ensures there is no child labour, decent and fair wages and good working conditions.</p>			<p>In science, we have been exploring the different phases of the moon and the reasons why it may look different throughout the year.</p>		
Year 6								
								
<p>On the 6th February, year 6 were visited by Clare from Wildtribe. They spent the afternoon taking part in a range of outdoor activities and team challenges. These challenges included a 'fire' challenge where children were taught how to safely light fires in a range of ways before being set the challenge to light and keep a fire going so that it would burn through a piece of string suspended over the fire. The children worked well together and developed a range of new skills.</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

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

5 th May	May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)
8 th May	Y3 Trip to Rosemoor Gardens (<i>communication to follow</i>)
12 th – 15 th May	Y6 SATS Week
14 th May	Reception Class Trip to Seaton Wetlands (<i>communication to follow</i>)
20 th May	Y5 Trip to Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme (<i>communication to follow</i>)
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 and beyond*

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

*Sunday 2nd March 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 16th March 10.30am in St Disen's Hall
Café Church
WORSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD AND FUN*

*Saturday 22nd March Coffee Morning in Aid of Duchy Kidzone
Bradninch Guilhall
10 am until 12 noon
Coffee Cakes Raffle Bring and Buy Display*

*Sunday 30th March 10.30 am Mothers Day All Age Worship
FUN FRESH THOUGHT PROVOKING
FOR ALL AGES AND STAGES
PRAYER WORSHIP
Refreshments to follow in St Disen's Hall*

BUMPER HALF TERM

SATURDAY 15TH - SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY



**Help us to celebrate the Tivvy Bumper's 90th birthday
with fun family activities around the museum**

Craft sessions
Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th February
10 - 12 Drop in.
£3 per child with paying adult (£2.50 per
child with museum member)

Plus: dressing up,
train toys and more!

Normal admission applies.
Accompanied kids go FREE!

 **TIVERTON
MUSEUM**
of Mid Devon Life

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00
www.tivertonmuseum.org.uk
Beck's Square, Tiverton EX16 6PJ
01884 256295



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ENGINE-EERS

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY



Go behind the scenes for an exclusive view of our iconic steam engine from trackside and find out more about the engine through photographs, video and an object handling session.

10.30am – 12pm
Booking essential
£5 per child.

Plus: Design and make a birthday badge to take away with you.

Recommended for age 7+ (normal museum admission applies).
Must be accompanied by an adult

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