



“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

Curriculum Overviews

Looking ahead, details of what the children will be learning about over the next ten weeks are outlined in the curriculum overview sheets that were sent out by e-mail earlier. A reminder that following a consultation and review process last year with the school community, we have decided to no longer send out termly or weekly home learning tasks. Instead, our updated approach to homework is outlined on the school’s website or alternatively in a paper booklet available from your child’s class teacher or the school office.

Testing

Over the course of the year, we have statutory assessments to complete in school for different year groups - these are outlined in the Diary Dates section below. Next week, our year 6 children will be sitting their Key Stage 2 SATs. Mrs Dunning will be speaking to all the children in assembly about how our normal routines and timings of breaks and lessons will look slightly different next week to support our older children. As a school, we take the same approach to testing as all aspects of our learning which is to try your best, persevere and have a positive attitude. If you have any concerns, please speak to your child’s class teacher or me and we will be more than happy to explain anything further.

Ofsted Parent Questionnaire

A huge thank you to all those parents who reached out during our recent inspection with words of support – they were hugely valued and appreciated. As a team, we will review the results of the parent questionnaire together and strive to target those areas where we can further improve our offer. I have identified a few headline points from the survey below:

- 135 parents completed it
- 98% strongly agree/agree that their child is happy at our school
- 99% strongly agree/agree that their child feels safe at school
- 99% said they would recommend The Duchy School to another parent

The full questionnaire is available for all to see here: [The Duchy School Bradninch | Ofsted Parent View](#)

We will share the full inspection report with you when it is formally published in the weeks ahead.

Celebrations

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






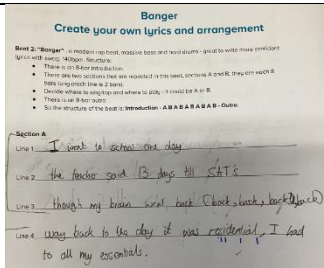



- Our **Values Champion** certificate will be used to acknowledge the efforts of those children who have represented the school values through their actions.
- Our **Learning Champion** certificate will be used to recognise those children who have demonstrated passion and pride in their work, delivering a moment or moments of brilliance in a subject that have captured their teacher's and their peers' attention.

Values Champion				Learning Champion		
	25.04.25	02.05.25			25.04.25	02.05.25
Reception	Ollie	Dhaan		Reception	Naja	Theo
Year 1	Martha	Florence		Year 1	Ollie	Woodia
Year 2	Orla	Imogen		Year 2	Benjamin	Helena
Year 3	Sutton	Bonnie-Mae		Year 3	James Hay	Margaret
Year 4	Alice	Charlie		Year 4	Jessica	Albert
Year 5	Olivia	Jackson		Year 5	Deacon	Anabelle
Year 6	Noah	Sami		Year 6	Vaughn	Tom

We have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!

Year R	Brooklyn	Go Karting medal
Year 1	Tegan	For completing park runs that equate to a marathon!
Year 1	Luka	Certificate of Achievement for twirl for Tiverton Town Majorettes
Year 2	Helena	For completing the DoodleMaths Spring Challenge 2025
Year 3	Florence	For completing park runs that equate to a marathon!
Year 3	Marcus	Chief Scout's Bronze Award for 1 st Bradninch Scouts
Year 3	Theo C	Angelfish 2 in swimming
Year 3	Bonnie-Mae	For various majorette awards for Tiverton Town Majorettes
Year 4	Sophie	Goldfish 3 and Kingfisher 1 in swimming
Year 4	Alice	Angelfish 3 in swimming
Year 4	Eddie	Golden medal for football skills
Year 4	Georgia	Chief Scout's Silver Award for 1 st Bradninch Scouts
Year 5	Theodore, Lara, Charlie A & Summer	Chief Scout's Silver Award for 1 st Bradninch Scouts
Year 6	Rosie S	For two 1 st places and two 2 nd places for showjumping at Bicton and qualifying for Hickstead in the summer

Our fortnight in photos

Reception	Year 1	Year 3
		
In art, we experimented with flower pounding. We enjoyed pressing, rolling and hammering flowers between paper and seeing what patterns and colours we could make.	We have enjoyed exploring Andy Goldsworthy, during our art lessons, and we have started creating enormous sculptures using natural items that we have found around school.	In English, we have been looking at hidden messages within our text 'The Tin Forest' and sorting their importance to us.
Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
		
In English, we have been exploring character's emotions using freeze frames.	In PE, we have started to learn the skills needed to play tennis. We have developed our forehand and backhand techniques to be able to play a co-operative rally with our peers.	In music, we have been writing and performing our own raps. We have written our own lyrics and thought about the arrangement.
Year 2 – Trip to Jacob's Ladder		
		
As part of our science learning, Year 2 visited Jacob's Ladder Beach at Sidmouth to work with an East Devon wildlife ranger. We used our senses to find out about different beach habitats and used equipment to find and identify plants and animals living in rockpools. We were excited to find starfish, crabs, shrimps, anemone, rockling fish and limpets.		

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

8 th May	Y3 Trip to Rosemoor Gardens
12 th – 15 th May	Y6 SATS Week
20 th May	Y5 Trip to Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme
21 st May	Wilcombe Wobbler (selected children only)
21 st May	Y1 Trip to Killerton
22 nd May	Reception Class Trip to Seaton Wetlands (<i>note – change of date</i>)
23 rd May	The Duchy Mile
26 th – 30 th May	Half Term
2 nd June	Non-Pupil Day (school closed)
2 nd June – 13 th June	Y4 Multiplication Tables Checks (MTC – 2 week window)
4 th June	Y6 Surfing Trip (<i>communication to follow</i>)
W/c 9 th June	Y1 Phonics Screening Week
11 th /12 th June	Y4 Residential to Wildwood Escot (1 night)
13 th June	Parent Forum
17 th June	Y5 sea swimming trip to Exmouth (<i>communication to follow</i>)
19 th June	Sports Day
26 th June	Reserve Sports Day
7 th July	Y2 trip to Exeter Cathedral (<i>communication to follow</i>)
10 th 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 (<i>communication to follow</i>)
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



YOUTH FOOTBALL

Taster Session!

School Year - Reception

Thursday 8th May
5.15pm to 6.00pm

Free football taster session for children in school year Reception.

Come along for a fun football training session led by qualified FA coaches.

At
Bradninch Football Club
Kensham Park
EX5 4RD



For more information contact
chair@bradninchfc.co.uk

