



“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 the new school year! It has been a fortnight of unpredictable weather at the start of this Autumn term; we have our fingers crossed that the sunshine will make an appearance on Dartmoor next week for our year 6 children during their residential trip.

Parental Support

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent Meet the Teacher sessions. A reminder that your child’s curriculum information overview for the term was e-mailed out earlier this week and that our approach to homework is outlined on the school’s website [The Duchy School Bradninch - Home Learning](#) and/or alternatively in a paper booklet available from your child’s class teacher or the school office.

Dates

Key dates for the year ahead are outlined towards the bottom of this newsletter. Please regularly check and review these as we will be updating with details of further trips, events and activities as and when they are confirmed.

PTFA AGM Reminder

A reminder that our PTFA AGM will take place on **Wednesday 30th September** at **3.30pm** in the **school hall**. Following my e-mail last week, we are keen to welcome new parents and carers to find out more about the PTFA and the important role it plays in supporting our school. There is no obligation to volunteer or take on a role by attending, so please do come along if you are curious to learn more and meet other families over a cup of tea or coffee. **To help make attendance easier, we will endeavour to provide supervised activities for children during the meeting if required.** We hope to see many of you there!

New Play Equipment

A reminder that our exciting new playground equipment is now open and ready to enjoy. Thank you to everyone for your positive feedback so far. As outlined in my recent email, children are welcome to use the equipment after school, provided they are always supervised by a parent or carer. We kindly ask families using the equipment after school to leave the school site by 3.45pm and to help ensure it remains a safe and enjoyable space for everyone.

We would also appreciate your support in helping children to follow our school expectations while on the school grounds. In particular, children should not climb the grass banks or access areas where this is not permitted. We have high standards for behaviour and safety and work hard to instil these values throughout the school day. Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing these expectations and helping us maintain a safe, respectful and enjoyable environment for all members of our school community.

Polite reminders regarding when on our school site...



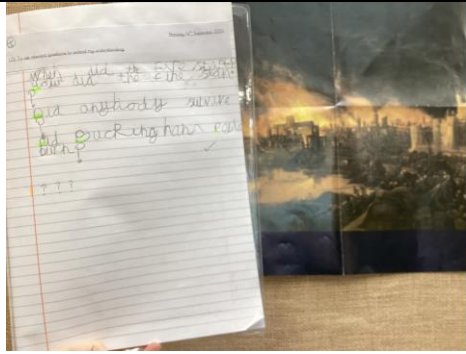
Celebrations

Values Champion				Learning Champion		
	11.09.26	18.09.26			11.09.26	18.09.26
Reception	Vienna	Maelyse		Reception	Emily W	Evie
Year 1	George	Leia		Year 1	Graig	Sebastian
Year 2	Evie	Lola		Year 2	Ezra	Albie
Year 3	Willow	Erik		Year 3	Maci	Ida
Year 4	Joshua	Ava		Year 4	Darci	Airi
Year 5	Sofia	Chester		Year 5	Bonnie-Mae	James Han
Year 6	Charlie	Katy		Year 6	Tom	Anyia

We have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!

Lilibeth	Year 1	Stagecoach Tiverton certificate
Samuel	Year 2	Goldfish 2 certificate in swimming
Maci	Year 3	Dance Competition medal
Uliana	Year 3	Tennis medal and certificates
Holly	Year 3	First Prize for a decorated pebble in the Plymtree Flower & Produce Show
Lily	Year 4	Angelfish 1 certificate in swimming
Marcus	Year 5	2 nd prize at Honiton & District Agricultural Association for young handlers
Olivia	Year 5	Football trophy for Cullompton Rangers FC
Jocelyn	Year 5	Angelfish 3 & Kingfisher 2 in swimming & Fox King 2026 dance show badge
Chloe	Year 5	First Prize for Plymtree Community Cafe in the Plymtree Flower & Produce Show, Second Prize for 2 decorated homemade gingerbread men in the Plymtree Flower & Produce Show and 2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th rosettes for mountain and moorland, lead rein and best first pony in the Plymtree Horse Show

Our fortnight in photos

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
		
Reception class have been enjoying ribbon and dough disco. This strengthens hand muscles ready to write!	Year 1 have enjoyed exploring our farm and farm shop role play, linking to our history topic of Food and Farming.	In history, we used a source to ask relevant questions about an important event - The Great Fire of London.
Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
		
In art, we have been exploring chalk and pastel to create our own cave paintings. This also links to our history topic on the Stone Age.	In PE, we have been exploring how music makes us feel and how we can express the emotion behind the music in our movements.	In PE, we have been working together by completing a range of teambuilding activities to improve our communication and problem-solving skills.
Year 6	All Aboard!	
		
In art, the children have started the year drawing self-portraits and practising their shading techniques.	The children have enjoyed playing on our new climbing equipment – HMS Duchy!	

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	7 th September 2026	18 th December 2026
Spring	5 th January 2027	25 th March 2027
Summer	12 th April 2027	22 nd July 2027

7 th September	Autumn Term starts
21 st – 25 th September	Y6 Residential
22 nd September	Y3 trip to Kents Cavern
30 th September	PTFA AGM- school hall – 3.30pm (all welcome)
2 nd October	Flu immunisations in school
W/b 5 th October	Autumn Term clubs begin
7 th October	Parent phonics information sessions at 9am and 3.45pm
8 th October	Y1 trip to Tiverton Museum
12 th October	School Photographs – individual photos & sibling groups within school
14 th October	Parents' Evening: 3.50-6.30pm
15 th October	Parents' Evening: 3.50-6.30pm
16 th October	Y4 trip to Escot
23 rd October	Non-Pupil Day (school closed)
26 th October – 30 th October	Half Term Week
3 rd November – 8 th December	Y5 swimming lessons at Tiverton pool (6 weeks)
8 th November	Remembrance Wreath Laying in Bradninch
9 th – 13 th November	Y5 - Bikeability
18 th November	Foundation Admissions Tours – 1.30pm
19 th November	Foundation Admissions Tours – 9.15am
W/e 20 th November	Autumn Term clubs end
4 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Craft Morning-Parents (9.15am to 10.15am)
8 th December	Key Stage 1 (Y1 and Y2) Nativity (2.30pm)
9 th December	Key Stage 1 (Y1 and Y2) Nativity (3.45pm)
11 th December	Key Stage 2 (Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6) Christingle rehearsal
11 th December	Reception Class Christmas Performance to Y1, Y2 & Preschool (time TBC)
14 th December	Reception Class Christmas Performance

	3.45-4.15pm
14 th December	Key Stage 2 (Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6) Christingle at St Disen's Church (2pm)
15 th December	Key Stage 2 (Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6) Pantomime trip to Northcott Theatre
17 th December	School Christmas Lunch
18 th December	Last day of term

4 th January	Spring Term starts
4 th January	Non-Pupil Day (school closed)
6 th January	Key Stage 1 (Reception, Y1 & Y2) Pantomime travelling production in school
29 th January	Y5 trip to Young Voices - Birmingham
15 th – 19 th February	Half-term
3 rd March	Parents' Evening: 3.50-6.30pm
4 th March	Parents' Evening: 3.50-6.30pm
4 th March	World Book Day
5 th – 14 th March	British Science Week (parent event TBC)
10 th March	Y3 Celebration of Singing at Exeter School
25 th March	Last day of term
12 th April	Summer Term starts
4 th May	School Class Photographs
3 rd May	May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)
10 th – 13 th May	Y6 SATS Week
28 th May	The Duchy Mile
31 st May – 4 th June	Half Term
17 th June	Sports Day
18 th June	Reserve Sports Day
24 th /25 th June	Y4 Escot Residential (1 night)
9 th July	Y5/6 Dress Rehearsal
13 th July	Y5/6 Afternoon Performance
14 th July	Y5/6 Evening Performance
14 th July	Reception Parents' Welcome Meeting (9.15am)
16 th July	Y6 Homework reward trip to Crealy
21 st July	Y6 Leaver's Assembly 9.30 am (to parents)
22 nd July	Y6 Leaver's Assembly (whole school)
22 nd July	Last day of term

In the Community



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- ★ St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy, Exeter, EX1 2SN
- ★ St Thomas Primary School, Exeter, EX2 9BB
- ★ Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October
- ★ Multi Activity Club! Sports, Arts & Crafts, Games, & Play
- ★ 8:30am - 2:30pm / 8:30am - 5pm
- ★ £27.99 / £34.99 per child, per day
- ★ Available to children aged 4 - 11

Book at www.premier-education.com/holiday-clubs
Contact dorysell@premier-education.com for queries

PROMOTIONS & DISCOUNTS!

- ★ Half price Fridays!
- ★ 1st Half price day if you attended during Summer 2026

To book promotions & discounts, message us on Facebook: @PremierEducationDevon

Our Holiday Clubs keep children active, safe, and entertained throughout the school holidays.

Join us this holiday period as we offer a wide range of fun activities, including sports, arts and crafts, dance and games, all at great value. There's something for every child to enjoy this half-term!

Book now for a holiday full of excitement!

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*1st Supply Before Friends Discount on bookings only.

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A packed lunch
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Excellent
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