



“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

Parent Survey

Earlier today, we sent out our annual Parent Survey by e-mail. If you haven't already done so, please take a few moments to complete it. Your voice matters, and we genuinely look forward to hearing your views. Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback with us!

[Parent & Carer Survey - Autumn 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Parents' Evening

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

New Chair of Governors Appointed

I am delighted to share that, following our governing board meeting earlier this week, Tamsyn Hopkins has been appointed as our new Chair of Governors. As we welcome Tamsyn into this role, I would also like to thank Molly for her exceptional service as Chair over the past five years. Her support, advice and constructive challenge have been invaluable to both the school and to me personally as Headteacher. Through her dedication and leadership, she has played a significant part in helping our school grow and improve, leaving it in a stronger position for the future.

...and finally, looking ahead, we're excited for the launch of our extra-curricular clubs next week! We're incredibly proud of the wide range of activities on offer —all provided free of charge.



*I'm delighted to take on the role of Chair of Governors at The Duchy School. As a parent of two children at the school — Olivia in Year 5 and Lucas in Reception — I see first-hand the warmth and care that make this school such a special place, and I'm proud to now support it in this new capacity. In my professional life, I lead strategy for an academic publishing house, and I'm looking forward to bringing those skills to help set a clear strategic direction for the school, working closely with the headteacher and staff. I'm also keen to help the school navigate challenges and opportunities alike, and to foster strong collaborations with staff, parents and the wider community. I believe good governance starts with listening, so I want to be genuinely receptive to the views and ideas of everyone connected to the school. Please do reach out to me at any time — whether with feedback, ideas or concerns — as I'm keen to make sure every voice is heard. **Tamsyn Hopkins***

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		
	25.09.26	02.10.26			25.09.26	02.10.26
Reception	Lily S	Dottie		Reception	Reef	Freddie
Year 1	Maisy	Marnie		Year 1	Logan	Evie
Year 2	Kimi	Lyra		Year 2	Johan	Kip
Year 3	Olivia	Tegan		Year 3	Viktor	Luka
Year 4	Rupert	Orla		Year 4	Imogen	Ethan
Year 5	Emily	Olivia		Year 5	Thomas	Bethany
Year 6	All of Y6	Alice		Year 6	All of Y6	Jessica

We have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!

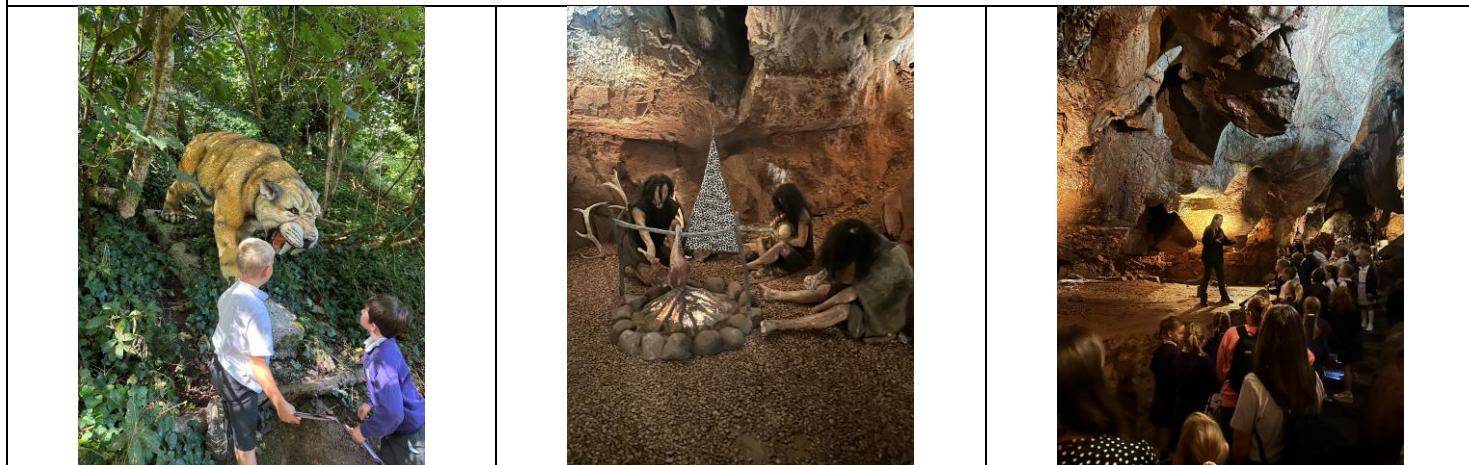
Ernesto	Year 1	Learn to Swim 1 certificate
Brooklyn	Year 2	Tiverton Town Majorettes medal
Ida	Year 3	U8s Trainer of the Week for Twyford Spartans
Brodi	Year 5	Best Dancer Certificate for HV Live in Turkey
Bonnie-Mae	Year 5	Lots of majorettes trophies and medals for Tiverton Town Majorettes
Violet	Year 6	Dolphin 1 Personal Survival certificate for swimming

Our fortnight in photos

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
		
In music, the children have been exploring instruments to follow the beat and working in groups to listen to the sounds.	In history, we have been exploring the historical artefacts in our loan box from Tiverton Museum and thinking about how they show us the ways in which farming has changed.	In science, we explored our outdoor learning area and sorted the materials that we found into natural and manmade. We then used these materials to create waterproof and rigid shelters.
Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
		
In IT, we explored features of digital technology and used this to draw a picture.	In English, we were introduced to our new text when we received a warning letter from the Secret Gardener.	In science, we have been exploring the different properties of materials. We have been testing how absorbent different materials are.
Year 6	Exeter School Music Partnership	
		
Last week, year 6 spent an amazing week on Dartmoor for their residential. There are more pictures below.	Last week, Years 3 and 4 started their music enrichment sessions delivered by the specialist music team from Exeter School.	

Trips and Events

Year 3 to Kent's Cavern



Year 3 visited Kent's Cavern in Torquay as part of our History Topic, 'Stone Age to Iron Age'. In the morning, we handled a range of artefacts. Some of these were replicas of skulls and arrow heads. Everyone held a left-handed stone hand axe, possibly made by a 10-year-old child over 400 000 years ago! We then went into the caves and learnt about the humans and animals that had lived there, as well as the archaeologists who discovered the artefacts. Some of these are displayed in museums around the world. We spent the afternoon on a woodland trail searching for clues to life in the Stone Age.

Year 6 Residential



Last week, our year 6 children spent the week on their residential at The Dartmoor Training Centre. They took part in a range of activities during the week including caving, archery, orienteering, mountain biking and weasling. All the adults and children had a fantastic week and showed amazing tenacity!

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

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
13 th November	Children in Need – Theme TBC
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
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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
3 rd May	May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)
4 th May	School Class Photographs
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



**PREMIER
HOLIDAY CLUBS**

more fun, more friendships, more smiles
DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!

Book today
premier-education.com

Premier
Education

Excellent
★★★★★
Trustpilot

PREMIER EDUCATION WEST EXETER HOLIDAY CLUBS

- ★ 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 Clubs! 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 dcnyrell@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!

CLUBS ARE BETTER WITH FRIENDS!

TREAT YOUR FRIENDS TO 20% OFF...AND GET 20% OFF TOO!

*1st Supply Before Friends Discount on bookings only.

PLEASE BRING
A packed lunch
Plenty of water
Suitable clothing
Loads of energy!

Excellent
★★★★★
Trustpilot

Teacher Training
SWIFT

Primary & Secondary one year courses, leading to QTS & PGCE

- **Online Information Event | Tuesday 20 October 2026 | 1530 - 1600**
- Find out more about SWIFT Teacher Training, our route into teaching, courses and PGCE.
- **Who |** Educated to degree level; undergraduates, recent graduates, career changers, returners to work; teaching assistants, anyone interested in teaching in either a primary or secondary school setting.
- **To Book |** Booking form online at swiftteachertraining.org.uk or scan the QR code.



swiftteachertraining.org.uk info@swiftteachertraining.org.uk 01548 852641





Small Talks

Safer Families

Free support for
parents and carers

Talking to kids about the
hard stuff can be difficult.
Let's Talk Safer Families
gives you a place to start.

Join a free session

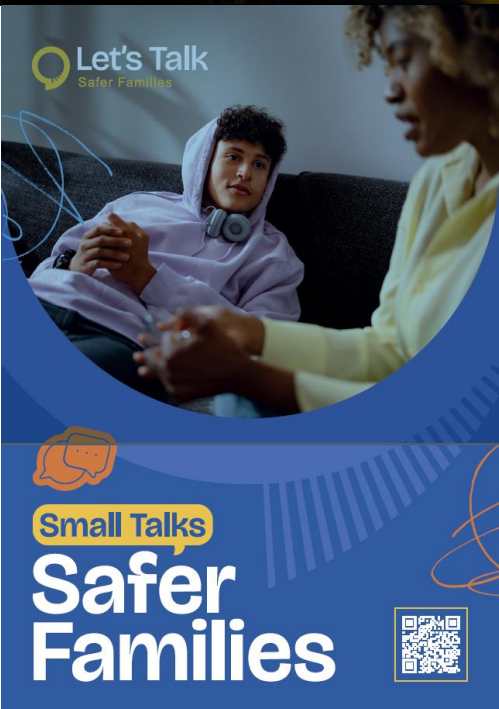
Let's Talk
Safer Families



**Most parents
want to talk
to their kids**

about things like
**online safety,
relationships
& peer pressure**

What stops them isn't a lack of care.
It's not knowing where to start.



Let's Talk
Safer Families

Small Talks

Safer Families



Let's Talk
Safer Families

Every family has conversations they're not sure how to start

Let's Talk Safer Families offers free,
practical support for parents and carers

Healthy relationships • Harmful online influences
Digital safety • Exploitation

We help you understand what young people are facing and start
the conversation at home.



To join a free session, or watch
anytime, scan the QR code or visit
letstalksaferfamilies.org



What's coming up from Let's Talk Safer Families

Free sessions and expert conversations for
parents and carers.

Core Sessions:

Primary - Building Strong Foundations.

Pre-teens - Staying Connected Through Change.

Teenagers - Keeping Connection When It Matters Most.

SEND - Supporting Safety, Celebrating Strengths

Themed Programme:



**Meena Kumari
& Sav Vaid**
Violence Against
Women and Girls



**Junior
Smart**
Exploitation



**Lewis
Nurton**
Misogyny and harmful
online narratives

Podcasts:



The Gazzard Trust
Unhealthy relationships



**Dan Barton and youth
workers from SPACE**
Online harms



Follow Let's Talk Safer Families for
programme and booking updates.

