

Weekly School News Roundup

Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School



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News from your Headteacher

We have managed to reach the end of term (well, 2 days to go) and we are all exhausted and ready for the summer. I really hope that your children have enjoyed their year with us and that they have lots of happy memories of things they have experienced over the past 12 months. For staff it has been a challenging year for a number of reasons, but I am so proud of all the staff for their hard work, resilience and enthusiasm, striving to make sure that the children get the best time in school that they can.

This week we've been treated to lots of performances in music and dance. Our after-school Street Dance Club entertained us with their dancing on Monday, and we were treated to a drumming performance by our Year 3 children. Our Peripatetic music teachers arranged for their pupils to perform to KS2 on Monday too. We've had so much talent on show - well done to all the children who performed, and thank you to the teachers for their hard work and dedication.

As we approach the end of term, we sadly say farewell to several members of staff.

- 🌸 Mrs Jo Wibberley has worked as a Teaching Assistant at Withycombe for over 16 years. Her tremendous ability to support children with learning has benefited hundreds of children, preparing them for secondary school really well. She has been a positive team member, has a wonderful sense of humour, an amazing artistic flair and is super clever! We will miss her very much.
- 🌸 Mrs Sarah Cuthbert has worked as a Teacher at Withycombe Raleigh for 6 years. She has worked in every single classroom, I think! She is always so flexible, happy and great fun. Mrs Cuthbert also makes amazing cakes - she will be greatly missed, although we are hoping she will be back to do lots of supply teaching!
- 🌸 Miss Meg Barnes has worked as a TA with us since 2022 and she has certainly made a positive impact in that short time. Miss Barnes has supported children with their academic learning brilliantly, and is always willing to help out in class or around school in any way she can. Miss Barnes starts her PGCE course at Exeter Uni in September. She will be a wonderful addition to the teaching profession!
- 🌸 We also say goodbye to Mr Carver and Mrs McCormack, both of whom have worked as TAs since January. We are grateful to them both for their hard work supporting staff and children during this time. These staff move on to pastures new where we hope they will be very happy.



We look forward to seeing lots of you at **Phear Park on Sunday 21st July at 8.40am!**

Withyfest! Thank you to everyone who volunteered or supported our PTFA Withyfest event last Friday. It was a shame it rained but even with the awful weather they **raised an amazing £5500!**

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs. E Jones

As this is the last newsletter of this academic year, we would like to wish all the children who are moving on to new schools lots of luck for the future. We hope that they leave us with happy memories of their time at Withycombe. We have received a beautiful letter from a parent of children who are leaving us - we'd like to share some of it with you on the following page. We hope all our families feel the same way!



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



We have permission to share this beautiful message from a family whose children leave us this year. We know that our Teachers, TAs, and all the other school staff work really hard for the children, and it is very much with this aim. Thank you for writing this to us, and for letting us share it, as we say goodbye to our fantastic year 6 children.

We wish you all loads of luck as you embark on your next exciting adventures.



To Withycombe Raleigh Primary School

The end of this summer term marks the end of end of an era for our family. When we say goodbye to Withycombe next week, we will also be saying goodbye to more than 10 years of school runs, sports days, parents' evenings and many other primary school traditions which we have valued greatly, and we will miss very much.

My children have all absolutely loved their time at primary school and all of them have a continued sense of identity and belonging connected to Withycombe. They will forever remember their primary school years as being fun and nurturing and as their parent I have a strong sense of what a consistently positive school environment has done for them as they move forward in their lives.

Over the years there hasn't been a single school day when my children were not received with warmth, positivity and kindness. Their access to learning has been excellent and they always felt known, safe and cared for in school. Your teaching staff are honestly amazing and seem to know and care about every child in the school.

In all our years at Withycombe there hasn't been an occasion when teachers haven't been willing to go above and beyond for us. There hasn't been an email unanswered or an occasion when they haven't been willing to offer their time when this has been needed. On those rare days when the children were feeling worried, they always had the sense that there was someone in the school who would be able to understand, and who they could turn to for support.

All my children have also thrived on the positive energy of topic days, sports days, world book days and Christmas lunches. Thank you, I know these extra things must increase the workload a lot, but they add such magic to school life. I hope that Withycombe does this forever because it has been brilliant.

As well as all the wonderful learning, I credit the school with my children's strong capacity to form good relationships and show kindness, respect and tolerance for other people. I think that the way the school embraces diversity and difference is modelled beautifully to the children and I notice the positive impact of this at home when we think about and discuss the many difficulties our world faces.

It's hard when your child starts school and you are no longer the main influence in their life. You hope someone else will be able to see how brilliant and important they are, and forgive all the stuff they will inevitably get wrong.

So thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for doing all that we hoped.

We will miss you.

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Safeguarding

The summer holidays can bring great opportunities for fun and relaxation away from the school setting, and for children to spend valuable time with their families and loved ones. However, for some children and families, it can also bring a range of risks, or increased opportunity for harm.

However unlikely it may seem within our community, these things can and do happen in our area too. We've highlighted some of the increased risks that children can face when they away from school, to raise awareness:

- **Online safety** - children are likely to spend more time online and it's crucial for them and their parents/guardians to have an understanding of the risks, including cyber-bullying, exposure to grooming, radicalisation and the overall importance of establishing safe online practices. Our website has an 'online safety' page with lots of helpful guides to support you with this.
- **Accidents and injuries** - children will (hopefully!) engage in more outdoor activities, including seeing friends, cycling/scooting, and playing sports. This can increase the likelihood of falls and accidents occurring. It's clearly important to supervise younger children, but we also need to encourage safe practices for older children so that they can learn to *take risks safely*, including reminding them about road safety as they may be gaining more independence.
- **Changes in supervision, and change of routines.** Some older children can be at risk of engaging in risky behaviours due to spending increased time on their own, as parents and guardians may be working or looking after younger siblings. There has been a rise in concerns around *county lines* due in part to the cost-of-living crisis. Also, it may be difficult for families to pay for day trips, holidays or activities, and older children may be left to amuse themselves. Parents and guardians may also have unavoidable responsibilities and some children may be left without appropriate levels of supervision for their age due to a lack of childcare – or they may stay with other families or family friends where additional risks can lie, albeit rarely.
- **Mental health and wellbeing concerns.** Children may spend more time alone and feel isolated or left out, or online where they can be exposed to harmful content. A lack of routine or structure can also impact negatively on a child's wellbeing or mental health, especially for those who may be neuro-diverse, or routine-dependent.
- Children could potentially be at increased risk of **abuse, neglect, or exploitation** within the summer break. Children may have less access to food and support, or may be exposed to abuse from family members or strangers. There are many contextual settings where children can be exploited and abused within their communities, or by influential people who they are spending time with. Our Safeguarding web page explains what to look out for, such as changes of behaviour, and what to do about any concerns.
- There are also **everyday risks** such as severe sunburn, heat-related illnesses and even water-related incidents, especially as we live by the sea. For example, tombstoning is very dangerous and children die every year by engaging in these stunts.

Please take a moment to reflect on some of these potential risks and aim to ensure necessary precautions are taken to mitigate them during the summer break – while, importantly, having lots of family fun and enjoyment!

Mr Smith, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Should you become aware of any concerns about children during the holidays, you can contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub by calling 0345 155 1071, or emailing mashsecure@devon.gov.uk

If you think there is an immediate threat, as always please call 999

Children who need help or support over the holidays can call Childline on 0800 1111

Contact us

There is minimal office cover over the summer break, but emails and the answerphone will be checked periodically.

• **Tel: 01395 263397** • **email: admin@wrpschool.org** • **wrpschool.org** • **facebook: OfficialWRPSchool** •

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Wellbeing Update - Coping with Change Part 2

Preparing for the New School Year!

You may be thinking more about the upcoming summer holidays rather than returning to school in September! However, allocating time in the holidays to prepare and plan for the new school year will make the transition for your child a less stressful experience.

If your child feels anxious about returning to school in September, or joining us for the first time, you can help them to look forward to it and not fear it by supporting them to feel more prepared and in control. This will help reduce return-to-school nerves.

How can you help give children return-to-school confidence?

- ✓ Get prepared. What equipment/resources/uniform do you need? Do you know where you are going on day one/where your class is/which teacher(s) you will have? Having all our resources ready in good time will help our children feel more in control.
- ✓ Talk about school. Be positive and enthusiastic about all the fun things that will happen at school. Use their teacher's name(s) so it feels familiar and talk about friends they will see again or new friends they'll make.
- ✓ Notice and comment on skills & strengths. Help children recognise their qualities, no matter how small, and that they understand their qualities can transfer to any new situation, be it a new class or new school. This will boost their self-belief.
- ✓ Check for negative thinking. As we know, what we think affects how we feel. If your child has lots of worried thoughts, it can be natural to give reassurance or offer solutions. However, reassurance may only help in the short term. We can support our children better by helping them to think through solutions for themselves.
- ✓ Get routines in check. All routines slip a bit during the summer break. Get term-time sleeping patterns back on track before school resumes. Starting the school routine again can be mentally and physically tiring and being well rested will help our children cope better with this.

Mrs L Jones,
Wellbeing TA



If your child is starting in September for the first time, you could show them some of the messages our children wrote during Kindness Week! They wanted to share what they enjoy about school.

It may help your children to understand that they will be happy at school too!

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Year 6 Activities Week!

What a fabulous time we had! Here are just a few photos to give you a flavor of their activities, making the most of the wonderful beach we have right on our doorstep!



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Sports & Achievements!

If you have an award or achievement that you'd like to share, please email a photo and brief description to admin@wrpschool.org, and we'll aim to include it in our weekly newsletter.

On Saturday Alban in Barn Owl Class took part in a one mile fun run as part of the Otter River Rail 10k run. He had a great time and it was the first time he has run on muddy tracks and paths. He's very proud of the medal he was awarded!



Congratulations to Kara from Oak class who passed her piano Grade 1 exam with Distinction!



Children from years 4 & 6 took part in the Wizard of Oz performances at the Blackmore Theatre on Sunday 14th July. The play was amazing, congratulations to all of them!

In the photo are: Megan, Kara, Marnie, Bethany, Elsie from Oak Class and Imogen, Anya, Florence, Lily and Amelie from Y6.



This week was our school's annual Week of Kindness!



Reception children are thinking about the young leavers at our local nurseries and how they might be feeling about starting school. We have drawn pictures and written messages to show our very favourite things about being at school, to help to ease any worries they might be having.

We will be sending them to the nursery managers for them to share with the children.

Here are some of the Bumblebee Class messages!



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In Year One we have made lovely book marks.
We are going to share them between Exmouth Library & our church.



Here are some more photos of children spreading kindness out and about in Exmouth!
They shared home-made bakes, and gave people a 'kindness week' sticker!



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sea swim
devon

SEA SWIMMING Summer Sessions

29TH JULY - 2ND AUGUST 2024

BEGINNER/ INTERMEDIATE/ ADVANCED
1:1/ 1:2 & Group sessions available for
ADULTS and CHILDREN

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