

Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**



Date: 3/12/2021

Mrs Emma Jones, Headteacher
Withycombe Village Road
Exmouth, Devon, EX8 3BA

Please ring us on: (01395) 263397
email: admin@wrpschool.org
website: wrpschool.org

News from your Headteacher

There have been lots of excited children this week as December has finally arrived. Please keep a close eye on communications from school over the next two weeks including: emails, the website, Facebook and the school newsletter. We really don't want any families to miss out on any of the opportunities for festive fun!

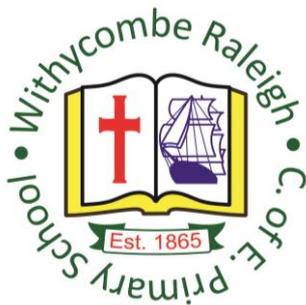
On Monday, I took members of our Ethos Council to visit Exmouth Foodbank. We regularly donate to this worthwhile cause, with our biggest collection at Harvest time. The volunteers at the Foodbank, spoke to the children about the work they do and how they help people in the Exmouth. Children were then set to work: planning meals, dating food donations and packing boxes of food for families to collect. Our children were extremely polite and well behaved and they worked very hard. One member of the Ethos Council commented that he 'felt proud' to be helping out at the Foodbank. We continue to collect donations throughout the year, so if you are able to provide some items to the Foodbank they would be very grateful. Leading up to Christmas they are looking for donations of the following items:

- Packets of trifle mix
- Christmas puddings
- Christmas cake slices
- Yule logs
- Mince pies (boxes of 6)
- Custard
- Tinned ham
- Boxes of stuffing mix
- Small boxes of chocolates
- Biscuits for cheese
- Snacks for sharing.



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Covid update

It feels a little bit like déjà vu, writing this Covid update. We seem to be in a similar position to that which we were in this time last year. Although we have had several positive Covid cases this week (15 in total across the school) numbers are comparatively low compared to other schools in the local area. Each of our positive cases are reported to Devon County Council and we continue to make contact with Public Health England when advised to do so. As a school, we are constantly monitoring the numbers of cases we have, identifying patterns and making adaptations to our routines as necessary. We will notify you if there is a positive case within your child's class and if there are 4 or more cases within the class we will send you a further 'warn and inform' letter.

As you are aware, as of August 2021, children identified as a close contact of a positive case do not need to isolate and they can continue to attend school. All family members, who are identified as close contacts, are strongly advised to take a PCR test as a precaution.

Children and staff continue to wash hands regularly, surfaces are sanitised throughout the day and rooms are well ventilated. Each class has an air quality monitor in order that we can check the levels of ventilation and take steps if air quality starts to deteriorate. This week, staff have all been advised to wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas including when collecting children from the gate. We ask that from Monday, visitors on site to please wear a face covering, this also includes parents who are dropping or collecting children from the playground.

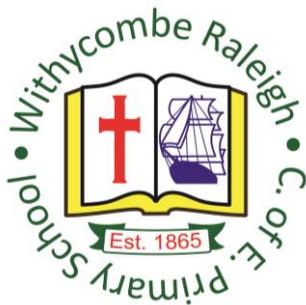
As we have stated in previous newsletters, if you are at all in doubt about whether your child should attend school or not, in the current climate, I would simply advise you to err on the side of caution! If your child is feeling unwell and has any of the following symptoms: a persistent cough, high temperature or loss of taste/smell, then you should keep them at home and arrange a PCR test, even if a lateral flow test has returned a negative result. Please note that lateral flow tests are really only to be used to identify asymptomatic cases and should not be used if patient is showing possible symptoms of Covid. I would also like to point out that many of our recent positive cases have followed symptoms such as sore throats, sore / tired eyes and headaches – so please also act with caution around these symptoms.

Clubs

The last week of school clubs will be next week starting 6th December. There will be no school clubs in the last week of term apart from Lego Club on Monday 13th December. We hope your children have enjoyed attending our clubs this term. A new club timetable will be available from 6th January for clubs to start the week beginning 10th January. Children will need to sign up again via Parentpay for clubs even if they have attended this term

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Contact us

Please remember that there are many ways you can contact school staff if you have any queries. You can email your child's class teacher directly using the class email account; alternatively, you can email admin@wrpschool.org or enquiries@wrpschool.org or call us on 01395 263397. Please be aware that teachers do not have the opportunity to check emails during the school day and therefore if you have an urgent message for staff within the school day, please ring our office or email as indicated.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs. E Jones

Upcoming Events

26th November-8th December

PTFA Christmas Raffle, Parent Gift Shop and Christmas Eve Boxes

4th-12th December Christmas Trail

PTFA Christmas Trail

Wednesday 15th December

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 17th December

Last day of Term

Thursday 6th January 2022

Children return to school

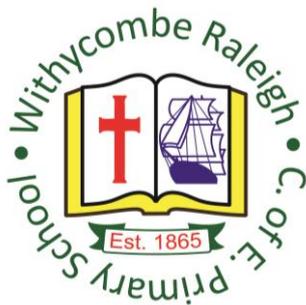
Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship this week focused on Advent and Christingle. On Monday we learned about the origins of the Christingle service which dates back to the 1700s. Each class made a Christingle and talked about what each part of it symbolised. Sadly, we had to cancel our Christingle service in school but we did record a service with only Year 6 children participating.



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Safeguarding – Early Help

Nationally and locally, many families are sadly facing continual, increasing or new pressures and challenges around their daily lives.

For this reason, I would like to remind our school community about the support system known as ‘**Early Help**’ which involves professionals working together, aiming to provide the right (and timely) support to families.

If you consider that you need some help, or if you are concerned for the wellbeing of a child or young person, please use the Early Help process to talk to a professional about it. ‘Early Help’ refers to the extra support a family can get if needed – sometimes to prevent a problem, or even to change things in the family before a problem becomes more serious.

Early Help offers support to families with all sorts of issues from parenting, employment and school attendance to emotional wellbeing or anti-social behaviour. Examples of when help might be needed might include: being worrying about someone’s physical or mental health, a disability or special need; domestic abuse; alcohol or drug misuse; harmful behaviour or involvement in crime; and financial difficulties or housing situations which are having a negative impact.

When a family is supported it is more likely that long term solutions to issues are found.

Typically families are provided with a main point of contact, perhaps someone like a social worker, a health visitor or a housing officer. After an initial assessment meeting to identify any support services needed, a support plan will be written with the family and reviewed regularly often in a ‘TAF’ (Team Around the Family) meeting.

Help can be obtained in a number of ways:

- Talking to someone already known e.g. a health visitor, a GP or Mr Smith, Mrs Jones or a class teacher.
- Searching on Pinpoint Devon which has the details of thousands of community services and groups available in Devon.
- Call Early Help Customer Services on 0345 1551071 (Mon to Fri 8am–8pm and Sat 9am–1pm)
- Email the Early Help Hub for Mid and East Devon: Earlyhelpmideastsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

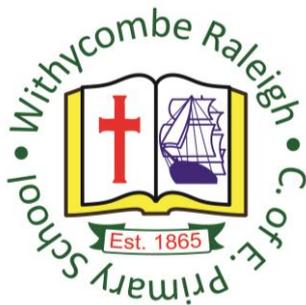
Please also refer to the attached ‘Early Help’ leaflet (from the Devon Children and Families Partnerships).

If you have any urgent safeguarding concerns about a child please call the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on **0345 155 1071**. In an emergency of course, call **999**.

Mr Smith - Designated Safeguarding Lead

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Top Tips for Wellbeing - Helping children cope with grief.

With National Grief Awareness week running from 2nd-7th December, this week we are going to think about ways that you can support your child with grief and bereavement. Experiencing bereavement in childhood, or indeed at any age, can have an immense impact on many different levels, sometimes meaning that life will never be quite the same again. During bereavement, it can help a child to talk about the person who has died, whether it was a relative, friend or much loved family pet. Our instinct is to want to protect our children from being upset or hurt. However, direct, honest and open communication is found to be much more helpful than hiding the truth. This helps children open up about their own feelings, avoiding confusion about what has happened. There is no easy way to explain the death of a loved one, although the following may help:

- Clear, honest and age-appropriate information and answering questions honestly.
- Reassurance that different feelings are OK.
- Time to talk about what has happened, ask questions and share memories. Maybe through photos, memory boxes, games or stories.
- Normal routines as much as possible.
- Showing your own emotions, which in turn will help your child express theirs.
- Discussion around how to include them in any events that celebrate or say goodbye to the person who has died.
- Being mindful of anniversaries/birthdays or particular times of year such as Christmas.
- Let your child's teacher know so that school can talk to you about the best way to support your child.

Children may choose to talk about their loss at different times and in different ways. Young children may talk about death through play or at times when you least expect it. This is a normal way for children to start to process what has happened. You may find that some children are quite matter of fact at the time of being told, but later become upset about something you may think is completely unrelated. It is also not unusual for young children to suddenly become very clingy. To enable you to better support your child, it is very important to make sure you get the support and help you need to process your own grief.

Below are list of charities you may find useful:

The Good Grief Trust: www.thegoodgrieftrust.org

Balloons: www.balloonscharity.co.uk 01392 826065

Winston's Wish: www.winstonswish.org 08088 020 021

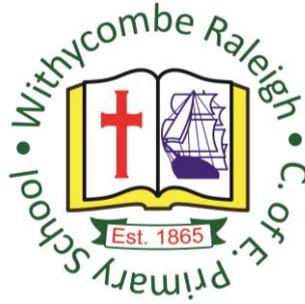
Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk 0808 802 5544

Child Bereavement UK: www.childbereavementuk.org 0800 02 888 40

Cruse: www.cruse.org.uk 0808 808 1677

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Free Level 2 training for Parents and Families

Fully funded accredited training for parents of schools linked to the Diocese of Exeter is available through 'The Aim Group' for the remainder of 2021 (to be reassessed in 2022).

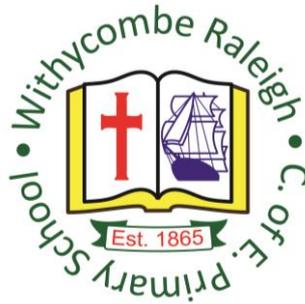
There are over [40 courses](#) available including:

Children's Mental Health, Behaviour that Challenges, ADHD and ADD, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Mental Health First Aid, Equality and Diversity, and Safeguarding and Prevent.

To be eligible individuals must be 19+ years and an EU/UK resident for 3+ years. Content is completed at the learners own pace online over a six week period. There are 500 fully funded spaces per month. In order to find out more, register and gain access please contact Chris Greenfield by the 30th September on 0203 900 3091, extension 213, at christopher.greenfield@theaimgroup.co.uk.

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Sports & Achievements

We love to hear about your children's sporting and other achievements. If you have anything to share, please email enquiries@wrpschool.org with your news and a photo if possible. We will endeavor to include as many of your photos as possible each week.



This week's stars are:

Flo in Year 1 received an award and medal from her Judo class.

Emmie-Jane in Year 1 goes to Judo every Thursday evening. She competed in her first grading session and earned her first white stripe. Emmie was also awarded the 'Spirit of Judo' award.

Molly in Year 2 has been awarded a Blue Peter badge for creating an encyclopaedia and for regular litter picking.

Amelia, Year 5 attained her orange belt at mixed martial arts. She double graded as missed her yellow belt due to isolating.

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More stars:

Elina (Year 3) with her player of the week trophy from Girls' football with L and F Multisports.

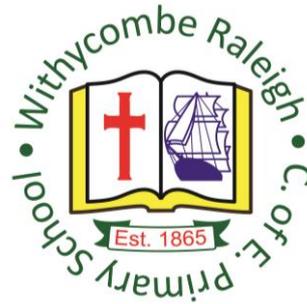
Jacob (Year 1) got his yellow stripe belt at MMA.

Bumble Bimble Jingle
RUN or WALK - 1 Mile or 5 KM
All profits going to charity
Orcombe Point
12 December - Start 1400
Come Jingle with us
Fancy dress and bells a must

Exmouth RNLI, Lifeboats, Hospiscare, LM Events, WWW.LMEVENTS.ORG.UK

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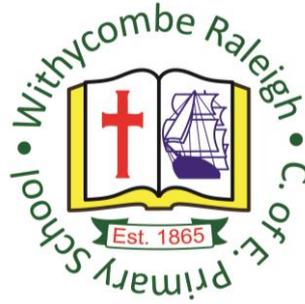
Summer (Year 5) was inspired by our KIVA Project and created an anti-bullying poster

Year 6 have been learning how to say
'Merry Christmas' in different languages.



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Hedgehog Class have been getting into the 'festive spirit' decorating a Christmas tree and decorating the classroom.