

Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**

Date: 22nd March 2024



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

As we approach the Easter holidays, I think it is good to look back at the term and celebrate all the wonderful learning experiences the children have had. It has been lovely to see so many parents in Year 1 helping with the Design and Technology Projects this week. We welcome volunteers in school to support children with projects like this, with off-site visits or to listen to children read. If you feel you would be able to offer support in school on a regular basis, please collect a volunteer application form from the office: we would really appreciate your support. For safeguarding reasons, all volunteers undergo a robust recruitment process including being asked to provide references and complete some online training.

We have had another busy week at Withycombe with lots of fabulous learning going on in our classrooms. Children are really enjoying the topics they are covering and are becoming really knowledgeable about these. We always choose topics that will engage the children and capture their imagination. Staff have spent a great deal of time putting together our 'Withycombe Curriculum' ensuring children are able to build on prior learning as they progress through the school. Classroom displays around school celebrate the topics the children are learning too.



If you'd like to find out more about our curriculum; what children learn and why, please take a look at our curriculum pages on the website: <https://www.wrpschool.org/main-curriculum>

Continued...



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



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Absences

Many of you may be planning to book your next family holiday away - perhaps you already have one booked during the Easter break, or maybe you're looking forward to the summer holidays? Some families may be considering a term-time break though, and we'd like to remind you that holidays taken during term-time are *unauthorised absences* unless circumstances are deemed 'exceptional'. (Please ask if you would like clarification on this).

The **Government has published a 'white paper'** where they have set out their priorities for schools over the next few years. One area they are keen to target is attendance. Schools are being asked to closely monitor pupil attendance and to act swiftly when a child's attendance falls below 90%. As a school our attendance levels have always been very good, but we have noticed a drop in our attendance with an increasing number of children being classed as 'persistently absent' – that is, attendance below 90%. Our Attendance Policy can be found on the school website - this explains our policy and procedures for persistent absence.

One of our procedures is to notify all parents and carers if their child's attendance falls below 90%. This includes absences due to illness, and/or any unauthorised absences. If you receive a letter from the school over the next couple of weeks stating that your child's attendance has dropped below 90%, please understand that this is part of our absence monitoring procedure, and within our **duty of care** to ensure children attend school whenever possible. **Our aim is to offer families support so that children's attendance can be improved, and ensure that they have access to teaching and learning on a regular basis.**

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that all their children of compulsory school age are receiving an efficient, full-time education, by regular attendance at a school or otherwise. Devon County Council monitor this, and support schools in their efforts to raise school attendance. **All schools have a legal obligation to inform Devon County Council of any child not attending regularly.**

Should you have any concerns about your child's attendance or if you need support, please make an appointment to see me or Mr Smith. Further information about school attendance and absences can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

If your child has unauthorised absences from school it could result in a School Absence Penalty Notice being issued. You can find out more about school absence penalty notices, as well as the other legal measures that may be taken, at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-attendance/attendance-advice-and-guidance-for-parents-and-carers/>



Collective Worship

We have continued to look at the theme of 'wise words' in Collective Worship and how our words and actions impact on others. This week we have again looked at why we should 'do good things' and how good deeds and actions not only make the recipient feel happy but also makes the giver happy too.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs. E Jones



The **last day of this term** is **Thursday 28th March** and children return to school after the Easter break on **Monday 15th April**. The rest of our term dates can be found on the school website – there's a link on the Home Page and on the FAQ page.
<https://www.wrpschool.org/faqs-2024>

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Safeguarding – County Lines

'County lines' is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas using dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of "deal line". They exploit children to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. Although unusual, it is known that children as young as six are being forced to carry and sell drugs. Young people and children involved with county lines are made to skip school, sleep in drug dens and keep secrets from their loved ones; often feeling trapped in a hopeless situation. Vulnerable adults may also be forced to provide gangs with a base in their homes – this offence is referred to as 'cuckooing'.

Who is vulnerable to county lines exploitation?

- Gangs are increasingly using social media platforms to make initial contact with children and young people as the key method of grooming them to become involved.
- Non-stereotypical children are often targeted as they're perceived as being more likely to evade detection.
- Young people of all genders are being involved: particularly in the age bracket 13-17 years old.

The national picture continues to develop, but it's known that **County Lines gangs do operate in Exmouth**. For example the BBC reported late last year that 18 members of a drug gang used a motorhome to tour the south west, including Exmouth. They were handed prison sentences of up to 12 years.

Signs to look out for: Young people / children caught up in county lines may exhibit some of the following signs, but it is advised that any sudden change of lifestyle should be discussed with them.



- ✗ Persistently going missing from home or absent from school
- ✗ Significant decline in school performance
- ✗ Isolation from peers / friendship groups
- ✗ Unexplained acquisition of money, shoes/clothes, mobile phones
- ✗ Excessive receipt of texts or calls
- ✗ Unexplained injuries or decline in emotional wellbeing.

What to do if you are concerned: County lines and child exploitation must stop, and it is vital that concerns are acted upon immediately to give those who have been exploited a chance for a better future. If you believe a person is at immediate risk of harm, you should contact the police (999). Other support including videos about County Lines can be found on our website: <https://www.wrpschool.org/safeguarding-2024>

You can also contact:

- MASH (the Multi Agency Safeguarding hub) on 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk.
- Fearless www.fearless.org - A safe place to give information about crime, 100% anonymously.
- Childline www.childline.org.uk, Tel: 0800 1111 - National free and confidential advice and support for all young people up to 19 years old.
- Please also feel free to contact me or Mrs Jones on the school number if you're uncertain about what to do or how to act in a situation which may be linked to county lines, or other safeguarding issues.

Mr Smith, Designated Safeguarding Lead



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Sports and Achievements

If you have any news about sports or other achievements from outside of school that you'd like to share, please email a photo and brief explanation to admin@wrpschool.org.

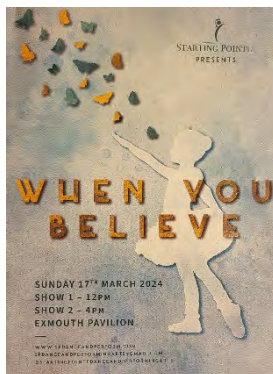
Leila from Beech class took part in Starting Pointe Dance and Performing Arts annual show on Sunday!



The Girls from Oak Class in Year 4 were amazing in their show on Sunday!



Congratulations to Ruby who completed the Exmouth Library Secret Book Quest and read a fabulous fifty books! Two of her favourites were 'Hattie B, Magical Vet: The Phoenix's Flame' by Claire Taylor-Smith, and 'Yasmin The Football Star' by Saadia Faruqi.



Last weekend Anya and Imogen (Kingfisher) and Megan and Kara (Oak) gave fantastic performances at their two dance school shows 'When You Believe'. Between them they smashed their ballet, street, acro, contemporary and musical theatre performances! Leila in Barn Owl class was also on stage. She remembered all her routine, and words to the songs she was singing. Leila performed to three dance routines: Mary Poppins 'The Perfect Nanny' and 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious', and 'Beep Beep I'm a Sheep' from The Living Tombstone.



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JUNIOR ACTIVITIES @ *Exmouth*
Tennis & Fitness

EASTER TENNIS CAMPS



RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE EASTER
HOLIDAYS
BOOK NOW!

MINI'S (AGE 5 - 11)

Tuesday 2nd & 9th
Thursday 4th & 11th
09.00 - 12.00

JUNIOR'S (AGE 11+)

Tuesday 2nd & 9th
Thursday 4th & 11th
13.00 - 16.00

£20PP

☎ 01395 223355

✉ TENNIS@LEDLEISURE.CO.UK



Help Overcoming Problems Effectively

- 🆓 Free Course
- 👤 Supporting You To Manage Your Health & Wellbeing
- 👥 Meet Other People With Shared Experiences
- 📅 6 Weeks
- 👥 Group Based Peer Support
- 👤 Empowering You To Make Changes

HOPE Course: Anxiety and Depression
Dates: Tuesdays 26th March - 30th April
Times: 10.00am - 12.30pm
Venue: Exmouth Town Hall, St Andrews Road, Exmouth, EX8 1AW



Follow the QR code above to register your interest in this course or to express an interest in a topic for upcoming courses
Visit the Website: <https://myhealth-devon.nhs.uk/local-services/hope-programme>
Or contact your East Devon HOPE coordinator Kate Harrison:
Email: hope.devon@nhs.net Phone: 01395 446896

SEACHANGE
HEALTH & HAPPINESS FOR ALL

INVOLVE
Partnership for Progress

hope
for the community

NHS
Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust



SCOPE
= Equality for disabled people

LOVE IS IN THE HAIR!

My name is Billy I am 9 years old. My uncle Greg passed away unexpectedly a few months ago. Greg was 31 and had down syndrome. Greg didn't let his disability hold him back. He loved life and he enjoyed every minute of it. Greg was a volunteer at Exmouth Scope where he worked for many years. Greg was a hard worker and like to give back to the community by doing his volunteer work and even won an award for volunteer of the year which is a national award. He was very proud and so are we. I have never had short hair and now I would like to honour my uncle Greggy by cutting it off in his memory and raising money for the charity he worked so hard for.

There are 16 million disabled people in the UK. That's one in four of us. Life is harder when you're disabled. You're twice as likely to be unemployed, getting care is a struggle and the cost of living is higher. It's wrong and unacceptable.

So, Billy is fundraising for Scope to create a fairer society. We want a future that's fair to disabled people, always.

Join Billy in making this happen. Let's end disability inequality, today.
www.justgiving.com/page/billybond2014

JustGiving



Look out for the video on our Official Facebook about the Longest EASTER Walk challenge!



Contact us:

You can email your child's teacher using the class email account which you can find on the school website under your Year Group page. Remember that teachers don't have an opportunity to check their emails during the school day as they're busy teaching, so if you have an urgent message please contact the school office.

Tel: 01395 263397, email: admin@wrpschool.org

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