

Weekly School News Roundup

Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School



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

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

Date: 24/2/2023

News from your Headteacher

I hope that your half term was relaxing and that your children are looking forward to the remainder of the Spring Term. I have received so many photographs this week celebrating children's achievements and experiences in and out of school. It amazes me, not only how brave and adventurous our children are but also, how they have so much energy to do all the extra activities outside the school day. We are really pleased with the wide range of clubs that we are able to offer after school and living in Exmouth our children are fortunate to have a whole host of other opportunities too. Over the past few weeks, children have been participating in inter school sporting fixtures and our Year 5 have taken part in Bikeability training too. In the summer, we have our watersports club and sailing lessons resuming, making the most of our unique location near the sea. We love to hear about our children's achievements and celebrate them in our newsletter; so please send in any photos you have of your children's special achievements and we will include as many as we can.

Industrial Action

Teachers across Devon will be participating in further industrial action on Thursday March 2nd. As with most schools, the majority of our teachers are members of the National Education Union and these staff have notified me that they intend to take action next week.

Following discussions with the Senior Leadership Team and Governors I have taken the very difficult decision to partially close our school on Thursday 2nd March.

The following classes will be open on Thursday:

- Bumblebees
- Ladybirds
- Dragonflies
- Barn Owls
- Rabbits
- Hedgehogs
- Kingfishers
- Ospreys
- Kestrels

In addition, I am able to take a reasonable step in offering children who have an EHCP or who have social worker involvement an opportunity to attend school - as support staff will be onsite to supervise these particular children. A separate communication will be sent to these families.

Please accept my sincere apologies for any disruption or hardship that the strike days may cause.

Our staff are committed to providing the very best education for children and therefore want to ensure that children across the country are able to have access to an excellent education system in the future. This is one of the main reasons why they have decided to take industrial action on this occasion. It is expected that many schools will be similarly disrupted.

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Uniform Consultation

Before Christmas we carried out a consultation with our school community regarding our uniform. As a school, we are always looking at ways to improve and as part of this; we wanted to review our current school uniform. In order to make a full and informed decision as a school community we consulted with parents, students, staff and governors.

We proposed to make one change to the uniform and that would be the removal of the school tie and white shirt/ blouse, replacing it with a plain white polo shirt (no logo). Our jumper/ cardigan, skirt/ pinafore and trousers/ shorts/summer dress would remain the same.

There were a number of reasons for wishing to explore a change of school uniform including:

- Feedback from parents, pupils and staff about how practical and comfortable our school uniform is. Our young children struggle with the small buttons and children with sensory needs find the shirt and tie too restrictive.
- Our curriculum has changed over the years which means that we are now spending much more time learning outside or getting messy through 'hands on' learning; ties are not practical for this kind of learning.
- By the end of the school day ties have often been chewed and shirts/ blouses are undone. White polo shirts look much more presentable.

Proposed Changes:

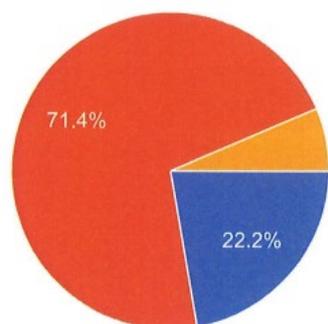
There were three options to choose from in the consultation, these were:

OPTION 1 - No change to existing uniform policy.

OPTION 2 –School tie and white shirt to be replaced with a white polo shirt.

OPTION 3-No preference

The results were:



- Option 1: No change to existing uniform policy
- Option 2: School tie and white shirt to be replaced with a white polo shirt.
- Option 3: No preference

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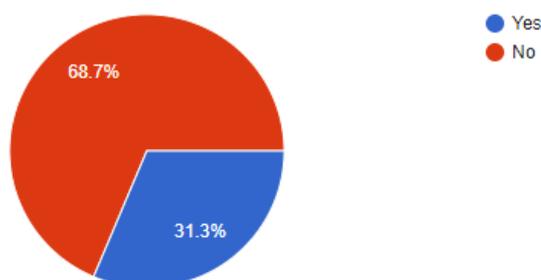
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Following the initial Consultation, the Governors requested that we ask our Year 5 and 6 children their opinion on our school uniform. Ties have traditionally been a part of our school uniform for many years and some adults wanted to keep this tradition. We considered removing ties and shirts for all year groups apart from Year 6. The children in Years 5 and 6 were consulted and the results were:

If you had the option to wear a shirt and tie in Year 6, would you wear it?

83 responses



Following the consultation, the Governors have made the decision that from September 2023, our school tie and shirt will be replaced by white polo shirts. We will update our school uniform policy and our uniform providers accordingly.

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

Term dates can be found at: <https://www.wrpschool.org/parents>

Friday 24th February - PTFA Discos

Friday 3rd March - World Book Day

Friday 17th March - Comic Relief-Mufti Day

Friday 31st March - Last day of Spring Term

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Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship theme this week has been 'Lent'

We have discussed why Lent is such an important part of the Christian Calendar and why we eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Children have looked at ways in which they can make a positive change during the 40 days of Lent by doing something for others. Children had some great suggestions of things they could do.

Safeguarding - County Lines

County lines is the term used for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas, including coastal towns such as Exmouth. 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.

This activity is often associated with the (often violent) exploitation of young people and vulnerable adults. These groups are coerced or threatened to move drugs around an area or to provide gangs with a base in their homes – this offence is referred to as 'cuckooing'.

Who is vulnerable to county lines exploitation?

The national picture continues to develop:

- Gangs are increasingly used 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 are perceived as being more likely to evade police detection
- Young people of all genders are being involved: particularly in the age bracket 13-17 years old.

Signs to look out for:

Young people / children involved 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, clothes or mobile phones
- Excessive receipt of texts or calls
- Unexplained injuries or decline in emotional wellbeing.

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What to do if you are concerned

Share the information! If you believe a person is at immediate risk of harm, you should contact the police (999). You can also contact MASH (the Multi Agency Safeguarding hub) on 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk.

Please feel free to contact me or Mrs Jones on the school number if you are uncertain about what to do or how to act in a situation which may be linked to county lines. We can then link in with the local authority's social care services.

Bike Safety:

We have numerous children that cycle / scooter to and from school which is great for their health, confidence and 'active travel'. Some of our older children are currently taking part in 'Bikeability' training at school where they are learning to keep safe on the roads. It seems like a timely opportunity for both school staff and parents / carers to remind children about how to keep (themselves and others) safe, particularly during times when the roads and pavements are busy.

Much of this is common sense, but it is worth over-communicating with children about safety and talking through their routes of travel with them (including when to push a bike on the pavement and when to cross a road etc)

'Safewise' have provided some further safety tips:

<https://www.safewise.com/blog/biking-safety-tips-31-ideas-for-staying-safe-while-biking/>

Mr Smith, Designated Safeguarding Lead

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Sports & Achievements

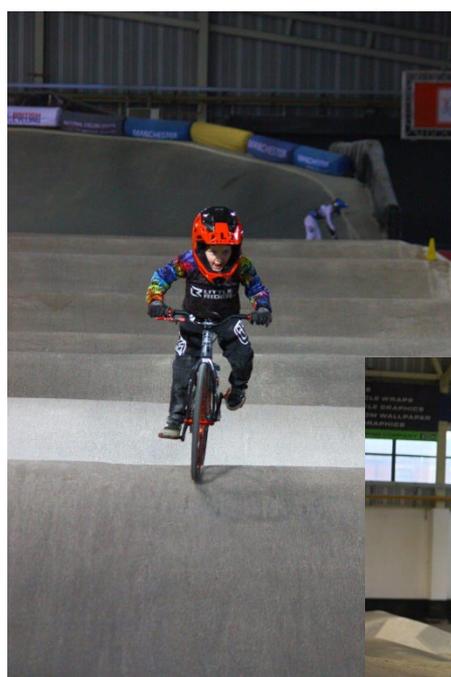
We love to hear about your children's sporting and other achievements. If you have anything to share, please email enquiries@wrpschool.org with your news and a photo if possible. We will endeavour to include as many of your photos as possible each week.

Ella (Dolphins) has been working hard this winter in preparation for the Regional and National Races starting in March with her new team Technique BMX. She has been racing in Birmingham, Bournemouth, Torbay, Decoy, Exeter and most recently Gosport. She was also lucky enough to be able to attend a training session at the National Cycle Centre in Manchester over half term.



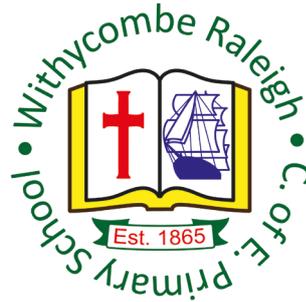
This week's sporting stars:

On Friday the 10th of February some of our Year 6 girls took part in our local Girls football tournament at Exmouth Community College. They faced some strong competition but went on to be the stage winners, progressing on to the East Devon Finals on Thursday 30th of March!



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More sporting stars:

Enid, Seals class passed Stage 5 during half term and is now moving to Stage 6.

Martha (Dragonflies) has passed her Stage 1 swimming.

Esther (Avocet) earned her Blue Peter music badge for playing the cornet, for which she recently achieved distinction in her first grading.

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Junior Parkrun:

Congratulations to Niamh, Erin and Ellyse who have all achieved their Junior Parkrun half marathon band!



Year 2 recreated the streets of London with the Tudor style houses they had made for their home learning projects. They have really enjoyed learning about The Great Fire of London. Thank you to all the Year 2 families for their fantastic model houses. 🏠

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This week, the Foundation children were lucky enough to have a visit from some real-life superheroes! A police car and van arrived and parked up on the playground and we all went out to have a good look. The police officers talked to us about their job and the equipment they need to help them. They bought lots of uniforms and police hats and we had great fun trying them on. We all had a go at sitting inside the vehicles, but the best part was when the lights flashed and the siren was switched on (it was very loud!) Thank you very much to all our police officer parents who gave up their time to come in and see us. We loved it and it was a brilliant way to start our new topic!