

Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**

Date: 6th March 2026



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News from your Headteacher

There's been lots happening at school this week! Besides enjoying World Book Day on Thursday, Year 6 had WW2 Day on Tuesday, a group of children had a special Easter visit to the Church, some went to Beach School, and others had a special Tennis Lesson. There are LOTS of photos on the next pages to give you a glimpse of how much we've enjoyed our learning in school this week.

We really enjoyed celebrating World Book Day yesterday - we especially loved seeing so many staff and children dressed up as characters from books. It was a lovely day spent enjoying and sharing books and book-themed activities. We all met as a school in the morning; this was definitely a very surreal experience with Miss Trunchbull talking to 610 very excited book characters including several Princesses, some Harry Potters – and a chicken! Some of our staff shared with the children their favourite books and we hope that this may have inspired some of the children to read one of these.

Year 3 Beech Class spent some lovely time reading to the children Bumble Bee Class on Thursday. It was absolutely lovely – the children were all so engaged!



Reading is a key focus for us at Withycombe and we are ambitious in our aim to ensure all children leave our school as confident and fluent readers with a love of books and a desire to share stories. We have dedicated a lot of time over the past few years to develop our reading processes. This has included the embedding of Little Wandle Phonics and Early Reading. We are delighted with the progress our younger children are making with their phonics and encourage parents of the children using Little Wandle to allow their children to share their allocated ebook at home.



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



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The ebooks are sent home in order that children can 'show off' their reading while at home, and so that their progress can be celebrated. If you are struggling to access ebooks at home please speak to your child's class teacher.

Even if your child is a confident and fluent reader we would encourage parents to take an interest in what your child is reading, perhaps by reading a book together, or maybe supporting your child's choice of books by visiting the library or a book shop. If you have any queries about supporting your child with reading, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children. Just 10–15 minutes a day can make a huge difference — not only in their learning, but in their confidence, imagination and happiness.

Practical Ways to Support Reading at Home

You don't need lots of time or special training; small, simple steps work best!

Set a Daily Reading Time

Choose a regular time (before bed, after dinner, or straight after school). Even 10 minutes makes a difference.

Listen to Your Child Read

Be patient and encouraging. If they get stuck:

- Give them time to sound it out.
- Ask, "What would make sense?"
- Praise effort, not just accuracy.

Make It Fun

Use silly voices, take turns reading, or act out parts of the story.

Ask Questions!

Visit the Library

Libraries offer free books and fun activities. A trip to the library can make reading feel special and exciting.

Remember - there is no "perfect" way to read together. What matters most is making reading **a positive experience**. Praise effort, celebrate progress and **enjoy the story**.

While we're on the subject of reading, we're asking for your help. Some of our families can't access the ebooks that we have available for Little Wandle, so we need to buy lots more printed books! The new Little Wandle phonics library can then be used by the children to continue their brilliant reading at home.

We'd be very grateful for any help you can offer by fundraising with us. We've tried to make this a fun challenge for the children! On the next page you'll find a Pick & Mix of suggested challenges to select from. We'd love you to pick at least one challenge to try before the end of this term.

Some are more involved than others but we hope they're all achievable! If your family are too busy with other clubs and activities but you'd still like to support this appeal, there is an even easier option - to just donate! We'll have sponsorship forms available in class and at reception for children to collect and use.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs E Jones, Headteacher



We need your help to raise some funds to buy additional Little Wandle books, so our children can borrow them and continue their brilliant phonics learning at home. We would once again be very grateful for any support you can give, if you are able.

We'd like the children to work for these donations! Pick & Mix the best challenges **for your family:**

Would you rather take part in a **Sponsored** challenge?

Or, invite friends to come for a **Read-Over?**

Or, plan a **Selfless Saturday?**

Or would you rather **Just Donate?**

Sponsored activities:

We will supply sponsorship forms. *Ask friends and neighbours to chip in!*

- * Sponsor your child to **read** on their own (per page/per paragraph)?
- * Or, sponsor your child to **read to their sibling** – they could read their younger sibling's bedtime story every day for a week/fortnight?
- * Come up with your own sponsored challenge, or
- * You could *really* challenge your children with a sponsored **silence!!**

Have a **Read-Over:**

Invite a few best friends for a sleep over *with a difference*. Everyone brings their favourite book and reads quietly for an hour before bed! Charge your 'guests' a small fee to donate as a group.

Plan a **Selfless Saturday:**

Does your child usually have some treats on the weekend? Perhaps it's pocket money day, or maybe they get a small toy, a take-away, or some sweet treats. They could decide to be selfless one day and donate the money that's usually spent on Selfless Saturday instead!

Just Donate:

If your family is too busy to arrange sponsored activities at home but you'd still like to support the appeal, we also offer the option to Just Donate! We'll put a payment item on Parent Pay for your voluntary donations. Please feel free to amend the default amount downwards – or upwards!

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Wonderful World Book Day 2026!



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Avocet Class took part in a virtual 'Footy Booky' World Book Day quiz. We held the first round of our own Book World Cup to choose our next class reader. It has already inspired some children to try some different books. What will the winning book will be?



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As part of the **Year 6 World War 2 day** the children took part in a number of activities which provided a real insight into what it was like to live in East Devon during the war years. The activities included a campfire as a way to cook pancakes if there was no power. The children then took part in three exciting activities including: code-breaking, learning the phonetic alphabet, visiting our class museum where artefacts were brought in by children and staff. Resources boxes with other interesting artefacts were provided by Exmouth Museum. In the afternoon, the children had a choice of either creating a piece of Art in the style of Henry Moore, or a piece of 'Dazzle' camouflage art.



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In addition to our usual PE lessons in school, we are lucky to have the opportunity to take part in special sports-related events and activities, either within the wider community or with special coaches working with us here at school. We've recently had a great time working with some smaller groups of enthusiastic children, improving both their skills and their confidence.

Last week, some of our **Year 5** students took part in a **dance festival** at Exmouth Tennis centre. They worked with other children from the learning community and Exmouth community college to create and perform a dance piece, based on superheroes. It was fantastic!

Well done Hattie, Elliot, Esme, Elle, Enid, Elsie, Charlotte, Luna, Tommy, Sammy, Ollie, and Charlie.



Last week 18 of our **Year 5** pupils were put through their paces as they developed their **coaching skills** and learned how to support others during PE sessions. They confidently led six different activity stations, each designed to build a range of fine and gross motor skills.

In the afternoon, 48 **Year 1** and **Year 2** children joined us for an exciting session packed with fun and physical challenges. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they practised new skills and pushed themselves to achieve their best.

Well done to all the children for their teamwork, leadership and fantastic effort!



Continued...

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Our fantastic **Year 1** pupils have begun their five-week **tennis course**. Each Tuesday they'll take part in a 40-minute session led by a specialist coach from Exmouth Tennis Centre. During these sessions the children develop their hand-eye coordination and gross motor skills, all while enjoying an engaging and fun learning experience.



Mrs Wheeler and Mrs Warren took a group of children along to an exciting new event - the **'Big Sing Easter Experience'**. This was an opportunity for schools in the Exmouth area to come together to celebrate Easter. The children explored the Easter story through interactive stations, songs and a 'collage of hope'. This very special event culminated in a celebration service led by the Bishop of Exeter, Rt. Revd. Dr. Mike Harrison.



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A small group of children from Year 1 have been enjoying special sessions at **Beach School**. Beach School helps children to build a positive connection with the beach and seaside through fun and engaging activities.

This week the children took part in a beach clean. They had a wonderful time and were proud to help look after the environment!



Sports and Other Achievements

If your child would like to share their achievements, whether that's a sporting success, gaining library reading challenge certificates, or anything else – please email a photo and a short description to admin@wrpschool.org.



Reggie from Rabbits was awarded the Focus Star trophy this week from Brixington Blues U6 team.



Harper in Year 5 and Ivy in Year 3 competed over the weekend at South West freestyle and Rock and Roll Championships. Both girls placed in finals, getting 1st in the team dances and 2nd, 3rd and 4th in their solos. Harper (with rock and roll pair) placed an impressive 10th out of 90 pairs!

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WHOLE SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

Saturday 28th March 2026

Starting at 9:30am

Register via www.maynard.co.uk



THE
MAYNARD
SCHOOL
EXETER

JOIN US AT THE MAYNARD... ANYTIME!

FLEXIBLE ADMISSIONS

We welcome applications throughout the school year, depending on availability in each year group. Whether you're looking for an immediate entry or planning ahead, we're always happy to discuss your options.

PERSONAL TOURS AVAILABLE

We offer individual tours during the school term by prior appointment. Come and explore our facilities, meet our amazing staff, see our students in action and get a real feel for life at Magical Maynard!

COME AND MEET US

There's nothing we enjoy more than talking with families and sharing what makes The Maynard such a warm, inspiring, and ambitious community.

CAN'T WAIT UNTIL OPEN MORNING?

If you'd like to visit before our next Open Morning, simply get in touch to book your personalised tour.

Call: **01392 355 998**

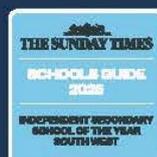
Email: admissions@maynard.co.uk

Visit: www.maynard.co.uk

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU!

"This is a school that both parents and girls fall head-over-heels in love with."

GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE



THE
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#MadeForGirls

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HAF HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

EASTER HOLIDAYS



St Peter's Prep School
Lympstone



Thursday 9th - Friday 10th April
Thursday 16th - Friday 17th April



9am - 1pm

AGES 5 - 12

INCLUDES A HOT LUNCH

MULTI-ACTIVITY HOLIDAY CAMP

