Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School

Date: 26th April 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

Thank you to those families who contributed to our survey recently. The responses were overwhelmingly positive with all but one parent saying they would recommend our school to other parents. The responses will help us, over the coming months, to prioritise particular aspects of our school that were highlighted. In the newsletter over the next few weeks, I hope to address some of the queries raised in the survey and in turn help to keep our school community fully updated on our school priorities and the strategies we are using to give all the children at our school the very best opportunities and education that we can.

One aspect of the survey focused on our Vision and Values, with only 89% of respondents saying they knew what our Vision and Values were. As a Church School we have a meaningful school vision, which is supported by our values.

Our school vision is: 'Growing Happy, Caring Hearts and Minds'.





You'll find teachers wearing lanyards with our vision printed on, and we have displays in the school hall.

Our school values are based on the GRACE of God: Generosity, Respect, Agape, Courage and Empathy.





Every class has their own GRACE corner, and we have all the value emblems displayed around the school site.

Together, our school vision and values form and shape the ethos of our school culture and underpin everything that we do in our school, making it a happy place to be and where children's wellbeing is at the very heart.

We like to promote our school vision and values to our school community and to recognise individual efforts and achievements that embody these. You may be aware of our School Values Badge which is awarded to individuals in recognition of something they have done or achieved that embodies our school vision.



This week Billy (Sandpipers) was awarded a badge for his fundraising efforts for Scope. You'll have seen in our newsletter last week that Billy raised over £2000 by having his hair cut in memory of his uncle.

We encourage children and families to suggest members of our wider school community who may also be awarded with a 'badge' and postcard from Mrs Jones, recognising their efforts in celebrating our school values outside of school, too.

Continued...



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

Minds



Another area of our school systems that seems not be totally clear to all parents is regarding what children are learning in class each term. All families should have received, via email last week, a Termly Overview and parent letter describing the learning that will be taking place over the next term. These are emailed out at the beginning of each term, and updated on the school website. Please let us know if you did not receive this so we can check we have the correct contact details for you.

We have detailed information about all the subjects which are taught in school on our curriculum page: https://www.wrpschool.org/main-curriculum-2024

'Topic Webs' are uploaded termly to your year group pages via this link: https://www.wrpschool.org/homeconnect-2024

We have two Parents' Evenings a year which are an opportunity for parents to talk to teachers about their child's learning but all our teachers are very happy to meet with any parents outside of these times to discuss any concerns or queries you may have. If you have any queries regarding your child's learning, please contact their teacher via the class email account and arrange a phone call or face to face meeting. The email address for each class can be found on the Home Connect page on our school website.

Key Dates for your Diary:

Bank Holiday Monday 6th May

SATs w/c 13th May

Pentecost Services
 17th May (children only)

ParkRun
 19th May – join Mrs Jones at Phear Park for a Withy Parkrun contingent!

Half Term w/c 27th May : return to school Tues 4th June

• Y6 Transition Day 11th June

Sports DayY6 Production (Pavilion)25th June

Y6 Leavers' Service 23rd July
 End of term! 23rd July

For our current term dates please find a link on our website Home Page: https://www.wrpschool.org/



Have a lovely weekend, Mrs. E Jones

Collective Worship:

This term, we are warming up for the Summer Olympics by going back in time and revisiting some Olympic and Paralympic Games from the past. This week we focused on the value of Respect which is one of the core Olympic values as well as one of our school values. We watched a video message from Laura Deas, Olympic bronze medalist about how athletes show respect to one another and how we can do the same at home and school.

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 (via Home Connect 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

wrpschool.org
 facebook: OfficialWRPSchool
 Twitter/X: Official@wrpschool





We have now revealed our new banners featuring artwork by the winner of the Zig Zag competition! Well done Elsie from Beech Class, your illustration looks fabulous on the banners! Sisters Poppy and Olive came along to the big reveal and they said they looked brilliant, too. Elsie's photo was in the Exmouth Journal this week, and she received some prizes including friendship bracelets to share and trade for submitting the winning artwork!

We hope the banners will remind drivers to help keep our children safe. The double yellow and zig zag lines near to school demark the areas which, according to the Highway Code, should **remain clear at all times**.



We've displayed the artwork from the runners up along the main corridor too – thank you to all the children who took part in the competition, we loved them all!

And just a reminder that we're in regular contact with Devon County Council who have agreed funding for a crossing patrol officer for our school. DCC have attempted to recruit, as have we, but we haven't had any interest in the role so far.

If you'd like to be our **crossing patrol hero** you can apply to Devon County Council – the details are on this poster, and they're on the Vacancies page of our school website. While this is a DCC role, we'd love to welcome you to our school community!



Mr de Cruz [on the left of the photo] ran his first marathon on Sunday in Vienna. He ran with some of his friends from Uni!

Mr Scudder [in orange] ran The Green Lantern - a 14 mile run around the edges of Exeter raising money for Force, a cancer charity based at the RD&E.



Safeguarding Filtering and Monitoring:

Safeguarding children is our main priority at school and this includes keeping children as safe as possible online. One of the ways in which we achieve this is by employing robust filtering and monitoring systems - blocking harmful and inappropriate content (without impacting on children's teaching and learning).

Like all schools we have a responsibility to implement the DfE's 'Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges' (the filtering and monitoring standards) updated in March 2023, and in fulfilling our 'prevent' duty.



In my role as Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) I lead the responsibility for online safety in the school, working with our IT provider 'Scomis' and colleagues so that specialist knowledge in both safeguarding and technological aspects of filtering are deployed. We check and test that filters are effective and ensure that inappropriate (adult or extremist) content is blocked.

Our governing body also supports us proactively ensuring that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place, and that staff are aware of their responsibilities and how to escalate any concerns.

From an operational point of view in school we ensure that we have:

- · Identified and assigned roles and responsibilities
- Trained staff appropriately
- Blocked harmful and inappropriate content without impacting on teaching and learning
- · Put in place an effective monitoring process that meets safeguarding needs
- · Reviewed filtering and monitoring systems at least annually
- Updated policies and procedures to include information about filtering and monitoring.

At WRPS, we use 'RM SafetyNet Go' which has allowed us to set up specific filtering settings and allows us flexibility in what is blocked (user-based, age-based, time-specific). The monitoring functions provide a reporting page which can highlight searches made by specific users. I am also alerted when users try and access certain content which we consider concerning or age-inappropriate.

If a concern or incident were to occur our school would consider how best to address the situation: we would typically involve parents, look to our own educational opportunities and address issues around internet safety in class or in assemblies. Any known safeguarding concerns would also be investigated and addressed appropriately.

Please contact me if you have any queries about our school system for filtering and monitoring and I will do my best to provide a response.

Mr Smith

Designated Safeguarding Lead



Wellbeing Update

Managing worry



Worry is normal and natural - we all do it!

There are times when a little bit of worry is helpful, but sometimes it can dominate our thinking, going round and round in our heads and making us feel worse.

Last term we wrote about Managing Worry (part 1) in one of our wellbeing updates, with a focus on spotting and changing negative thoughts which can often fuel worry. If you missed that, you can look at the NHS Every Mind Matters website on how to change unhelpful thinking patterns through a 'Catch it-Check it-Change it' approach.

Here is a link to a video which explains it more: https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-wellbeing-tips/self-help-cbt-techniques/reframing-unhelpful-thoughts/

As well as spotting and changing negative thoughts, it can be helpful to try to sort our worries into categories so that we can find other ways to manage them. To do this, ask yourself or your child....

- Is the worry real or not real?
- Is the worry mine or someone else's?
- Is the worry in my control or not in my control?

Although we cannot tell you how to sort or solve every worry you or your child may have, it may be helpful to try the following approaches to start with:

- If a worry is not real or not within your control, then it may be more helpful to distract yourself and change your focus onto something else.
- If a worry is not your worry to own, then give it to someone else who may be able to help.
- If a worry is real, is yours and is within your control, then ask yourself can you do something about this worry?

If you can, ask yourself.... What can I do? How do I do it? When will I do this? Then, make a plan.



In school we read 'The Huge Bag of Worries' by Virginia Ironside which is all about sorting worries. You can also find a link to a video of the story on our school website Wellbeing page, which you can watch with your child.

Louise Jones Wellbeing TA

The Summer term is finally here and what better way to start it than with our **Sailing and Watersports** sessions. The water is still rather chilly at this time of year but that didn't stop these fantastic children getting stuck in and giving it a go!



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. We aim to include everything we receive by Wednesday afternoon in that week's newsletter, and anything after that will be included the following week.



Paloma gained a Merit at Grade 1
Piano, and also a Certificate of
Distinction at the Devon Performing
Arts Festival in Exeter!



Cowyn has moved up to stage 7 in swimming lessons – thanks to mum for sharing the photo.



Erin (Hazel) marked Earth Day 2024 by doing a litter pick on her walk to Brownies. She filled a whole carrier bag with rubbish!





We've already shared the three events below, which all take place on Saturday 27th April but here are some reminders!















Otter Garden Centres are offering FREE sunflower seeds for all children!
They're giving away FREE seeds for children to plant at home.
All you need to do is register on their website to claim your free seeds!
https://www.ottergardencentres.com/freesunflower/
There will be prizes for the tallest sunflowers!