Weekly School News Roundup

Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School

Date: 27th November 2026

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 is just around the corner! Please keep a close eye on communications from school over the next few weeks including: emails, updates on the school website, Facebook and the school newsletter. We really don't want any families to miss out on any of the opportunities for festive fun!

It is definitely feeling very Christmassy in school! The arrival of the Christmas tree this week has brought a touch of sparkle to the hall. We would like to say a big thank you to Carpet King who have kindly donated this year's tree.

On Wednesday we held our Christingle Services; this is one of my favourite events in our school calendar and always starts our celebrations off in a very special way. It is a beautiful service with lovely carols, solos and readings all done by candlelight. We have included some photos from the service further in the newsletter.

The week beginning 7th December is a busy one with three Nativities taking place.

Our Nativity performances are as follows:

- Year 2 Tuesday 8th December **2pm**
- Year 1 Wednesday 9th December **2pm**
- EYFS Thursday 10th December **9.15am**

We will be using the rear doors of the hall as the entrance so please queue by the 'Kitchen Gate' for access to the hall. As space is limited, a reminder that pushchairs will not be permitted into the hall.



Friday 4th December is our Christmas Fair, always a very popular event! The PTFA committee have worked very hard to get things organised for the event and I know it is going to be a fantastic evening. We are still in need of volunteers to help run stalls - and help to clear up afterwards! If you can offer a little bit of time to volunteer, please sign up via the QR code. The codes are also found on posters attached to the school gates.

Please remember that PTFA events are 'cashless' events so we advise families to purchase tokens beforehand.

Continued…

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Your child should have also brought home some raffle tickets for families to purchase or sell. As always, there are some great prizes to win. Please return ticket stubs, cash and unused tickets to the box outside the office before 4th December. The raffle will be drawn at the end of the fair.

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 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

Safeguarding Update

Online Safety - Gaming

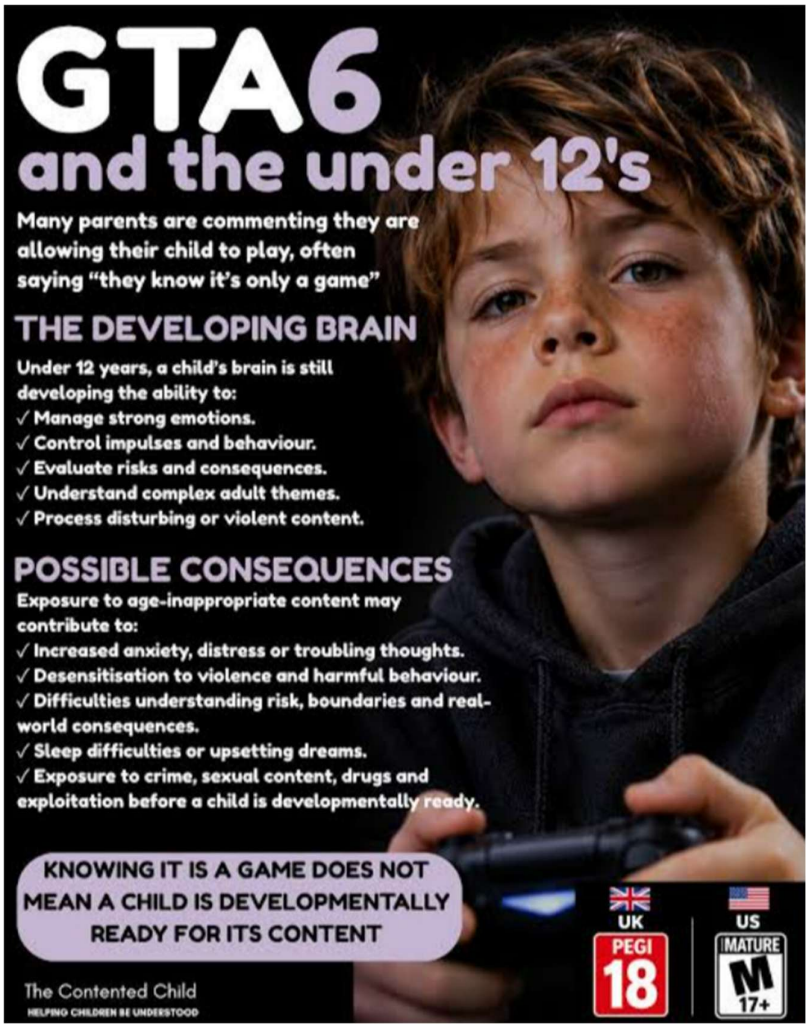
With the launch of GTA6, it seems opportune to share some practical steps you can take to keep children safe while gaming.

- Check the console settings. PS5 and Xbox Series X|S both let you block games above a chosen age rating, set playtime limits, approve spending and limit who can chat or message your child.

- Check whose account is logged in. A game bought on an adult account can be played by anyone using that console.

- Talk to other parents. If your child is going to a friend's house, a quick message about what they can play can save a lot of worry.

- Keep the conversation going and take and interest. Check in regularly about what they are playing, who they are playing with and how it makes them feel.



I have also included a powerful poster shared with me which speaks for itself!

Mr M Smith - Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

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Wellbeing Update

Talking about Mental Health with your Child



Talking with your child about their mental health isn't always easy, particularly if you see your child is having a difficult time.
As parents, we may worry about how to best start a conversation, about finding the right words, or about saying the wrong thing.

The Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families promotes that:

'You're never too young to talk mental health!'

Here are some tips about talking with your child:

1. Make conversation about mental health a normal part of life. Anywhere can be a good place - in the car, walking the dog or doing an activity together.
2. Give your full attention and actively listen to your child.
3. Check your body posture - is it relaxed? Maybe come down to your child's level.
4. Take it seriously. Don't downplay what is said or just reassure that everything is fine.
5. Ask open questions to help extend conversation. 'How are you doing today?'
6. If feelings arise, stay calm.
7. Empathise with your child's feelings rather than trying to offer solutions. Be patient.
8. We are all different. Respect that your child's view or feelings toward their problems will be different to ours.
9. Look for clues about feelings - tone of voice, body language and feed it back. 'It looks like you are feeling…, that must be hard for you'
10. Try these useful **'Conversation Starters':**

General Starters:

- What was the best bit of your day?
- What was the worst bit of your day?
- What did you do today that made you proud?
- How are you feeling?
- What would you like to talk about?



Starters, if your child is having a hard time:

- Do you want to talk about what's going on?
- Is there anything you need from me? Space, time to talk, time to do something fun?
- What was the biggest problem you had today? What helped?
- How can I support you through this?

Follow up conversation encouragers:

- I love you, nothing can ever change that
- You can talk to me, I'm here for you
- If you need to talk to someone else, that's okay too
- If you talk to me about what is worrying you, I will do my best to help
- We're going to get through this together
- Even if I don't understand, please know that I want to

Young Minds have a parent page dedicated to how best to talk to your child about mental health. Take a look!
https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-mental-health

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SILENT DISCO - YR 1-6
Provided by Primary Education & Sports - book direct
DECEMBER 2nd

PTFA SCHOOL FAIR
4.30pm - 6.30pm Tokens available to purchase on MCAS
DECEMBER 4th

MUFTI DAY
Bring a chocolate donation or tombola item in exchange for mufti day
DECEMBER 4th

YEAR 2 NATIVITY
Doors open 2pm - school hall
DECEMBER 8th

YEAR 1 NATIVITY
Doors open 2pm - school hall
DECEMBER 9th

EYFS NATIVITY
Doors open 9am - school hall
DECEMBER 10th

BAG 2 SCHOOL
Drop your unwanted clothes donations and help raise funds for our school. Leave bags on the grass by the main gate
DECEMBER 11th



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December

CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

FRIDAY 4TH

PTFA Christmas Fair and Mufti day

Wear your own clothes to school in exchange for a chocolate or tombola donation

4.30pm - 6.30pm

8TH, 9TH & 10TH

Nativity Plays

Year 2 - 8th December - doors open 2pm

Year 1 - 9th December - doors open 2pm

EYFS - 10th December - doors open 9am

WEDNESDAY 16TH

Christmas Dinner & Festive Mufti Day

Wear your festive outfit and enjoy a tradtional Christmas dinner

Available to book on MCAS

FRIDAY 18TH

Christmas Mufti Day

Wear your own clothes to school for the last day of term. Donations to the PTFA

RETURN TO SCHOOL 5TH JANUARY 2027

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Christingle Service















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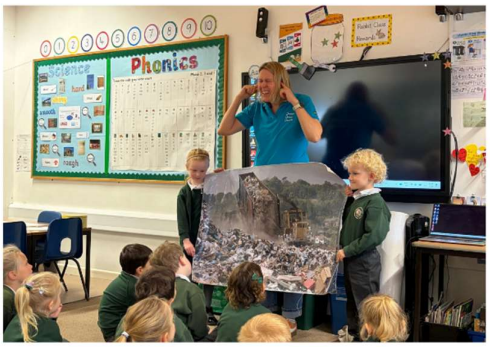
Year 1 Materials Workshop











The Year 1 children enjoyed a visit from Recycle Devon for a Materials Workshop. The children took part in a range of activities, learning about different materials and how we can recycle and reuse everyday items. They particularly enjoyed finding out some interesting recycling facts and sorting items into the correct bins. It was an enjoyable and engaging session for everyone!

KS2 Play Leader Training

Last week, 12 children from KS2 took part in Play Leader training, which included both theory and practical activities. The session focused on how to create positive, inclusive playtimes where everyone feels welcome, can join in and have fun. The children explored a range of ideas and developed valuable skills to support others during playtimes. They are now looking forward to putting their learning into practice and helping to make playtimes an enjoyable experience for all!







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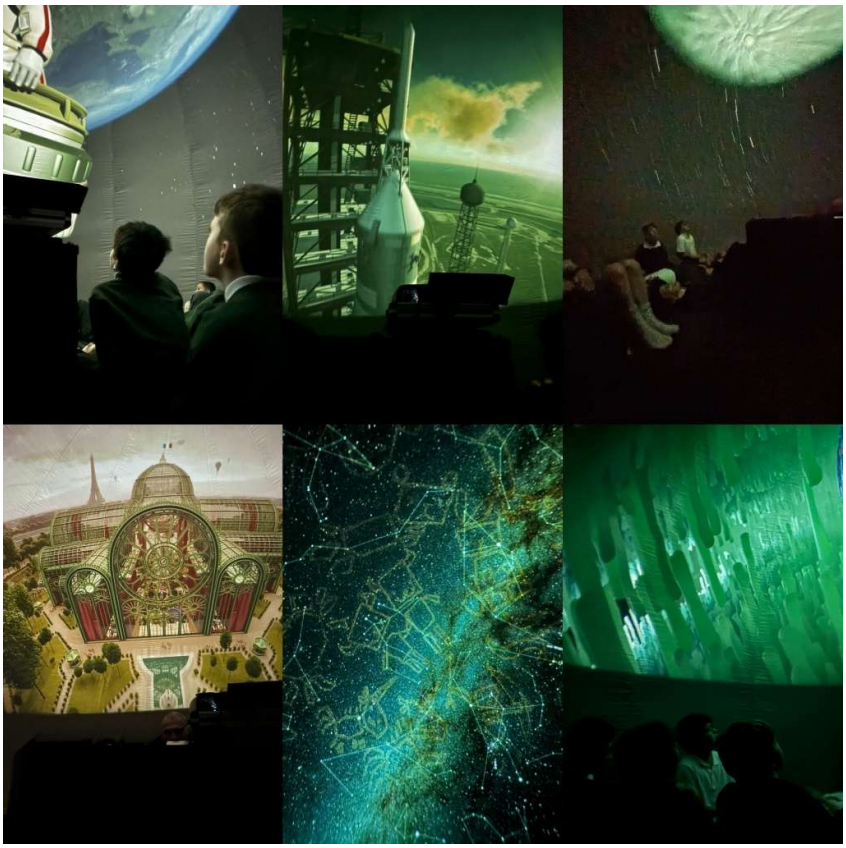
Year 5 Cricket Coaching

Year 5 have had a fantastic start to their 6-week cricket coaching block with Devon Cricket! The children are having great fun developing new skills, learning different techniques and building their confidence through a range of exciting activities. There have been lots of smiles, enthusiasm and teamwork, and we're looking forward to seeing how their skills develop over the coming weeks!









Year 5 Space Dome

Year 5 had an out-of-this-world experience in the Space Dome this week! The children thoroughly enjoyed learning all about space, including the names of the planets, the phases of the Moon, how eclipses occur and fascinating star constellations. It was an exciting and immersive experience that brought their learning about our universe to life!



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Withycombe Superstars!



Wilf

Wilf was thrilled to achieve a Merit in his Grade 1 Drums exam this week. Excellent effort Wilf!



James

James ran his 25th Parkrun this week and earned his celebratory wristband. Excellent effort!



Olivia

Olivia hit her 50 Parkrun milestone, earning her respective wristband too! That's approximately 62 miles! Brilliant achievement!

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Withycombe Superstars!



Harley

Harley has completed her second Secret Book Quest, and has now read 100 books! And she is also the first person to finish the Winter Quest at Exmouth Library! What a star!



Finley L & Finley B

A big well done to both Finley L and Finley B who were awarded Man of the Match for their effort and teamwork for their football team, Brixington Blues.



Alex

Well done to Alex who represented Exmouth Vikings Judo Club at Dragons Academy Judo Open development event for Under 8s in Cardiff! He won three fights bringing home a well-deserved dragon academy medal! He showed a true judo spirit- demonstrated resilience, focus and excellent techniques!

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Raffle Prizes

Do you or someone you know run a local business that could donate a prize for our Christmas raffle?

Popular raffle prize ideas include:

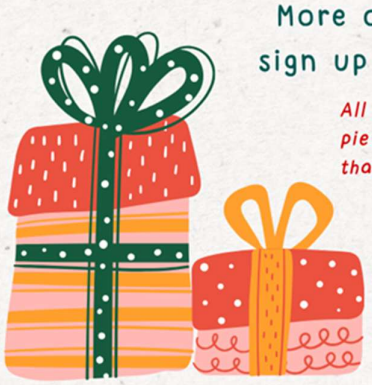
- Gift vouchers
- Hampers filled with goodies
- Free treatments or experiences (e.g. massage, fitness class)
- Tickets to local attractions or events
- Branded merchandise or seasonal products

Any contributions will make a big difference and give local business' great visibility!

Please get in touch via the PTFA Facebook page or email us on wrpsptfa@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed

Join Our Christmas Fair Team!! We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help make this year's Christmas Fair magical! We need your help to set up and run some stalls.



More of what help is needed and sign up details can be found here

All volunteers will receive a mince pie & a hot drinks voucher as a thank you for your time (min 1hr)

PTFA WITHYCOMBE

Thank you from us all

Join Us as a School Crossing Patrol!

£12.85 Per Hour
5 hours Per Week
38 Weeks/Term Time Only



Holiday Pay Included!

For More Information

crossingpatrols@devon.gov.uk

01392 383000

www.devon.cc/scp

Devon County Council

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Apply for a primary school place

Was your child born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023?



Apply online at: **devon.cc/admissionsonline** or scan the QRcodebelow. Applicationsopen from **15 November 2026** to the **15 January 2027**

If you can't access the school admissions website you can get more information by emailing **transferadmissions@devon.gov.uk** or call our Education Helpline on:

0345 155 1019

You must apply through the Admissions Team, even if you've already given details to a school. Applications made directly to schools or on their lists will not be accepted.

Devon County Council


CUBS
BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT
PRESENTS
A Christmas of Love & Memories
A special, creative Christmas gathering for children aged 5–12 and their special adult, who have experienced bereavement or are facing the possible loss of someone they love.
Sunday 6th December
Charlie's Beach School Exmouth
10.00am – 12.00pm
CREATIVE ACTIVITIES
HOT CHOCOLATE STATION
SWEET TREATS
TIME TO CONNECT
£35 per pair
One child and one special adult
Includes all activities and refreshments
BOOKING ESSENTIAL
cubsbereavementsupport.co.uk

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