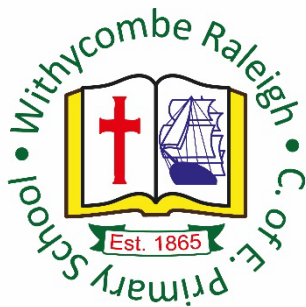


Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**

Date: 25th April 2025



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

Welcome Back for the Summer Term! I hope you all had a lovely Easter holiday and that your children are looking forward to the term ahead. There are lots of events in the diary for the term already so please make sure we have up-to-date contact details for you. Please also remember that we have a calendar on the school website which is updated regularly with events including Sports Day, Class photos and PTFA events.

Staff at Withycombe always try to make the learning that children need to do exciting and engaging with lots of experiences that we hope children will remember for a very long time.

As we enter the Summer Term and hopefully warmer weather, children may opt to wear summer dresses or shorts as per our uniform expectations. Please remember that on days when children have PE lessons, they should wear the appropriate 'uniform' PE kit (black shorts or jogging bottoms/school t shirt and either a school jumper or school hoodie). Several children are wearing 'non-uniform' items on these days which are not permitted. We would appreciate your support with this request.

Please also ensure children have in school a sun hat and water bottle each day.

Drop off and Home time

As I alluded to recently, we are currently updating our Behaviour Policy to enhance our relational based expectations and ethos for children's behaviour - reflecting our school's Vision and Values. One aspect of this strategy are the routines we employ to meet children in the morning. We believe that actively welcoming children into school at the start of each day will increase their sense of belonging, and also increase their engagement with learning and reduce anxiety about coming to school. Research also tells us how a familiar adult providing a friendly, respectful and warm greeting each morning/at the start of each lesson, can reduce anxieties and lower arousal levels, to increase feelings of safety and engagement with learning and attendance and reduce the likelihood of conflict.

To enable staff to focus on the children first thing in the morning, we politely request that parents do not enter the school buildings in the morning or detract the class teacher from the class for too long. We request that if you have a message for the teacher, which will take some time to explain, please email teachers. Alternatively, please ask the member of the Senior Leadership Team on duty to pass on a message for you.

We have recently had complaints from residents living in School Lane that they are finding it difficult to access their homes due to parents and children blocking the lane, in particular at collection time. To support with this, please help at the end of the day by entering the gates and accessing the playground to collect your children. If you prefer to meet your child in the lane, a polite request to please be courteous to our neighbours and allow them access to their houses as they drive in the lane. Thank you for your support with this matter.

School staff work hard at building and maintaining positive connections with pupils to help them get the best from their learning, personal development and overall school experience. Our school vision, values, rules and mental health choices all help support the positive connections we have with pupils.

Continued...



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



Weekly School News Roundup

Outdoor Learning

At Withycombe we value the importance of learning outdoors for children, and incorporate these opportunities into our curriculum. We are fortunate to have wonderful grounds including our large field and woodland area that children can access for learning. These are used regularly by classes or groups of children as an alternative space to learn - an alternative to the traditional classroom. With everyone being so busy, the poly-tunnel had sadly been used as a 'dumping ground' recently and the space had become cluttered and inaccessible for some time. Over time the tunnel had picked up several rips and holes too. We are VERY grateful to Ms Holden (TA), Arthur (Y3), his mum Laura and grandfather for all their hard work clearing the tunnel so that it is now once again a usable space. Laura also managed to repair the holes in the poly tunnel! Arthur and Ms Holden have already been busy planting seeds and tidying up the borders and we hope that some more children will be keen to get involved in some gardening over the term ahead.



Before...



After! Thank You to Ms Holden, Arthur And Family!



Many thanks also to Kings Garden Centre for their kind donation of compost and seeds!



Contact Us: There are many ways you can contact school staff if you have any queries. You can email your child's class teacher using their class email account (which you can find via the year group pages on the school website), or you can email admin@wrpschool.org. If you need an immediate response please call us on 01395 263397.

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs. E Jones

Weekly School News Roundup

Earth Day - 'Our Power, Our Planet'

Earth Day is an annual International event held on 22nd April, which was our first day back at school this term. Its aim is to raise awareness for our planet and the environmental challenges it faces. The theme for Earth Day 2025 is 'Our Power, Our Planet'. This is all about working together to reduce our energy, use and to encourage the use of renewable energy sources instead of fossil fuels. Are your children are aware of the different types of renewable energy sources, including: wind turbines, solar panels, hydroelectrical power, geothermal power and biomass?

At school we are thinking about ways in which we can live and work more sustainably (while saving money too!). For example, we have recently invested in more recycling bins across the school, encouraging our pupils to consider how to separate their waste and recycle more effectively. If you would like to, please go a step further by encouraging your children to write an 'Earth Day Pledge' in each of the fingers on the hand below. Each pledge should be linked to a way that you could live more sustainably. For example, perhaps you would like to try and recycle more, litter pick in your local area, buy second-hand clothing, plant some seeds, walk to school, reduce your food waste or save electricity by turning off lights and appliances at home when they are not needed. Once you've finished writing your pledges, please colour in the globe in the palm of the hand or decorate it with scrap paper or recycled materials! We would love to share some of these 'hands' in our school assembly (please write their name / class on the back!). Adults and older children might also like to have a go at one or more of the Earth Day quizzes here: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-quizzes/>

Mr Smith -Deputy Headteacher



Weekly School News Roundup

Wellbeing Update - Being Mindful in Nature!

'Earth Day' in April aims to raise awareness of issues that impact our planet. It can also be a great month to marvel at how wonderful our planet is, as Spring brings lots of change with new growth and new life! **Mindfulness** is where we give our mental attention to **being in the present moment**, avoiding dwelling on the past or thinking about the future. By doing this regularly we may be able to help reduce feelings of anxiety, worry or sadness in ourselves and our children.



Connecting with Nature is a great way to practice being mindful!

One way to do this in nature is by using our senses - sight, smell, hearing, touch. Try a nature walk this weekend!

Ask your child:

- * What do they like in the scenery around them?
- * How many things they can spot that are the colours of the rainbow?
- * What shapes do the clouds make?
- * Which flowers smell the best?
- * Close your eyes - what different sounds can you hear?
- * How many leaves can you find with different textures?

~ and above all, have fun being in the present moment!



We would like to remind parents and carers that we have a dedicated **Wellbeing Page** on our school website.

<https://www.wrpschool.org/wellbeing-2025>

Is your child anxious about returning to school after the Easter break? Please look at our article 'starting the day in a calm way' for strategies to overcome this. You will also find videos and presentations on managing anxiety and how to help your child cope with anger or grief.



In school we promote 10 choices we can make to help our own mental health. Here they are!

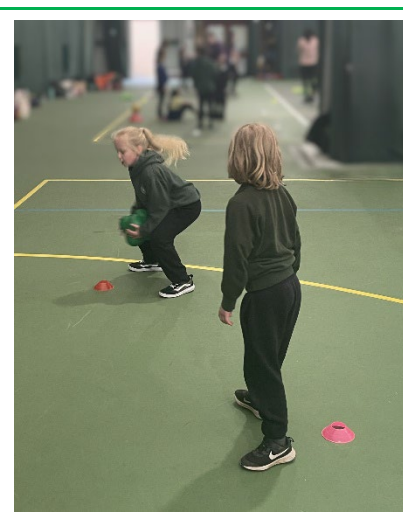
If you would like to know more about what mental health and wellbeing services are available locally, you will find a list of local and national resources we feel may be of help.

Mrs L Jones
Wellbeing TA

Weekly School News Roundup

Arty Stars!

Well done to all the amazing Arty Stars who have produced beautiful pieces of artwork this half term. They have all been so creative and joyful and we have loved working with all these budding artists!



Before Easter 12 of our brilliant Year 2 children took part in a Multi Sport Festival at Exmouth Tennis Centre. They played parachute games, cricket, relay racing and French skipping!
Well done Elsie, Khalon, Charlie, Josie, Ivy, Tallulah, Maisie, Blossom, Sienna, Arthur, Fletcher and Libby!

Weekly School News Roundup

Withy Competition Winners!

These were the two designs chosen for the recent **Blue Planet Poster Competition**. They have now been entered into the National Competition, so we will find out in May if either of them have won any further prizes!



For now they have both won themselves a voucher for a deluxe hot chocolate courtesy of Hangtime Café and Sideshore, and they will have their posters displayed down at Sideshore on the seafront to help remind the visiting public about looking after our waters. Thank you again to all who took part!



By Orin Coleman Y3



By Elle Bond Y4

Sports & Achievements



Ophelia got an A in grading (just 2 marks off and A+) and Arthur got an A+!!! They have both achieved their yellow belt in MMA with YAMA!



Freddie from Dolphin Class achieved his Stage 4 in swimming!



We've been following Ella's amazing BMX career and we're delighted to share that she came an impressive **2nd Place for Team GB** at the European Cup in Zolder, Belgium!

THE PTFA
BRINGS YOU

Friday
2nd
May

SUMMER DISCO



EYFS & KS1: 5.30PM-6.15PM
£2.50 ENTRY INCLUDES
DRINK & CRISPS

KS2: 6.30PM-7.30PM
£3.00 ENTRY INCLUDES DRINK,
CRISPS & SWEETS

LIMITED SPACES - BOOKINGS AND
PAYMENT TO BE MADE ON PARENTPAY