

Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**



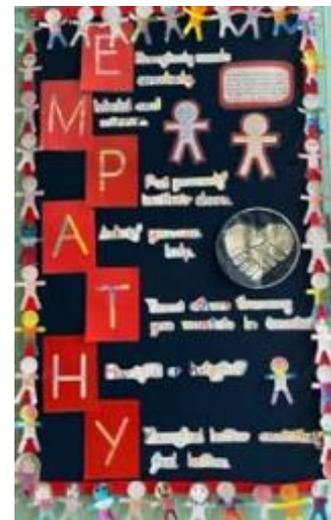
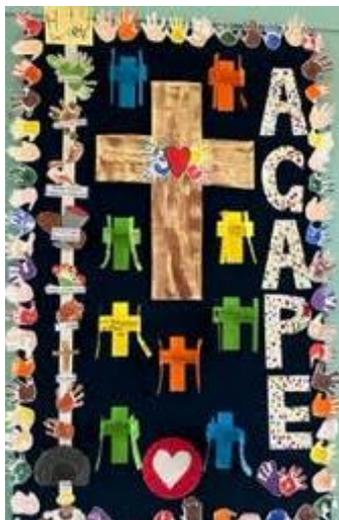
Mrs Emma Jones, Headteacher
Withycombe Village Road
Exmouth, Devon, EX8 3BA

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

Date: 1/4/2022

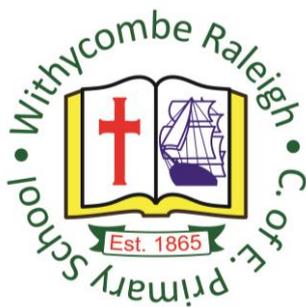
News from your Headteacher

I thought you might like to see some of the fantastic displays that have been put up in our hall. The new displays all reflect our School Vision (Growing Happy, Caring Hearts and Minds) and Values (Generosity, Respect, Agape, Courage and Empathy) These are central to everything that we do as a school; children and staff are very familiar with these and we hope parents and carers are too. The displays have each been created by a different year group and we think they are all beautiful. The children have enjoyed looking at each of the displays when they are in the hall for lunch or a PE lesson.



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As we approach the Easter break, many of you may be considering booking a holiday. Perhaps over Easter or in the summer or maybe a term time break! Holidays in term time will be unauthorised unless circumstances are deemed 'exceptional'. The Government has recently published a 'white paper' where they set out their priorities for schools over the next few years. One area they are keen to target-especially post-covid-is attendance. Schools are being asked to monitor closely pupil attendance and to act swiftly when a child's attendance falls below 90%.

As a school, our attendance levels have always been very good but following so many covid infections across our community we have noticed a drop in our attendance and an increasing number of children being classed as 'persistently absent' (Attendance below 90%) Our attendance policy can be found on our website and this explains our policy and procedures for persistent absence. One of our procedures is to notify all parents and carers if their child's attendance drops below 90%, this includes absences due to illness or any unauthorised absences. If you receive a letter from school over the next couple of weeks stating that your child's attendance has dropped below 90%, please understand that this is part of our absence monitoring procedures and within our duty of care to ensure children attend school whenever possible. Our aim is to offer families support so that children's attendance can be improved and ensure that they have access to teaching and learning on a regular basis.

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that all their children of compulsory school age are receiving an efficient full-time education by regular attendance at a school or otherwise. Babcock LDP monitor school attendance and support schools in their efforts to raise school attendance. All schools have a legal obligation to inform Devon County Council of any child not attending regularly. Should you have any concerns about your child's attendance or need support please make an appointment to see me or alternatively you can contact the Education Welfare Service.

Further information about school attendance and absence can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/>

If your child has unauthorised absences from school, this could result in a school absence penalty notice being issued. You can find out more about school absence penalty notices as well as the other legal measures that can be taken at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-attendance/absence-from-school-penalty-notices>

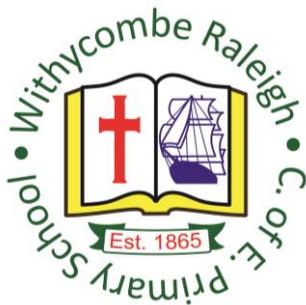
Contact us

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

Weekly School News Roundup

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Upcoming Events

8th April

PTFA Mufti Day

Friday 8th April-Monday 25th April

Easter Holidays

Monday 16th May

Year 5 Trip to the Eden Project

Friday 27th May

Jubilee Celebration Day in School

Further details to follow

14th, 15th and 16th June

Circus Skills Workshops

24th June

Big Wild Sleepout

<https://events.rspb.org.uk/events/14900>



Safeguarding - Neurodiversity

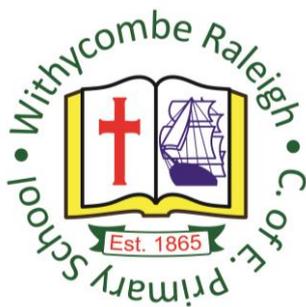
Last week was 'Neurodiversity Celebration Week' – a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences.

We have many members of our school community, both adults and children, who have or may have neurological differences such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia or dyspraxia. We support the ethos of recognising the many talents and advantages of being neuro-divergent, while aiming to create an ever more inclusive and equitable culture in our school that celebrates difference and empowers individuals.

I would also like to share a key message about autism from the Autism Education Trust, which has been understood by our school staff:

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“Autism is a difference not a deficit. Differences are to be valued not ‘fixed’. My normal is different to your normal and the aim shouldn’t be conformity but wellbeing.”

We have recently shared the following video with children in KS2, to support our conversations about celebrating difference.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbwRrVw-Cro&ab_channel=NationalAutisticSociety

Teachers have also shared some scenarios which encourage children to be more inclusive classmates. For example, children were asked how they might help in the following situation:

‘During circle time, a child never joins in when it is their time to speak or get involved. They are too shy to say anything in the group and choose to stay quiet.’

From a safeguarding point of view, we are aware that some young people will find it difficult to communicate any concerns that they might have. For this reason our staff are trained to foster trusting relationships with all of our children and take extra care to look out for any indicators or concerns, such as (even subtle) changes in the behaviour, especially in our more vulnerable children.

At school, staff recognise and support children with autism or other neurological differences in three key developmental areas: their social understanding and communication (including providing extra guidance about how to stay safe online); information processing (cognitive load); and sensory processing. We are fully aware that any school environment can at times feel unpredictable to some children and result in feelings of anxiety, frustration and even anger for some children.

At WRPS we do our best to look at children’s neurological differences both in terms of our curiosity about the strengths that they possess and also to support them with any challenges that might arise.

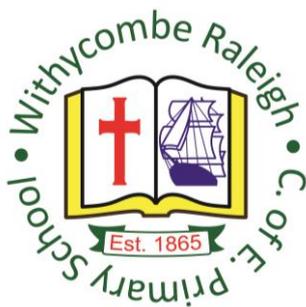
Mr Smith – Safeguarding Lead

Collective Worship

This week in Collective Worship the theme was ‘Easter Sunday’. The children have heard the whole Easter story now and are really good at remembering the sequence of events. Next wee we are excited to launch our ‘Easter Trail’ around the school site. Each class will have the opportunity to visit the trail and experience aspects of the Easter story in a variety of ways.

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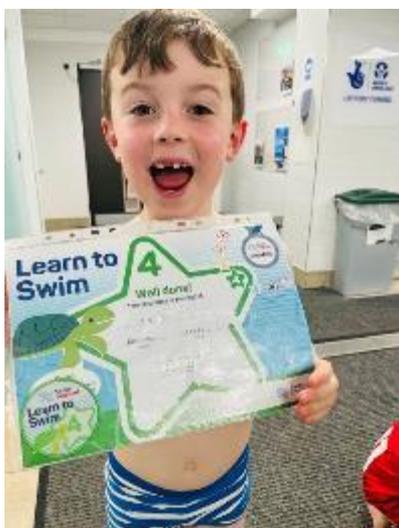
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Sports & Achievements

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.



This week's sporting stars:

Austin (Dolphins) passed his Stage 4 swimming assessment!

Matthew (Seals) was player of the week at rugby last week.

Ben (Sycamore) took part in the LTA U8 County Cup Event last weekend.

Molly (Sycamore Class) achieved her Stage 4 swimming award last week so she has now moved to stage 5



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More stars:

Benji (Otters) completed his first duathlon at Torbay on Sunday, he came 7th place out of a field of 30.

Paloma took part in a Performing Arts Festival. She played a duet 'Let's go fly a kite' from Mary Poppins with her teacher Ruth Pitts.

Cowyn (Hazel) achieved the Yellow belt in his Thai Boxing grading.

Tom (Ospreys) passed his Grade 2 Drumming exam with Merit.

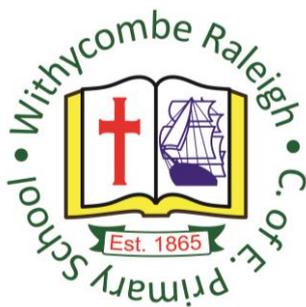
Reece (Hazel) was awarded his 1000m swimming certificate this week.



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9 of our Year 6 boys visited Brixington Academy this week for a football match. The boys played in a super fashion and represented our school brilliantly They lost one game but won the other.

Nevaeh (Bumblebees) has achieved her 5 metre swim badge.



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We took a large Cross Country Team to the Exmouth Schools' Cross Country Competition last week. Everyone showed great determination and enthusiasm running on a tough course. Our Year 5 and 6 Team were first overall and our Year 3 and 4 Team were third.

Special congratulations to Kyle, Tess and Callum who were placed first in their races.

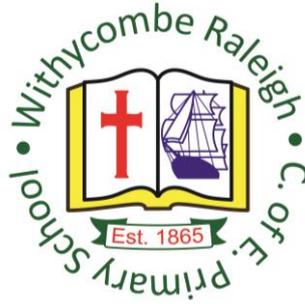
Well done to Bea too who was second in her race.



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Exmouth United Girls Football Team Under 9's and Under 11's carried out a fundraiser on Monday 28th March in aid of the UNICEF Ukraine appeal. The girls dribbled a football 10 miles between them and had a cake sale. They managed to raise an amazing £4000 !!!! There are quite a few girls from Withycombe on the teams.



Year One have been learning about British monarchs. Once they learned about them they sketched them. Can you guess which monarchs these are?