

# Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh  
C of E Primary School**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026**



Mrs Emma Jones, Headteacher  
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## News from your Headteacher

The year is racing on, with lots and lots of interesting things going on each week. Please remember to keep informed about what happening in school by regularly looking at our school website and Facebook pages. These are updated almost on a daily basis and have lots of relevant information including term dates, trip information, curriculum overviews, theme days, charity events and photos.

At Withycombe we are proud of our School Vision (Growing Happy Caring Hearts and Minds) and Values (Generosity, Respect, Agape, Courage and Empathy) and, most importantly, the ways in which children demonstrate these each day. We want all our children to enjoy their time at school, for them to feel a part of our school community and to be excited to come and learn each day.

One element of this is the routines that we employ to meet and greet the 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 increase feelings of safety, allowing greater engagement with learning and reduce the likelihood of conflict. This sense of belonging to our school community also impacts positively on our children's attendance.

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, to please email teachers. Alternatively, please ask the member of the Senior Leadership Team on duty to pass on a message for you.



**Lateness:** With our focus on meeting each child every morning, we have noticed that we have several children arriving late for school almost every day. A reminder that our school day begins at 8:40am with learning starting as soon as the children are in the classroom. If your child is just 5 minutes late each day, they will be missing 25 minutes of crucial learning each week, 5 hours of learning a term. This missed learning could have a significant impact on your child's academic progress across the year.

### Getting your child to school on time really matters

If your child is late to school every day by:	In a school year, they would have lost approximately:	Which is equivalent to missing approximately:
5 minutes	3 days of school	16 lessons
10 minutes	5 days of school	32 lessons
15 minutes	8 days of school	48 lessons
20 minutes	11 days of school	63 lessons
30 minutes	16 days of school	95 lessons!

If there are barriers to you getting your child to school on time, please speak to myself or Mr Smith about this. We are keen to support families in any way we can to improve children's attendance and give them the very best chances to achieve in school.

Please also bear in mind that lateness creates disruption to the rest of the children in the class, impacting on their learning.



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



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## Parking

We have received complaints from residents in the roads around our school including Moorfield Close and Burnside, that families from Withycombe are parking on their grass which churns it up, or obstructing private driveways.

We kindly request again that all parents and carers should park considerately when dropping off or collecting children. Please ensure you are using designated parking areas and not the school driveway or gateway, or indeed the pavement outside the school as stopping in these locations creates an obstruction and poses a safety risk for pupils, staff and families.

Your cooperation helps us keep the school site safe and accessible for everyone. Thank you for your support.

## Dogs on School Site



We kindly remind parents and visitors that dogs should not be brought onto the school site. Some of our children and staff are afraid of dogs, and we want to ensure that the school environment feels safe and comfortable for everyone. Dogs are welcome to accompany you to school; however they must remain outside the school gates at all times.

The only exceptions to this are assistance dogs, or visiting dogs that have received prior permission from the school.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Have a lovely weekend,  
Mrs E Jones, Headteacher

## 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](mailto:admin@wrpschool.org).



Polly in Dolphin Class got her level three gymnastics at the weekend.



Max from Maple Class got the 'Player of the Day' for Brixington Blues U9's for his 4 goals against Teignmouth, taking his goal tally for the season into the 20's! Wow!



Eliza in Hazel Class was very pleased to pass her primary exam in ballet!

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## Wellbeing: The Power of Play and Praise!

### Play is much more than *playing*.

It is normal and natural for children to seek attention from parents/carers, and giving positive attention to our children builds inner confidence and self-esteem. One way we can give attention to our children is through play, particularly through 'Special Play'.

#### Why Play with Your Child?

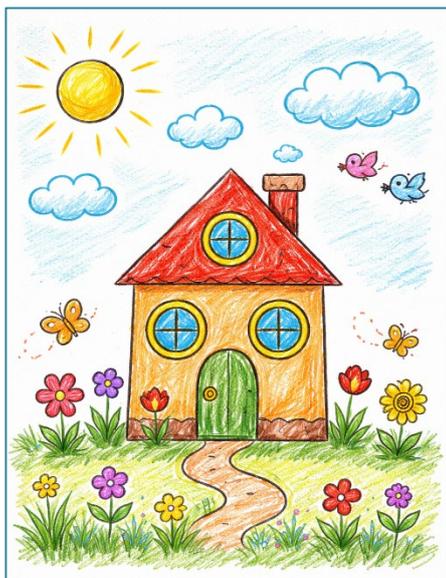
- ✓ It strengthens the parent-child bond, building confidence and independence.
- ✓ It gives children some control over their world. Feeling some control is critical to overcoming anxiety.
- ✓ It reinforces confident thinking.
- ✓ It allows children positive attention with their main caregiver.
- ✓ Descriptive commentary during play is a powerful form of attention.
- ✓ It may reduce anxious and attention seeking behaviour. Children adapt to receiving attention during play instead of needing to work for it.

#### So, what is different about 'Special Play'?

##### Special Play is:

- \* Child led. It allows the child to take control and direct the play.
- \* Where the parent uses descriptive commentary on what the child is doing.
- \* Where the parent gives NO teaching or questioning about what the child is doing.
- \* For 10 minutes per day on a 1:1 basis if possible.

Special Play is a *specific kind* of play. In Special Play, the child controls the play; they lead and you join in. Parents/carers do not control or dictate how the play should go. **By allowing our children to lead us in play, we are allowing their confidence to grow.** The role of parent or carer in this type of play is to watch, get involved and comment positively on what you are seeing and what the child is doing. It is a play for creativity and not for education.



**To help explain this, if your child draws a picture of a house with round windows, we can comment on how interesting and imaginative that is rather than tell them to draw square windows!**

With younger children, involve yourself with their small world play or Lego play. Let them dictate the play and tell you what to do or ask what they would like you to do.

With older children play a fun (non-competitive) board game where they take the lead, or join them on their video games!

##### How to Praise Well!

Praise is a great motivator and is frequently used in school to help children with self-esteem and learning.

School staff use targeted or labelled praise. Rather than just saying a 'well done' they would outline specifically what the praise is for. This is called Specific Labelled Praise.

At home, saying 'thank you for setting the table' is great, but 'I love that you set the table so quickly and neatly, thank you' may help a child continue to do it! It also helps them develop a healthy view of themselves.

Praise is free! If we step up the amount of specific praise given to our children, we can help build their positive sense of self. **Praise often, even for little things!**



## We're introducing a new app!

The screenshot shows the parent login interface. At the top is the 'my child at school.com' logo. Below it is a blue bar with 'PARENT LOGIN'. There are input fields for 'Email' and 'Password'. A checkbox for 'Remember Email Address' is present, along with links for 'Reset Password' and 'Sign Up'. A blue 'Login' button is at the bottom. At the very bottom, there are logos for 'Available on the App Store' and 'Get it on Google play', and the text 'Powered by Bromcom'.

“My Child at School” (MCAS) allows you to access important information about your child’s school life. It’s designed to improve communication between parents and schools and is used by other schools in our area, including Exmouth Community College.

If you’re already using MCAS for a child at another school, you will be able to use the same app for convenience.

MCAS will give you live, up-to-date access to the data that we hold at school about your child/ren.

**Next week you will receive an enrolment email to download and activate your app.**

Wait for this invitation to come in rather than trying to set up an account on the website, as you’ll need this to link your account to the school.

### Change-over Timetable:

**w/c 16th March** You will receive your invitation to set up MCAS during the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> March. We will likely send these out one year group per day so don’t worry if you don’t get yours on the Monday.

**Friday 22nd May** Breakfast Club and School Meals will be bookable on ParentPay up until we break for half term on Friday 22nd May.

**Tuesday 2nd June** After half term (Monday is a non-pupil day), MCAS becomes **your one-stop shop!** As we begin the new term everyone will have moved over to MCAS for all your **school lunches, trips and breakfast club bookings.**

We will provide you with step-by-step guidance as we roll out MCAS, and explain in stages what you will need to do. Until then, please keep using your ParentPay account as usual.

# Withy will be going **Red-to-Toe** on **Friday 20th March**



and...

## It's Red Nose Day

Everyone is invited to come to school in mufti, with your **Official Red Nose** or red themed clothes if you have them - to show your support for **Comic Relief!**

There's no pressure to donate.

We know some families donate direct via the TV Appeal, but for those who wish to your Parent Pay account is an easy way to donate to the appeal.

## World Down Syndrome Day

Add your oddest, most colourful socks to your outfit for the day!

As an inclusive school, this is our fun and colourful way of raising awareness.

The official theme this year is:

**'Together Against  
Loneliness'**

**Wear your odd socks on  
Friday 20th March!**

**COMIC  
RELIEF**



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**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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**LD ACTIVE**



# HOLIDAY CAMP

**BOOK  
ONLINE**

*Outdoor  
Activities*

## **ACTIVITIES**

- Inflatables
- Football
- Dodgeball
- Basketball
- Nature adventure
- Arts & Crafts
- Board games

**Fun  
Active  
Engaging**

**Develop  
Social &  
Life Skills**

**FIND US**

**BOOK VIA LINK, or EMAIL  
LDACTIVE@OUTLOOK.COM**

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EASTER

SCAN TO BOOK!



## THE BEACON ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMP

5-14 YEARS OLD

NERF GUN BATTLES, FOOTBALL, LASER TAG, ARTS & CRAFTS, DODGEBALL,  
GLOW IN THE DARK SPORTS, EASTER EGG HUNT, CRICKET, DISCO & MUCH MORE!!!



**PRICES:**  
STANDARD DAY - £21  
EXTENDED DAY - £26

**TIMES:**  
STANDARD - 8:45AM - 3:30PM  
EXTENDED - 8AM - 5:30PM

### 2026 Dates:

WEEK 1 - 7<sup>TH</sup> - 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
WEEK 2 - 13<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

THE BEACON C OF E PRIMARY  
1 BEACON PLACE  
EXMOUTH  
EX8 2SR



BOOKING LINK - <https://www.primary-sports.co.uk/events/2026/04/07/the-beacon-primary-school-ultimate-holiday-camps-easter-2026>

More Information: [marcus@primary-sports.co.uk](mailto:marcus@primary-sports.co.uk) / 07976979202

