

Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**

Date: 12th Dec 2025



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News from your Headteacher

There has been so much going on this week, the Christmas celebrations are definitely well underway at Withycombe! Thank you to everyone who supported the PTFA Christmas Fair on Friday, whether you helped to set up, run a stall or just came along and spent your tokens - thank you! It was a wonderful evening, full of very happy and excited children.

Last Sunday our choir joined the Exmouth Town Band for their Christmas concert. The choir sang beautifully and all represented our school brilliantly. It was lovely to see our very own Mrs Wheeler multi-tasking in her role as Choir Lead and also playing flute for Exmouth Town Band.



We have enjoyed 3 wonderful nativity performances by our EYFS and KS1 children. It is always such a pleasure and privilege to watch our youngest children perform on the stage. To see them all dressed up, singing so enthusiastically is an absolute joy! I hope that everyone who came along to watch the nativities enjoyed them as much as I did. As I said at each performance, it is a miracle how the staff manage to get so many little people to do the right thing at the right time! It never ceases to amaze me how brilliant each nativity is and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the KS1 and EYFS teams for all their hard work and effort in putting together these performances. It is always stressful, but definitely worth it.



Next week, please remember that we have **Christmas Lunch on Wednesday**. All children (School lunches and packed lunches) will eat together in the hall and enjoy the Christmassy atmosphere and music. Children and staff are encouraged to come to school in **Christmas Jumpers** or other festive attire. We have other Christmas events planned leading up to the Christmas holiday including a Christmas quiz for KS2 on Wednesday, and Church services on Tuesday. These events are for children only due to space restrictions.

Continued...



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



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One of our SEND TAs Mrs Smith, who currently supports children in Y2 and EYFS, has secured a new role at Millwater School. Her last day as a Teaching Assistant at Withycombe will be Friday 19th December. Mrs Smith is a wonderful part of our school team, she entertains us with her singing and stories and will be greatly missed. She is not leaving us completely; she will still be leading Breakfast Club each morning so Friday Karaoke will continue!

Lates

We have noticed that several children arrive late to school on a regular, and sometimes daily basis. Even a few minutes late each day can have a significant impact on a child's learning, and over the weeks and months this disruption can accumulate and affect their overall progress. Children arriving late also affects the class register as they are marked as absent, so the Admin team have to amend the register to show that your child is in school – accurate registers are important so that we know exactly who is in school, and are used in the case of an emergency/fire alarm to account for everyone.

In order to reduce the impact on the admin team, and also to better support our families, we will be introducing a '**late gate duty**' when we return to school in January. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be present each morning to record late arrivals. This will help to keep the morning attendance registers accurate, and also allow senior leaders to identify those families who may be finding punctuality challenging. We can then offer appropriate support around the reason for lateness to help children arrive on time. We appreciate your cooperation and continued commitment to ensuring a calm and settled start to the school day for all children.



Lots more Nativity photos will be in the newsletter next week when we have double checked them for children whose photos we can't share.

We'll also aim to add the songs from the performances as a 'playlist' on the school website – your soundtrack to Christmas Day, maybe?

The EYFS Nativity Video will be shared on Tapestry, and we'll edit the others as soon as we can.

We love sharing these events and we hope you enjoy seeing them!

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Jones

In case you have missed any of the Advent Calendar doors on the website, here are some of the surprises that have been revealed so far!



The Naughty Elf stole a banana!



'Arty Stars' Club decorations.



Santa at the Xmas Fair!

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Wellbeing: Resilience

What is resilience?

Human resilience is the capacity to cope well with times of adversity or hardship (and even be strengthened by them). It is the ability to bounce back from difficult times to a fulfilling life while retaining a positive sense of self.

Resilience is our 'bounce-back ability'

Helping our children become more resilient and able to cope with life's ups and downs is one of the most important gifts we can give them. Parents and carers are hugely important in building resilience in their children. If you would like more help in supporting your child's resilience, please read these top tips:

- ✓ Build positive relationships
- ✓ Help build positive relationships with their friends and other adults – especially if they are doing the things they love doing!
- ✓ Build independence
- ✓ Help them learn to be independent in their actions and thoughts – support them in solving problems for themselves.
- ✓ Build emotional awareness
- ✓ Encourage them to understand, express and manage their emotions – build in some family sharing time around feelings. If we model healthy ways to share feelings, our children will get better at it too!
- ✓ Build confidence
- ✓ Help build their confidence by taking on challenges and allow them to learn from it even if they do not manage to complete the challenges.
- ✓ Help them list all the things they enjoy and the things they feel good at, no matter how small. Remind them regularly of these!

(Reference: Family Lives, national charity supporting families)

A Resilience poem to share with your children!

- B** is for Bad times. Bad times won't stay forever. Remember that bad times do go away. Stay hopeful.
- O** is for Others. Other people can help you. Think about who you can talk to when you are feeling sad or worried. Don't feel you have to keep it to yourself.
- U** is for Unhelpful thinking. Unhelpful thinking will make you more upset. Think again. Try to have positive and helpful thoughts.
- N** is for Nobody is perfect. We all can learn from the mistakes we might make. Making mistakes can help us to solve problems. Don't be sad about them.
- C** is for Concentration. Concentrate on things that make you laugh. Focus on happy times not sad. Think about things that you enjoy.
- E** is for Everybody. Everybody feels sad sometimes. Feeling sad is a normal feeling but we can do things to help us **BOUNCE BACK** when we feel down. Don't give up!

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Teams Win at the British Trampoline Competition!

Last weekend was the British Schools Trampoline Competition 2025/26 at Weston Super Mare. Some 58 students from 6 different schools competed on Sunday the 7th December. **There were some AMAZING wins for Withycombe!**

The Years 1-6 Novice girls teams came 1st AND 3rd. The Years 1-6 Novice boys team also came 1st!

Well done to everyone - they next compete in January 2026 (and perhaps we have some Olympic potential to keep an eye on!)



The boys novice team came 1st!



The girls novice team took 1st AND 3rd place on the Podium.



Eliza celebrating the team win!



Martha from Beech Class with her team medal.



Alban has been working hard at home and in school with his piano teacher Clare Marchant. He has learned to play jingle bells and is really proud of his achievement in playing a whole song independently!

On Sunday morning Eliza took part in the Santa fun run in Exeter to raise money for her gymnastics club!



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We're so proud that all these funds go back to support the enrichment and education at our school. We were joined in the school hall by Mandi Cox and Exmouth Town Band, who played some Christmas Carols. We had Jazzy Jars in Rabbits, "Elfridges" in Beech and even Hair braids in Maple! These events are not possible without your kind donations and of course, our amazing volunteers! The school PTFA is made up of less than 10 volunteers - if you think you could spare some time to get involved do reach out to us on our PTFA Facebook page. Some things we have funded:

- ✓ The 2025 School Pantomime - oh YES we did!
- ✓ Year 2 – 'Continuous provision' toys
- ✓ EYFS - Cascading water trays and a water fountain
- ✓ OPAL – eg Waterproof trousers
- ✓ OPAL – large contribution to the new shed
- ✓ New benches for the playground

We were thrilled to take delivery of 6 fabulous new picnic benches, and 5 straight benches on Wednesday. This was funded by the PTFA, with the carpentry work carried out by the brilliant local team 'Men's Shed' at Opendoor! As our school makes the best use of our outdoor spaces, these benches will be very well received.



Men's Shed is a social space for men to share and learn practical skills, with the opportunity to work together on community projects. It was great to work with the team. Thanks also to [Jewson](#) who donated some extra wood!

If you'd like to contact Men's Shed, or perhaps join them, you can find them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ExmouthMensShed>

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Massive thank you to everyone who made a Jazzy Jar, or several - they are all sparkly and bright just like the season we are entering!

Special Mentions:

Foundation: Ladybird Class Mrs Church and the TA's
KS1: Rabbits Class Mrs Lock and the TA's
KS2: Maple Class Mr Scudder and the TA's
The year 6 teaching team who made a Jazzy Jar as well!

The WINNERS!

Bumble Bee: Phoebe
Dragonfly: Alistair
Ladybird: Erin

Sycamore: Rowan
Beech: Olive
Willow: Christmas Tree topper

Osprey: Astrid
Kestrel: Henry
Kingfisher: Arthur

Barn Owl: Jude
Hedgehog: Nelly
Rabbit: Ava

Hazel: Poppy
Oak: Ruby-Mae
Maple: Ophelia

Otter: Finley
Dolphin: Harley
Seal: Orla



Avocet: Esme
Sandpiper: Delilah
Lapwing: Elsie



Prizes will arrive soon!

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Choir to Ashfield Care Home	Mon 15 th December
Spanish Club Party 	Mon 15 th December
Christmas Services (amended date)	Tues 16 th December
Christmas Lunch	Wed 17 th December
Christmas Jumper Day	
Mufti Day 	Fri 19 th December



The last day of term is 19th December.

*Enjoy your
Christmas Break!*

Monday 5th January is a non-pupil day,
so we'll see you back in school
on **Tuesday 6th January 2026!**

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ARTY STARS CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

We are very excited to share that our *Arty Stars* children have been busy creating beautiful festive artwork to decorate a very special Christmas tree!

- Our school's Christmas tree will be part of the Holy Trinity Church Christmas Tree Festival and your child's work will be proudly displayed for everyone to enjoy!

Location
Holy Trinity Church
2 Rolle Rd, Exmouth,
EX3 2AB

When can you visit?
Family, friends, and the public are warmly invited
Monday 15th December –
Wednesday 17th December
Between 5pm and 7pm

Come along, soak up the festive atmosphere, and see our *Arty Stars* shine! We can't wait to celebrate the creativity of our wonderful children with you.



PRIMARY SPORTS & EDUCATION

THE BEACON ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMP

SCAN TO BOOK!

5-14 YEARS OLD

NERF GUN BATTLES, FOOTBALL, LASER TAG, CHRISTMAS ARTS & CRAFTS, GLOW IN THE DARK SPORTS, DODGEBALL, CRICKET, CHRISTMAS GAMES & MUCH MORE!!!

PRICES:
STANDARD DAY - £21 (PER CHILD)
EXTENDED DAY - £26 (PER CHILD)

TIMES:
STANDARD - 8:45AM - 3:30PM
EXTENDED - 8:00AM - 5:30PM

2025/26 Dates:
MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER
TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER
MONDAY 29TH DECEMBER
TUESDAY 30TH DECEMBER

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

Ofsted
Registered

BOOKING LINK - <https://www.primary-sports.co.uk/events/2025/12/22/the-beacon-primary-school-christmas-holiday-camps-2025>

More Information: marcus@primary-sports.co.uk / 07976979202



Hello! EXMOUTH

Accredited by the
BRITISH COUNCIL
for the teaching
of English in the UK

An independent English school for international juniors, providing lessons and activities with homestay accommodation.

Join our host community!

- Earn money for your room(s)
- Share cultures
- Get discounts at local businesses
- Join us for fun social events

WHY HOST?

- EARN MONEY:** Get paid for spare or temporarily vacant rooms - group leaders or juniors (aged 11-17).
- FLEXIBLE HOSTING:** Year-round opportunities, with student matches based on your availability (average stays of 4 nights to 2 weeks).
- LEARN:** Connect with different languages and cultures; top nationalities include Spanish, French, Italian, and German.
- FEEL SUPPORTED:** Access to 24/7 emergency assistance, office WhatsApp, and a dedicated accommodations team.
- PART OF THE COMMUNITY:** Convenient town-based school, established since 1989.
- HAVE FUN:** Participate in host events and enjoy a discount card for local businesses.

Know someone who could host?
Recommend a friend and receive a £30 referral fee when they host.
01395 223942 - host@helloexmouth.co.uk



What now for Devon's libraries?

Our libraries are under threat. Can you help us save them?

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!
Friday 23 January 2026
12.30-1.15pm
in Budleigh Salterton Public Hall followed by refreshments

BE READY FOR A PROMPT START

We know lots of our children have a love for reading. As a school we are big fans of the Devon Library Service for everything they do with - and for - our wider community.

There is a consultation under way - you can join the conversation in-person, or visit the weblink attached and complete the survey.

We would hate to lose our local Library!

There's a link to the consultation on our Facebook page.