

# Weekly School News Roundup

## Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025



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## News from your Headteacher

I am sure you are all looking forward to the long weekend and will appreciate the short, 4-day week next week! The term seems to be racing away from us already but there are still lots of exciting things planned for the term ahead. You should have received a newsletter from Teachers along with an overview which sets out the learning that your children will be covering over the term. These can also be found on our website. As part of the learning, Teachers are planning trips and visits, details of which you will receive separately. Payments for trips should be made via your 'ParentPay' account. If you have any difficulties using your account, please contact the office who will be happy to help you.

At Withycombe, we are proud of the many enrichment activities that we offer children. As well as trips and visits, we regularly have visitors in school to share their knowledge and expertise. Staff are skilled at creating exciting experiences in school too, with theme days being a popular option. Children are slowly ticking off the 'Withycombe 60' activities, *60 brilliant things to do while at our school*. Each year group has a list of interesting activities to work towards, with each class having their own 'postcard' to write down when they complete their activities.

As well as curriculum learning, staff at Withycombe are keen to support children's wider personal development, preparing them for life outside of school now and in the future. I feel proud of the many ways in which we help to support children's wider personal development. One of crucial things we use to support children's personal development are our Vision and Values. These values, along with the topics taught in class (RSHE, Computing, PE, RE) help us to support children to become responsible and respectful people, ready to become actively involved in society as young adults. Here at Withycombe, we are pleased with the many ways in which we provide children with a rich and varied curriculum, with a focus on providing 'extra-curricular' activities to enhance their learning.

As you are aware, we are passionate at Withycombe about helping children to learn about how to be both physically and mentally healthy. Our '10 a day' for mental health is central to our support of children's personal development. We encourage children to have active breaktimes and lunchtimes with our outdoor gym equipment being a great addition to this. We provide a wide range of after school sporting clubs including the opportunity for our KS2 children to try sailing, windsurfing and paddleboarding. We use our 'Wildtribe' area regularly to enable children to learn outdoors, giving children the chance to develop skills such as resilience, cooperation and confidence.

All our staff understand the importance of supporting children's wider personal development alongside their academic progress. If you have any queries regarding any of the above, please feel free to contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

### Sun Cream

As the weather becomes warmer (hopefully staying so) please ensure children have sun cream applied before school, and bring a sunhat to wear when outside. We are getting increasing amounts of jumpers, cardigans and leavers' hoodies left on the field and playground as children discard these as they get too warm while playing. To make it easier for us to rehome clothing, **please make sure uniform is clearly labelled**. Staff regularly sort the lost property and reunite children and lost clothing, but we can only do this if clothing is named.

*Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend,  
Mrs. E Jones*



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



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## Wellbeing Update – Starting the School Day Well

Last week our newsletter reminded parents and carers about the importance of starting the school day in the best possible way for your children. As part of this, parents and carers are politely asked not to enter the school building or classrooms, so teachers can give all their attention to children being settled and ready to learn.

We understand that parents may feel anxious about making these changes but there is much you can do to help children start the day calmly.

### So, how can we start the day in a calm way?

**It starts with the night before!** Review your child's bedtime routine. Is it as calm as it could be? Predictable activities help – tea/dinner, talking time, bath, story, bed.

**Plan ahead.** Prepare as much as possible the night before eg. get uniform ready, packed lunch made, breakfast laid out for the morning - anything to reduce the busyness of the morning.

**Create a visual timetable or checklist.** Children function best with a predictable routine. Create a checklist together about what needs to happen next - get dressed, have breakfast, brush teeth, toilet, get bag ready, put shoes on, out the door. Pictures help young children.

**Reward** reluctant or anxious children when they are fully ready to leave the house. Keep rewards simple, cheap and short – a 5-minute cartoon, or read a short story to them.

**Be positive yourself.** Talk about all the good things that your child enjoys at school, no matter how small. Keep conversation light, short and upbeat. If your child sees that you are ok with their anxiety, they may feel more confident. Look happy and smiley yourself!

**Manage anxious talk.** Children may talk about school worries in the morning, but doing this may increase anxiety. Talk about worries the day before. Have a Talking/Worry Time each day after school. Choose a time not close to bedtime, perhaps after tea. Keep the time short - 15 minutes at most. Use paper and pens if your child likes writing or drawing. Tell them this time is to chat about anything but also to talk about any worries for the next day.

**Distract, Distract, Distract!** On your journey to school, help distract your child's worry thoughts. Play I-spy, use songs or rhymes, use your senses (tell me 5 things you see, hear, smell, touch), use exercise if you walk (do 5 hops, 4 jumps, 3 skips etc).

**Use transition objects.** Give something to your child to help them know you are thinking of them when they separate from you to go into school - something they can keep safely in their bag just to know it is there. A picture of you, a piece of soft material that you have both cuddled or a little note to say you love them. If your child has a packed lunch you could put a different note in their box each day saying something lovely about them.

### *Create a quick and positive good-bye ritual together with your child.*

'One kiss, one hug, one fist pump', do a 'high-five' etc. Remind your child that you will see them very soon and if you have something to look forward to after school, remind them of that. Prolonging the good-bye, or waiting around too long at drop offs, will only serve to increase anxiety. Keep it short and sweet.

Stories can help – We recommend 'The Invisible String' by Patrice Karst. You can find this story read for free on YouTube. It looks at how a child is always connected with their parent/carer, even if they are not together.

Mrs L Jones, Wellbeing TA



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## Beyond the Classroom!



Years 4-6 had a special assembly last week with the RNLi Lifeguards.

The children learned a lot about flags that they might see on the beach, and how to keep themselves safe in and around the sea. Thank you to the Lifeguards for coming along to talk to the children, who were engaged and asked some great questions. Living by the coast this special assembly was really valuable to everyone.



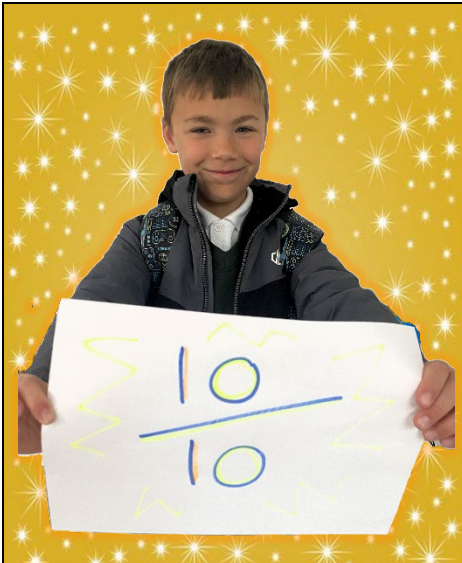
On Thursday, 12 of our super KS2 children went to the Exmouth Tennis Centre to take part in a multi-sport festival. This event consisted of relay racing, parachute games, target ball and a 'rounder style' team event.

The children worked brilliantly as a team alongside others from the local primary schools, all whilst practicing their fundamental movement skills!

Well done Reggie, Lily, Mabel, Dylan, Henry, Bodhi, Esme, Rose, Matilda, Izzy, Riley and Mason!

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## Sports & Achievements



Rowan in Maple Class finished the Spring term with another 10/10 for his weekly yr 4 spellings! He's the first in class to achieve 10 out of 10 - for 10 consecutive weeks! A great role model to his little brother Isaac in Foundation. We are very proud of him and his love of learning, keep shining!



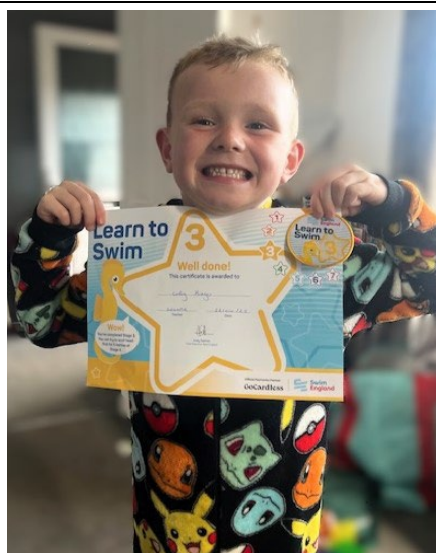
Eliza in Willow Class took part in her first Devon Grades Preparation 1 Grades with her Gymnastics club. Competing extremely well and coming away with 'working beyond her level'.



Last Saturday, Billy and his team (Exmouth Town U6s) played at the Saint South West football festival and he was awarded the 'top player' trophy, which is his first trophy he gets to keep! His coach said that Billy had 'a great work rate, tackling and an absolute rock.'



Finley in Foundation, Bumblebee Class got player of the week at football!



Cody is so proud to share that he has completed stage 3 swimming lessons



Poppy in Hedgehog Class completed her stage 2 swimming and will now move to Stage 3. She is very excited!



### LD Active MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMP

Come and join us this May half term for plenty of sports and activities including giant games inflatables. Meet new friends and grow in confidence this half term with LD ACTIVE!

[activities.bookpebble.co.uk](http://activities.bookpebble.co.uk)

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**FUN PACKED DAYS EVERYDAY!**

## PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS

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Based on over 20,000 reviews

**Bowhill Primary School**  
 Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Multi-Activity Camp

**Cranbrook Education Campus**  
 Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May - Gymnastics Camp  
 Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Multi-Activity Camp

**Nerf**  
 Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May - Nerf and Dodgeball Camp

**Clyst St Mary Primary School**  
 Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May - Gymnastics Camp

**Pinhoe Primary School**  
 Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Multi-Activity Camp

**St Michael's Academy**  
 Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May - Multi-Activity Day

**St Thomas Primary School**  
 Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May - Multi-Activity Day

All camps run from : 09:00-15:30  
 Age: 4-11  
 Price: £24.99 per day

PLEASE BRING  
 PLENTY OF WATER  
 SUITABLE CLOTHING  
 LOADS OF ENERGY!

Visit [www.premier-education.com](http://www.premier-education.com) to book  
 Contact [dcrysell@premier-education.com](mailto:dcrysell@premier-education.com) for queries

Our Holiday Camps keep children entertained, safe & on the move during the school holidays. A bucket load of fun activities, every school holiday. With great value sports, performing arts, and games to enjoy each half term, we have plenty for your children to get stuck into in the school break.

Book now for a school holiday full of fun!

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION or visit [premier-education.com/holiday-camps](http://premier-education.com/holiday-camps).

**Trustpilot**  
 Based on over 20,000 reviews

## birthday parties

at LADRAM BAY

Looking for a party that's anything but ordinary? At Ladram Bay, we throw birthday celebrations that kids talk about for ages! Whether your little one's a water baby or a budding artist, we've got the perfect off-peak party package to make their day unforgettable.

Give us a call  
**Swimming Pool & Arty Parties**  
 to talk about combining both!




**Pool Parties!**

**Standard Swim Party**  
 Includes: 1 hour of fun in the pool plus a tasty hot meal in our restaurant.  
 £15.95 per child (min of 12 children)

**Exclusive Pool Takeover**  
 Enjoy exclusive use of the pool for a full hour of music, floats and water-based activities - then head to the restaurant for a hot meal with all your party pals!  
 £22.95 per child min of 25 children (only available 5pm each night)

**Arty Parties!**

**Arty Parties in the Studio**  
 Treat your little one and their friends to an hour of hands-on fun with Pottery Painting or Jewellery Making - each child gets to choose their own item to decorate and take home\*. It's the perfect party bag with a personal touch!  
 £15.95 per child (min of 12 children)

**Teddy Bear Making**  
 Choose Teddy Bear Making & create a cuddly companion to treasure forever. With a wide of soft toys to choose from, there's a teddy for everyone!  
 £15.95 per child (min of 12 children)

Off Peak (not available during school or bank holidays)  
 Lisa Moore: 01395 566398 | [parties@ladrambay.co.uk](mailto:parties@ladrambay.co.uk)

£10 PER TABLE (BRING YOUR OWN TABLE)

## CHARITY TABLE TOP SALE

SUNDAY 18TH MAY  
 10AM - 3PM (SET UP FROM 8:30AM)

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT  
 Always Together

RAISING FUNDS FOR MACMILLAN  
 EXMOUTH RUGBY CLUB NEW MARQUEE  
 KITCHEN & BAR OPEN FOR FOOD & DRINKS



TO BOOK YOUR TABLE CONTACT  
[EXMOUTH RUGBYEVENTS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EXMOUTH RUGBYEVENTS@GMAIL.COM)

