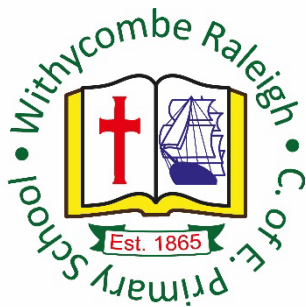


Weekly School News Roundup

**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: 5th Sept 2025

News from your Headteacher

It was lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week. Staff were busy over the summer getting classrooms and our wider school environment ready for the children's return and we have lots of exciting learning planned. We hope that children are looking forward to getting back into the school routine. We are delighted to welcome some new children, including our new Foundation children and their families to our school. We hope that their time at Withycombe Raleigh will be very happy.

We would like to remind you that in the morning **school gates open at 8:40am** and teachers will meet children on the playground. Gates will then close at 8:45am.

Home time for all children is at 3:10pm.

If you are collecting more than one child, please don't worry - staff will wait with children on the playground until you arrive.

A reminder of the entrances each year group should use:

Bumblebees and Ladybirds	Driveway Gates
Dragonflies and Year 1	Foundation Gate
Years 2 and 3	Kitchen Gate
Years 4, 5 and 6	School Lane Gate

We are a large and busy school with lots of events and activities going on most of the time. Please ensure that your contact details are kept up to date to ensure you receive all the notifications from school. We send the majority of our communications via text and email, while our website and Facebook page are also regularly updated with information. We have an events calendar on the Home Connect page to help you to keep track.

This newsletter is sent out each Friday to our whole school community, and as well as giving you all a 'round up' of the week it also contains upcoming dates for your diaries.

You should have received today some correspondence from your child's class teacher explaining the routines for each week including arrangements for PE kit, reading books and Wild Tribe. Along with this, you will receive a topic web which will give you a brief outline of what the children will be learning this term. We hope you find this information useful. In addition to this, we would like to invite parents to **'meet your teacher'** and visit the classroom on **Monday 8th September 3:10-3:30pm**. This will be an informal, drop-in event to give parents the opportunity to see their child's classroom and to say hello to their teacher.

*Have a great weekend,
Mrs. E Jones*



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



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Here are a few photos from our first OPAL play sessions – what busy bees they all were. The children clearly loved having so many play options available, and there were lots of happy smiles!



Contacting us

There are many ways you can contact school staff if you have any queries. You can email your child's class teacher directly using their class email account. 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. Our general contact is: email admin@wrpschool.org Tel: 01395 263397. For non-urgent enquires we have a contact us form on our website.

Your class email addresses (these also available on the year group pages of the school website)

bumblebees@wrpschool.org
ladybirds@wrpschool.org
dragonfly@wrpschool.org

dolphins@wrpschool.org
seals@wrpschool.org
otters@wrpschool.org

hazel@wrpschool.org
oak@wrpschool.org
maple@wrpschool.org

kestrel@wrpschool.org
kingfisher@wrpschool.org
osprey@wrpschool.org

rabbit@wrpschool.org
hedgehog@wrpschool.org
barnowl@wrpschool.org

sycamore@wrpschool.org
beech@wrpschool.org
willow@wrpschool.org

lapwing@wrpschool.org
sandpiper@wrpschool.org
avocet@wrpschool.org

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Your Child's Emotional Wellbeing at WRPS

At Withycombe Raleigh we take your child's wellbeing seriously, and all staff work hard to ensure emotional needs are met. We have a dedicated **Wellbeing Webpage** on our school website. Please take time to look at it; the link is: <https://www.wrpschool.org/wellbeing-2025>

- On our wellbeing web page will find some videos and presentations on understanding and managing **Anxiety**, **Anger** and **Grief**. They offer lots of information and ideas on how you can help meet your child's emotional needs. We encourage you to try the suggested strategies.
- Returning to school after a long summer break can be an exciting time for many children, but it is also normal and natural for children to feel anxious or worried about starting school again. If you think your child has '**return to school anxiety**' please read and try out the ideas in our '**Starting the Day in a Calm Way**' article. This is especially helpful if your child has separation anxiety.
- In school we promote **10 choices** we can make to help our own mental health – these are not just for children but for parents and carers too! The start of a new school year is an ideal opportunity for families to think about ways to build positive mental health through these 10 choices. Here they are!



- If you would like to know more about mental health and wellbeing services in our community, you will find a list of **Local and National Resources** we feel may be of help on our Wellbeing Webpage.
- If you have ongoing concerns about your child's mental health, please talk to your child's teacher. If your child's teacher thinks further support may help, our specialist TA Mrs Louise Jones supports specific children whose mental wellbeing is affecting their school experience and learning.

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Before the summer break you received some information about our exciting new lunchtime provision 'Outdoor Learning and Play : Opal'. On Tuesday's non-pupil day all staff attended our OPAL launch session and we are all now very excited about this program!

Our aim is to create school improvement through lunch time play; improving the opportunities and chances for all our children.

Our visiting OPAL Mentor shared with us all the aims and benefits of OPAL and the positive impact it can have on children's wellbeing and learning. Children have already started to enjoy some of the new activities this week and as time goes on we will introduce more and more play opportunities.

We will keep you all updated with what is going on, as well as offering parents the opportunity to come and try some of the activities later in the year.

Thank you to parents and other members of our school community who have already donated items to our Opal 'appeal' – this is hugely appreciated.

If you have any items that you would like to donate to our OPAL play scheme, please refer to the list on our school website: <https://www.wrpschool.org/opal> and if you have something to donate, please contact the staff involved on opal@wrpschool.org.



This week we are particularly looking to add the following to our OPAL collection!

- Plastic dinosaurs- ever popular! These can be handed over to class teachers to pass on.
- Dressing up outfits in a range of sizes.
- Any ride-on vehicles. In a functional (safe!) condition please. Perhaps your children have grown out of theirs, or no longer want them? Please contact us via the OPAL email address to discuss bigger items.
- Also - does anyone have access to used scaffolding planks?!

Thank you for your support.
The Opal Team!

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We have an exciting event planned on **19th September**.
Coming all the way from the **Jolaurabi School** the **Singing Children of Kenya**
are coming to visit us, and perform at our school!



During the summer we let you know that we're launching a fundraising appeal for the 'Educate the Kids' charity who work with these children in Kenya.

Our appeal starts next Monday 8th September, so if your children have a £1 coin to donate they can bring it in to drop into the collection frame.

We'll make this available in various locations during the week if the weather permits – we'll aim to move it around to the different pick-up points so you have a chance to see the donations adding up, and add a £1 coin if you have one spare!



There are four tickets for the Singing Choir of Kenya's performance at the Pavilion up for grabs too! If you would like to be in the draw, when you drop a £1 into the frame, remember to pick up a token - and keep it safe.

Tokens are individually numbered, and we'll use a random number generator to pick the winning token. You'll need to bring this to reception to claim your tickets!

If you do not wish to attend the performance, there is no need to pick up a token when you donate.



We also have a **friendship bracelet** collection taking place so we can give them out to the children who are visiting us all the way from Kenya. There's a poster on the notice board by the hall, (by the Business Manager's office, inside the double doors at reception).

Children can come along and donate their bracelets here at break or lunch times and we hope to collect a bit of a stack!

We thought it would be nice if the children could take extra bracelets back to the other children at the school who have not been able to join them on their tour, as souvenirs to share.

Thank you for your kind support. We'll update Facebook to let you know how the collecting is going through the week.

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Sports & Achievements

You can email your achievement photos with a few lines of explanation, to admin@wrpschool.org



Tilda of Lapwing class and Jessie of Dolphin class both completed the library book quest this summer holiday. Well done!



Over the summer break, Henry in Hedgehogs class got his award for reading 100 books at the library



Harley from Dolphin Class won 3 medals and a certificate at Exeter City Community Trust Summer camp, and was given the honour of captain at her first training session with Budleigh Salterton AFC Youth U7s! Well done, Harley!



Above left: Ella had a very busy summer holidays. She went to Copenhagen to compete at the BMX World Championships where she finished in 17th, which was fantastic considering the size of the other girls. She then trained hard for the British Championships where she led out the gate to the final straight, but just didn't have the power to stay ahead and secured 2nd. Overall Ella finished the National Series in 2nd place!



Cody has worked really hard and been accepted into not one, but TWO football pre-academies this season! Exeter City under 7s, and Plymouth Arlgyle Pre-Academy have snapped him up! Wow! Well done Cody!

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Kids Track Challenge

A fantastic opportunity to try out track running in a friendly and supportive environment. Whether your child is up for a **competitive** challenge or just wants to enjoy a **non-competitive** run, there's something for everyone

- 800m races
- Ideal preparation for schools cross country
- Competitive and non competitive races
- Medals to all finishers
- Spaces are limited so book early

For more information and to book scan the QR code or use the link below:



Friday 26th September
from 4.30pm
@ Exeter Arena Athletics Stadium
Open to everyone in Key Stage 2

<https://www.city-runs.co.uk/kids-track-challenge>