

Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**



Date: 12th January 2024

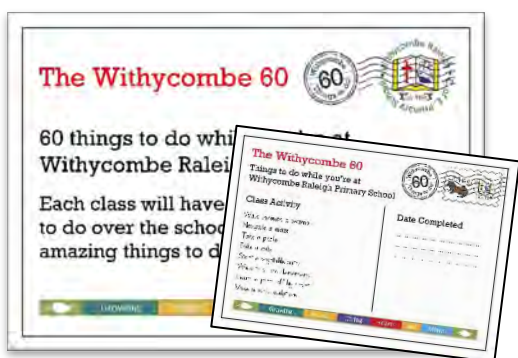
Mrs Emma Jones, Headteacher
Withycombe Village Road
Exmouth, Devon, EX8 3BA

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

News from your Headteacher

It has been a really busy week with several classes starting their new topics with an exciting visit or event. Years 5 and 6 visited the Space Dome in school as an introduction to their new topics. Year 4 visited Wildwood, Escot for an Anglo Saxon Experience Day. They all loved the experience and it has given them lots of inspiration for their learning. We've shared some photos later in the newsletter.

There are many more events planned for other year groups as the term progresses. At Withycombe, we are proud of the many enrichment activities that we offer our 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.

We hope that all these experiences will provide our children with lifelong, happy memories of their time at Withycombe.
More here <https://www.wrpschool.org/withycombe-60>

As a school we do really value being able to take children out to visit other places, and being able to give children rich experiences in school. We always try to keep the cost of our trips and visits affordable, in particular this year with the cost-of-living crisis impacting on families across the country. Although we want children to continue to have these enriching learning experiences, we cannot always proceed with visits without parents' and carers' financial contribution towards the cost. Trips and visits are a highlight of the children's time here with us at Withycombe – it is the experience of these which children remember long after they have left us. I really hope that we can work together to continue to provide these for children in the future. If you're struggling to make a contribution towards costs for trips, please come and speak to Mr Smith or me as soon as possible.

Winter has definitely arrived this week, it has been very cold on the gate each morning! Please send children to school with named hats, scarves and gloves... we have quite a collection of lost property piling up around school including several unnamed hats! There are lost property boxes in each building as well as the large box stored on the main playground (under the bike shed). We check these boxes regularly and return named items to their owners. Parents, do feel free to check these boxes at the end of the day if your child has 'misplaced' an item. We tend to find that named items eventually find their rightful owner. Sadly, unnamed items are very difficult to reconnect with their owners, despite the best efforts of Zoe who volunteers to help with lost property and manages the school's 'Lost and Found' Facebook page.

Continued...



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



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Collective Worship:

In our Collective Worship sessions this week we have focused on the value of Generosity and how we can find ways to be generous at home, at school and in the community. As a Church School we have a vision: 'Growing Happy, Caring Hearts and Minds'

This vision is supported by our school values which are based on the **GRACE** of God: **Generosity, Respect, Agape, Courage and Empathy.**

You may have read in our previous newsletters that we have a reward system to celebrate our vision and values. It is hoped that children will suggest family and friends to be awarded with a 'badge' for their efforts, celebrating our school values within the community. Ideally it should be something outside the school to help the wider community. For smaller things, and where children have helped others or demonstrated our values in school, we have individual stickers to award. If you would like to nominate someone for one of our awards, please let us know.

*Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Jones*

Wellbeing Update

Need help with understanding your child's behaviour?

At school we believe that every behaviour is a communication of feelings and needs. To fully understand our children's behaviour, we need to look underneath the behaviour we see, to the feelings that are driving it and for what our children might need. For example, an angry outburst may be triggered by hunger, tiredness or worry about something they don't fully understand. If you want to learn more about your child's emotions, please have a look at our school Wellbeing webpage: <https://www.wrpschool.org/wellbeing-2024>

Here, you will find these videos and presentations:

ANXIETY:

- Part 1: An Overview of Anxiety
- Part 2: The Anxiety Cycle
- Part 3: Taking Control of Anxiety

Please also look at the video story book 'The Huge Bag of Worries' (Virginia Ironside), with your child. You can find a YouTube version of this on our webpage too.



ANGER:

Understanding and managing big emotions

GRIEF and Family Change:

Understanding and managing big life changes

We hope that these resources will further your understanding of different emotions, and that the suggested strategies will support you in helping your child's mental wellbeing.

Mrs L Jones,
Wellbeing TA.

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Environmental News

The Big Garden Birdwatch: Friday 26 and Sunday 28 January.



This month, the RSPB are encouraging families to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch - the world's largest garden wildlife survey. This important survey helps to build a picture of how garden birds are doing in the UK.

It's easy to be part of Big Garden Birdwatch. Simply choose an hour between 26 and 28 January and count the birds you see in your garden, balcony, or in your local park. You can sign up, download a tally chart and take part using the following link:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

Many species of birds in the UK are in decline, including those that we regard as common garden birds. The reasons for decline are varied: fewer green spaces, pollution and changing climate are just some of the challenges faced by many birds. The survey will allow a better understanding of what is happening and help to find solutions.

Helping Garden Birds:

Garden birds benefit from any extra help that we give them; our gardens are increasingly seen as places to find food, water and shelter during the winter. Actions such as feeding the birds, putting up nest boxes and wildlife-friendly gardening can make all the difference for birds' survival, especially during the winter months.

The RSPB recommend that when buying bird food, to try to get a good mix of peanuts, seeds and live food like mealworms and waxworms. Fruit, especially bruised apples and pears, will be popular with thrushes and blackbirds. Household scraps like pastry, cooked rice and breadcrumbs should only be offered in small amounts occasionally.

You can also help stop the spread of avian disease by removing old food and cleaning your bird tables, bird baths and feeders weekly. Further information can be found here: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/helping-birds-and-wildlife>

If you are able to take part in the Big Bird Watch and would like to share a photo, please do so via your Class Teacher's email.

Mr Smith
Designated Safeguarding Lead.



I put a bird feeder in my small garden about 3 years ago. I've been lucky to encourage lots of different visitors including Carrion Crows, Magpies and lots of small birds like the very friendly male Blackbird who yells at me if I'm late refilling the seed tray! Most days I also see a pair of robins, some long-tailed tits which arrive as a big group (they seem to have adopted a great tit as one of their family as it always arrives with them), blue tits, reed warblers, coal tits, dunnocks, and sometimes a very shy wren. I put out sunflower hearts, fat slabs, a seed mix, nuts, and mealworms. I also have a small pond and they drink from it.

Here are a couple of my recent garden bird snaps - I'm looking forward to seeing yours! From Mrs Smart.

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Sports and other achievements

If you have any news you'd like to share in our weekly newsletter, please email a photo and brief explanation to admin@wrpschool.org. We'll include as many as we can!

Ava completed her stage 1 swimming and is really excited to go up to stage 2. She was super proud of her badge and certificate.



Bethany from Oak Class and her brother gave out chocolates and fresh food to the homeless in Exeter before Christmas. Bethany bought food out of her own money, and has been awarded a Kindness Award by Mrs Jones.



Congratulations to Jack in Kingfisher Class for coming 1st in the Autumn Term stage of **The Longest Walk** challenge, actively travelling for 132 hours!

Also to our runners up Eli with 126 hours, and Zak and Libby for 84 hours each. They all received certificates and a badge!

Do you log your active travel?

wrpschool.org/the-longest-walk



The Longest Walk – where are we? Krasnoyarsk! Which is the largest city and administrative centre of Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia. It is the second-largest city in Siberia after Novosibirsk, with a population of over 1.1 million. Krasnoyarsk is an important junction of the renowned Trans-Siberian Railway, and is one of the largest producers of aluminium in the country. January is the coldest month, with the temperature often reaching an average high of -14.4°C and an average low of -21.4°C .

Foundation Literacy Inspired Art

Over the last two weeks the children in EYFS have been learning the story of 'Mr Gumpy's Outing'. It tells of a kind man, called Mr Gumpy, who agrees to take a little girl and boy - along with an array of animals! - out on his boat for a day-trip.

The children have loved looking at the illustrations in this book. They have used the pictures, along with discussions about the key features of different types of animals, to draw a character from the story and then colour-washed their drawing with paint.

We think they have done a fantastic job!



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Year 4 had a fantastic Anglo Saxon experience day at Wildwood, Escot.

We learnt about Anglo Saxon lives and were able to try out some of the Anglo Saxon skills, using authentic replica tools, grinding flour to make bread, chiselling away at the mallet and foraging for food (eating stinging nettles). Even though it was cold, we all really enjoyed it!

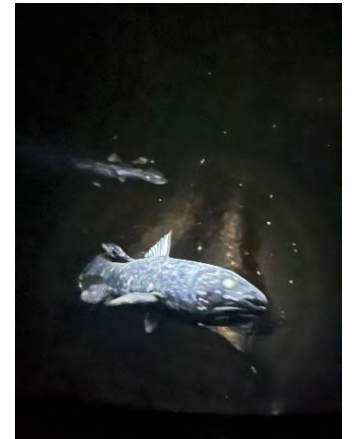


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Year 5 enjoyed a fascinating session in the Space Dome on Monday.

This session consolidated their learning from the Autumn term whilst learning about the exciting new projects happening in space right now!

Year 6 also experienced one of the dome's fully immersive and informative sessions, learning all about inheritance, evolution, Darwin, and how life began in preparation for learning later in the year.



Year 5 have also begun a 6 week programme called 'The Joy of Moving' with the brilliant Exeter City community coaches! The programme is designed to help children develop their physical, cognitive and social skills in a fun and educational way. We're excited for the sessions in the weeks to come.



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More for you...



Friendship
Food
Warm Space

WELLBEING WARM SPACE

Enjoy some company and a nice warm meal

Days: Mondays
from 8th Jan
Times: 11.00am
to 1.00pm

With thanks to funding from  COMMUNITY FUND we are offering a warm and welcome space to enjoy a meal. Anyone who feels like they are spending too much time alone, or anyone who might be struggling financially are welcome. Ideally spaces to be booked, but drop ins will also get a warm reception. Transport can be arranged, but must be booked a week in advance. No charge but donations would be gratefully received.

  **SEACHANGE**
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Make the change at Seachange. www.seachangedevon.org
Call: 01395 446896 Email: help@seachangedevon.org
Seachange, East Budleigh Road, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6HF
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PLASTIC FREE
EXMOUTH
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE
WORKING WITH SIDESHORE

SUNDAYS 8:30AM

BRING YOUR OWN GLOVES AND BAG!

BEACH CLEAN

START AT EACH END OF THE BEACH

DISCOUNTS FOR PARTICIPANTS AT
 HANGTIME  ZERO  TWO DRIFTERS

Disclaimer: you participate at your own risk

Vacancy: General Teaching Assistant

A great opportunity has arisen to work within our successful, caring and inclusive church school.

Salary Details: £11.79 per hour

Job Term: Fixed for 1 year (maternity cover)

Hours: Part-Time, 30 hours per week

Term-Time, 38 weeks per annum

Closing Date: 24/01/2024.

Interview Date: 29 January 2024.

This role requires a DBS disclosure.

Please visit <https://www.wrpschool.org/vacancies> for more information/how to apply.



Remember to apply for your child's reception school place for September 2024 before 15th January! Visit <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/> to apply.

Contact us:

There are several ways you can contact us. You can email your child's class teacher using the class email account, which you can find on the school website under your Year Group (linked via the Home Connect page). Please be aware that teachers don't have the opportunity to check these emails during the school day, so if you have an urgent message please telephone the school office on 01395 263397. Our main office email account is: admin@wrpschool.org

- Website: www.wrpschool.org
- Facebook: OfficialWRPSchool
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