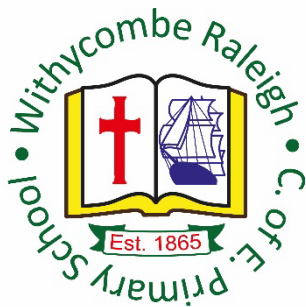


Weekly School News Roundup

Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School

Date: 3rd July 2026



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

The end of term is quickly approaching but at Withycombe we are not slowing down! Teachers have been putting the final touches to reports which parents will receive on Friday 17th July. There are lots more trips off site, including most of our Year 6 spending 3 days at ECC this week. Their Activities Week is also coming up, with 2 days at the beach participating in water sports and beach games. Year 2 are off to Seaton, Year 5 to the Eden Project and Year 1 to Powderham! It's becoming hard to keep track of what everyone is doing!

We hope that your children enjoyed their Moving on Morning on Tuesday and that they're excited to join their new class in September. There were lots of very happy faces on Tuesday - children and staff really enjoyed starting to get to know each other and learn about the new topics for the year ahead. Although for many children moving on can be exciting, this time of year can be unsettling for some children and worries can quickly escalate. If your child is at all worried about next year, please feel free to talk to their class teacher and relay these worries. We may be able to put children's minds at ease very easily.



Our brilliant PTFA

I hope to see lots of you at our Withyfest this evening after school!

As we come to the end of another fantastic school year, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our incredible PTFA for their unwavering support, enthusiasm and generosity.

Throughout the year, the PTFA has given countless hours of their time to organise events, raise valuable funds and create opportunities for our children to enjoy memorable experiences. From discos and fairs to raffles and community events, every activity has been planned with care and always with the children at the heart of what is done.

The funds raised have made a real difference to our school, helping us to provide additional resources, equipment and enrichment opportunities that enhance our children's learning and wellbeing. Their hard work benefits every child in our school and we are incredibly grateful.

I would also like to thank all of the parents, carers, family members and local businesses who have supported PTFA events throughout the year. Whether you have volunteered your time, donated prizes, baked cakes, attended events or simply bought a raffle ticket; your contribution has helped make these events such a success.

We are in desperate need of more volunteers to keep our PTFA going next year. Please, please if you are able to help the PTFA next year make yourself known! wrpsptfa@withyschool.org



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



Weekly School News Roundup

Parent / Carer Survey

As we start to think about September, we're looking at what our priorities might be for the year ahead. We are asking for your input to help us decide our key areas of focus. We are therefore seeking parent and carer views on various aspects of school life. Your opinions are very important to us. This annual survey will be open until 13th July and can be found via this link: <https://forms.gle/wcJgA1xSUUP9pRKd9>



We were visited by the Exmouth Mayor on Thursday!

The children asked Mr Mayor all sorts of questions ranging from what he did as Mayor; his favourite place in Exmouth, and whether the Mayor's role was just ceremonial or was it political!

Most of the questions were all about Mr Mayor's ceremonial robe and his Badge of Office. He told us that the robe was very heavy and hot! It was a really interesting morning and we are very grateful to Mr Mayor for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit us at Withycombe Primary School.



Seal Class spent their science lesson in our Wild Tribe area where they made bug hotels. They recycled plant pots and found other natural materials to use.



During the heatwave last week Ladybird Class kept cool with chilled damp cloths, and by putting their feet in trays of cold water while they sat calmly in front of fans!

Our last day of term is Tuesday 21st July.

ECC close for their summer break on Friday 17th July and it seems that some Withycombe families assumed that we do too! We're open as usual on Monday and Tuesday - with Exeter Chiefs coming in, our Year 6 Leavers service, the Y6 Leavers Party, a Spanish Club Party and plenty of other class activities taking place besides our lessons! We then return to school on Friday 4th September.

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs. E Jones

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Helping your child with English

Parent and carer involvement and interest in a child's reading really helps their reading improve, which in turn impacts on their wider educational attainment, school enjoyment and general well-being!

Key tips for encouraging reading:

The most important factor is that your child enjoys reading and feels successful!

- ✓ Encourage your child to read (and read aloud) regularly – share and read books to develop a love of stories.
- ✓ Try to read to your child every day. A little and often approach works best.
- ✓ A few minutes a day has a big impact on children of all ages.
- ✓ For younger children, use the allocated eBooks on Collins Hub – let them really show off with these familiar books
- As well as stories / fiction, choose reading materials that link with your child's interests – encourage a wide reading choice e.g. comics, magazines, recipes, non-fiction and audiobooks that you and your child can enjoy.
- Use magnetic letters on the fridge to play with words.
- Create a comfortable environment and read together – make it a relaxing and enjoyable experience. You know your child best, pick up on their cues and choose a time and place where they are relaxed and want to share a book with you.
- If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English.
- Talk with your child about books and bring reading to life - this is a great way to develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable.
- Discuss the front cover, talk about what the book could be about and share ideas.
- Talk about individual words and how they are spelt.
- When reading the book, discuss details of the story or the information.
- You could talk about how the book makes you feel.
- While children can practice their phonics skills with you, try not to lose the meaning and interest of the story. If your child gets very stuck on a word read it for them and carry on with the story.

Five fabulous facts about literacy

- * In English, there are 44 different phonemes (sounds), all of which your child will be taught at school.
- * Having books at home is associated with reading enjoyment and reading confidence (please let us know if you ever need books for home and we will try and help!)
- * Reading can support a solid parent-child bond.
- * Children who are read to during their first five years of life are exposed to 1.4 million additional words (a massive advantage going forward!). It's never too early to start reading to your child.
- * It only takes six minutes of daily reading for a child to show significant improvements in reading.

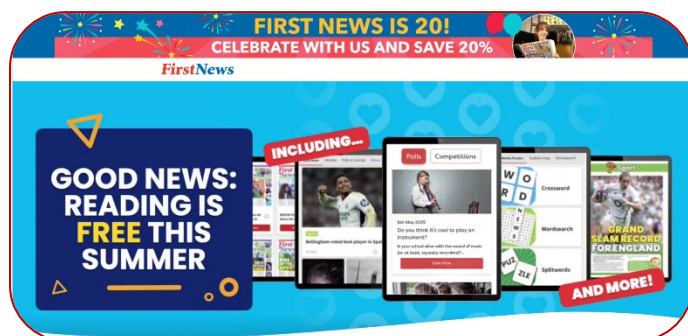
Safeguarding Update

With eBooks and devices in mind, it's a good opportunity to remind families to talk regularly to children about safe internet use. Encourage them to tell a trusted adult if anything online makes them feel worried, upset, or uncomfortable and remember to check privacy settings and age-appropriate controls on apps and devices.

AI tools are also becoming increasingly popular and it's important to remind children that not everything AI says or creates is accurate! Please encourage them to think critically, avoid sharing personal information with AI chatbots, and speak to a trusted adult if they are unsure about anything they see or use online.

Mr Smith – Deputy Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead

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At Withycombe Primary we know how important it is to keep children reading, thinking and engaged over the summer holidays. Mrs Guest has signed our school up for **FREE access to First News** – the UK's award-winning newspaper for young people aged 7–14.

The content at First News is mostly written with KS2 and over in mind, but we're confident that there's something for everyone regardless of their age or reading level.

First News helps children to:

- ✓ Build strong reading habits
- ✓ Stay informed in an age-appropriate, safe environment
- ✓ Develop critical thinking and media literacy skills
- ✓ Engage in meaningful conversations at home

What's included in your free summer subscription?

Unlimited access to the First News app from Thursday 9 July until Friday 4 September, which includes:

- | | |
|--|---|
|  The weekly newspaper |  Polls and interactive content |
|  Weekly news quiz to test knowledge in a fun way |  Puzzles and games |
|  Daily news stories to read, listen or watch |  Discussion points for families |

It's fun, educational and completely free – all summer long! Click here to get started:
<https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/summer-reading-2026/232486934596/>



Exmouth Food Bank

During the summer we know that families struggle with the added expense of feeding their children. In preparation, we're working collaboratively with the Tesco store on Salterton Road to run a campaign to increase our donations.

Between 20th July and 30th August Exmouth Food Bank will be especially seeking donations of:

- cartons of fruit juices
- tinned meat such as ham or corned beef
- tinned tuna
- sandwich spreads
- peanut butter/jam
- biscuits
- small packs of raisins

The main collection points are:

- Co-op, 3 Magnolia Walk, EX8 1HB
- Rivermead Stores, 23-25 Rivermead Ave, EX8 3BH
- Southern Co-op, Exeter Road, EX8 3EA
- Tesco Superstore, Salterton Road, EX8 2TS
- The Strand Inn, 1 The Strand, EX8 1RS
- Spar, 6 Fore St, Budleigh Salterton EX9 6NG



We are also really short of clean, large 'bags for life' so if you have any spare we would appreciate them - along with empty egg boxes! Anything you can do to support our campaign will be gratefully received.

Please visit our website for more information <https://exmouthfoodbank.org.uk/>

If you need help, you can also visit: <https://exmouthfoodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

We've sent out information about how you can access help over the Summer holidays too – **please see your MCAS account** for a letter and poster about some additional support if you're in financial difficulty.

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Sports and Other Achievements

If you have an achievement, whether that's a sporting achievement or something else you'd like us to share with our school community, please send a photo or two along with a brief explanation, and we'll aim to include it in our next newsletter: email admin@wrpschool.org



Polly in Dolphin Class has achieved her Level 1 Water Safety Certificate!



Alex in Rabbit Class was awarded a trophy from Lymptstone Youth Football club. He played the whole season for the U7 team even though he is only just 6!



Eloise in Bumblebees Class completed her 11th Junior Park Run at Phear Park last Sunday, totalling 22k over the 11 runs and achieving her half marathon wrist band award!



Darcie from Hazel class competed at the Tigers International Acro Cup in Colchester, winning a silver medal with her partner!



Poppy in Dolphin Class passed stage 4 at swimming and her sister Eliza in Hazel Class passed stage 5 at swimming. Well done to both of you!





Join Us as a School Crossing Patrol!

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5 hours Per Week
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For More Information

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Weekly School News Roundup

SUMMER
ACTIVITY CAMPS

NO COST **

EXETER RD
PRIMARY SCHOOL
27TH JULY - 14TH AUGUST

5-13 YEARS
10AM-2PM

DELICIOUS LUNCHES AND SNACKS

FUN SPORTS LIKE FOOTBALL, DODGEBALL, AND MORE!

SUMMER CRAFTS

BOOK ONLINE AT [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/YC7FKBW8](https://tinyurl.com/YC7FKBW8)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE. IF ON BENEFIT RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS

**** NO COST FOR THOSE ON BENEFIT RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

EXMOUTH YOUTH THEATRE'S RISING STARS
PRESENT

ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL JR.

BOOK BY DENNIS KELLY
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY TIM MINCHIN

18TH-19TH JULY 2026
PUBLIC HALL, BUDLEIGH

TICKETSOURCE: EXMOUTH YOUTH THEATRE

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

COME ON & DO IT!

LYMPSTONE
GIRLS UNDER 12s

WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW PLAYERS - ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!

WHERE?
EXMOUTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TIME?
START DATES & TIMES:
7:00PM - 8:00PM.
TUESDAYS
MAKE FRIENDS
HAVE FUN
IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS

CONTACT CRAIG ON
07784030765

LOVE FOOTBALL?
COME AND BE PART OF OUR TEAM!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!

SIDESHORE
SUNSET
CINEMA

FRIDAY 24TH JULY

6PM: MOANA PG
8.15PM: DIRTY DANCING 12A

SNACKS & DRINKS AVAILABLE | BRING A CHAIR
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