

Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**

Date: 21st Nov 2025



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

Common Illnesses



We're at that point in the year where everyone seems to be struggling with some kind of illness or other - we wish everyone who is poorly at the moment a speedy recovery! Almost all babies, toddlers and children are likely, at some point, get the most common childhood illnesses like chickenpox, colds, sore throats and ear infections.

When children are ill, parents often struggle to know if their child is well enough to attend school. The poster we've included on the next page provides guidance to help you decide if your child is well enough for school or not.

You can also use the HANDi paediatric app. Developed by NHS organisations in Devon, the HANDi Paediatric app is available to download for free to your device, and is a great way to get expert advice. It has been developed by paediatric consultants and will give you access to GP and clinical guidelines for the most common childhood health care concerns. Visit the following link for further information: <https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/nhs-apps/handi-app/>



Children who have had diarrhoea and/or vomiting must remain absent until they are 48 hours clear of symptoms, in line with Public Health England guidelines for schools. For information and advice regarding common childhood illnesses, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/> where you will find an A-Z list of conditions.

To go directly, you can add the condition that you are interested in, eg:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>
[head-lice-and-nits/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/)
[hand-foot-mouth-disease/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hand-foot-mouth-disease/)
[impetigo/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/impetigo/)
[measles/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/)

[mumps/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/mumps/)
[ringworm/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/ringworm/)
[scarlet-fever/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/)
[slapped-cheek-syndrome/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/slapped-cheek-syndrome/)
[threadworms/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/threadworms/)

Our SENCO (Special Education Need Coordinator)

We are delighted to have Mrs Hollingsworth back in school after a period of absence. Mrs Hollingsworth will be working 3 days a week from now on, usually Monday to Wednesday. The SENCo role will now be shared with Mrs Wheeler. We thought it would be useful to outline their responsibilities. The list below is not exhaustive but provides an overview to support parents and staff in directing queries to the correct person.

Mrs Hollingsworth
chollingsworth@wrpschool.org

New EHCP applications and liaison with outside agencies, including referrals and assessments such as TIPS and Dyslexia screening.

Mrs Wheeler
swheeler@wrpschool.org

EHCP Reviews and the associated paperwork; Quality Assurance of Support Plans and Class Provision Maps and meetings to discuss EHCPs.



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds





UK Health
Security
Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

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Communication

As we continue to work in partnership to support every child, we would like to kindly remind families about the importance of maintaining a polite and respectful tone when communicating with school staff.

Our staff team is committed to responding to messages within our working hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm, Monday to Friday and we will always **aim to reply within 48 hours**. While we understand that concerns can sometimes feel urgent, sending emails late at night or expecting immediate replies can put pressure on staff outside their working day. Please consider the timing of your emails or using schedule send.

We also recognise that parent WhatsApp groups can be a helpful way to share reminders, organise lifts to events, or clarify simple details. However, we respectfully ask that these forums are not used to air concerns or frustrations about the school or individual families / children. Doing so can unintentionally spread misinformation and create worry among families – in some cases sharing personal or incorrect information can present a safeguarding risk.

If you do have a question or concern, please come and speak to us directly or contact the office so we can support you as quickly and effectively as possible. **We value open communication** and are always happy to listen or arrange a meeting to discuss a concern.

The rest of this week's newsletter is a bit of a bumper edition! There have been so many great things going on both in and out of school that we have lots of updates to share with you. Thank you to the PTFA for funding the Panto visit from M&M Theatre - it was lots of fun! We've also had some educational trips, visitors into school, and some brilliant learning in class.

I hope you enjoy your weekend. Mrs. E Jones

Oh Yes, We Did...!

An event kindly funded by
PTFA
WITHYCOMBE

We had a great time at the Pantomime on Thursday. We had two showings so the whole school had a chance to watch. Children loved singing along to the trending songs! This event is kindly funded by the PTFA and kicks off our festivities in fantastic style.



Thank you!

Our Music Lead Mrs Tkachova recently put in a request to the PTFA for some additional instruments. She would like to say a huge thank you to the PTFA for generously funding a whole-class set of glockenspiels - the children are absolutely loving them!

PTFA
WITHYCOMBE

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Safeguarding: Supporting our Families and Marking White Ribbon Day

Supporting Families Through Difficult Times

At Withycombe, the wellbeing of every child and family is at the heart of what we do. We know that some families may experience challenging situations at home, including violence and abuse. Although this can be a very difficult topic to talk about, we want to reassure our community that if you are experiencing difficult times, you're not alone - and there is support available.

Domestic abuse can affect anyone, and its impact on children and families can be long-lasting. Our role as a school is to provide a safe, nurturing and understanding environment where children can feel secure, and where families can access help safely and without judgement.

Support can be accessed in the following ways:

- Our Safeguarding team (Mr Smith, Mrs Jones and Mrs Wheeler) are available to listen, and to help signpost families to the right services.
- We provide a safe space where children can talk to a trusted adult if they are feeling worried.
- Adults are also able to access a safe office space at school to seek advice on next steps, and to make private phone calls e.g. to domestic abuse support services, early help, and counselling providers.
- Our staff are trained to recognise signs of distress in children and understand what to do and who to contact when domestic abuse is disclosed - we always respond in a calm, supportive way.
- We can also support practically, such as providing assistance with attendance, routines, wellbeing referrals, and access to breakfast club or after school provision.

If You Need Support

If you feel you or your children may need help, please know that you can speak to any member of our safeguarding team in confidence. You can also contact:

- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247 (24 hours)
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Devon Domestic Abuse Alliance: 08082 816161

White Ribbon Day – Tuesday 25th November 2025



On Tuesday 25th we ask you to join us in supporting White Ribbon Day and stand together against violence and promote healthy, respectful relationships.

The key theme of 'Speak -Up' is particularly poignant for men as role models – being aware that letting sexism slide puts women and girls at risk. Sexist jokes and comments might seem harmless but they are serious as they can lead to violence and abuse. Each time we ignore something that doesn't feel right, we miss a chance to set a better example.

<https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/wespeakup>

In school we continually share age-appropriate messages about kindness, respect, and positive behaviour. We promote messages of equality: everyone deserves to feel safe - at school, home, and in the wider community. We empower and encourage our children to be courageous and speak up if something feels wrong.

Mike Smith, Designated Safeguarding Lead

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The School Ethos Council

The Ethos Council enjoyed their trip to the **Exmouth Food Bank**. We learned about the work they do there to support local families in difficult situations. The children made posters, checked and labelled food, and sorted collection boxes ready to give out.

They really enjoyed the hands-on work and they represented our school very well!



As you know we have close links with St John the Evangelist, the Parish Church for Withycombe Raleigh. Our Parish **Open the Book** team visited us last week to tell the story of **The Widow's Coins** to the children.



Church dates for your diary:

Sunday 7th December is the Family Communion and **Christingle Service** at 10am.

December 21st is the **rehearsal** for their Crib Service. Readers from Years 4-6 are invited to come along and rehearse at 4pm.

On Christmas Eve at 4pm is the **Crib Service**. This is a really lovely event so if you haven't been before, please feel welcome to come along to this service.

The Widow's Coins tells the story of **Generosity** - one of our School Values. We're proud of our generous school community and would like to take the opportunity to share some recent fundraising totals. Thank you so much for supporting the good causes we've raised awareness of in school.

We are also incredibly grateful for your kind donations made to the school **'Family Fund'**. This means some children in our school community who may not otherwise have received much at Christmas will receive some small gifts.



'Singing Children of Kenya' Visitors

£439.59



Pudsey Mufti Day

£237.00



School Poppy Collection

£336.19

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Year 1 made Fruit Smoothies!

In Design and Technology, the children used their knife skills to cut up a variety of fresh fruits for their smoothie recipes. They then got to taste their delicious, fresh smoothies!



Year 3 - Brewing Up some Creativity!

As part of our instruction-writing unit, the children explored George's Marvellous Medicine and used it as inspiration to design their own "marvellous mixtures." After studying the features of clear, effective instructions, they planned and wrote step-by-step guides for their very own imaginative creations—then had great fun bringing their ideas to life by making the mixtures in class.



Year 3 Rocks!

Year 3 have also been grouping and testing rocks this week. They were using experiments to find out whether they scratch, sink or float, and whether they react when mixed with an acid.



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Our Curious Year 4

Year 4 had an amazing time at We the Curious. They recreated the water cycle and investigated run off in a real science lab, and explored all of the phenomenal exhibits. They particularly enjoyed creating animations, the green screen, making giant bubbles - and the wonky room that made every feel wobbly! Thank you to the PTFA for contributing £500 towards the cost of this trip - each year group gets the same funding to use through the year.



Year 6 Greek Day

Year 6 took part in a **Greek Myths, Drama and Story Workshop** led by international storyteller and children's author Clive Pig. The children also had a chance to enjoy a selection of delicious Greek foods, and take part in our own Greek-inspired Olympics!

Thank you for helping us to set the scene by providing outfits for the children to wear to school.



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Sports & Achievements



Jessie from Dolphin class has completed her Stage 3 in swimming, moving up to Stage 4. Well done Jessie!



Eliza participated in the Devon Tin and Zinc team's gymnastics competition at the weekend and finished with 1st place overall, and her team came 1st place!



Congratulations to Olivia and James who completed the Exmouth Library Secret Book Quest this week! James said that reading 50 books was fun, and Olivia enjoyed the challenge of collecting the codes to work out the secret message. They're already working towards 100 books and their golden certificate!



At the end of October, after 6 busy weeks, Isaac in Barn Owl Class was invested into the Squirrels section of the 3rd Exmouth Scout Group. It's an exciting moment in the group's history, as the drey only opened in September for children aged 4-6, making Isaac one of the first 12 members to join and be invested.

Some other Withycombe children were also invested, including Terry-Ann and Alisdair – well done to all of all the children!

Isaac bravely stood up in front of the group and recited the Squirrel Promise: *"I promise to do my best, to be kind and helpful and to love our world."*

A fantastic achievement Isaac, we love your Squirrel Promise!

CORNWALL & DEVON
School Age Immunisation Service
Provided by Kernow Health CIC

School aged vaccinations

Did you know children will be offered these routine vaccinations at school?

- ✓ **FLU** - Reception - Year 11
- ✓ **MMR** - Catch-up
- ✓ **HPV** - Year 8 - Year 11
- ✓ **Meningitis ACWY** - Year 9 - Year 11
- ✓ **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP)** - Year 9 - Year 11

Did you miss us?

We also have community clinics across Devon for:

- ✓ Home educated children
- ✓ Anxious children
- ✓ Children who missed the session at school

For further information scan the QR code or please speak with a member of the team

Call us on
01392 342678
Kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net

flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child

- 1. Protect your child**
The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- 2. Protect you, your family and friends**
Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
- 3. No injection needed**
The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. It's better than having flu**
The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record
- 5. Avoid costs**
If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (pork gelatin).

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu Immunisation
helping you protect children every year

If you missed the flu vaccinations in school earlier this year, it's not too late to arrange to protect your children.

If you contact the immunisation service on 01392 342678 they will book your child in for the nasal spray – it's quick and easy, and helps to avoid flu spreading throughout your family and the wider community!

OPAL COMMUNITY BUILD DAY!



**Saturday 22nd November 2025
1-4PM**

Sign up for projects including:



building a mud kitchen



building a play shop



**building a water play
channelling stand
(for guttering)**



**creating sandpits
and digging pits**



**building music wall
from pallets**



**Sign up here to volunteer your time, tools and skills:
volunteersignup.org/H9ER8**

OPERATION RUDOLPH



Here to Help This Christmas

We're here to support anyone in East Devon who may find the Christmas season difficult, whether for financial or social reasons. Our community support is completely free and open to all.

- 🎄 **Community Christmas Meal**

Join us for a festive meal at The Mackarness Hall (Honiton) at 12:30 on Christmas Day. Transport can be arranged if needed. If you can't attend, we can deliver a cooked meal to your home.

- 🎁 **Gifts from Santa**

No one should wake up without a gift on Christmas morning. We'll ensure every person receives something special, thanks to generous community donations.

- 📦 **Christmas Day Meal Boxes**

Prefer to cook at home? We can provide a meal box .

👉 To request support or volunteer, visit:
www.operationrudolph.com

(Honiton Library, James' Patisserie and Pebbles Cafe (Seaton) is also able to help those who need extra assistance, eg, those without access to the internet)



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Apply for a primary school place

Was your child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022?



Apply online at:

devon.cc/admissionsonline

or scan the QR code. Applications open from 15 November 2025 to the 15 January 2026

If you can't access the school admissions website you can get more information by emailing admissions@devon.gov.uk or call our Education Helpline on:

0345 155 1019



You must apply through the Admissions Team, even if you've already given details to a school. Applications made directly to schools or on their lists will not be accepted.



We'd like to welcome you to a tour of our popular school.



Is your child starting school in 2026?

We've added some more school tour dates!

Day	Date	Time
Tues	18 th November	9.15am
Fri	21 st November	9.15am
Wed	26 th November	1.30pm
Thurs	8 th January 2026	9.15am

Tours last about an hour. Children are very welcome to come along.

To book your place:

Tel: 01395 263397

or email: bookings@wrpschool.org



For more information about our school, please visit www.wrpschool.org.

Find us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialWRPSchool>



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Tokens are now available on Parent Pay (they'll also be for sale at the fair if you run out!).

Draw tickets have also gone home in book bags – there are some great prizes to be won!



30% OFF

Our five star rated Originals collection