

Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**

Date: 20th March 2026



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

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website: wrpschool.org

News from your Headteacher

I hope that you have all had a lovely week and that you have enjoyed the glimpses of sunshine too. The Easter holidays are approaching quickly—a reminder that it is Good Friday on 3rd April and school is closed, so the children will start their holiday at 3:10pm on Thursday 2nd April. We return on Monday 20th April. There is a PTFA Disco on Friday 27th March, tickets are selling fast! These can be purchased via your Parent Pay account.

We have enjoyed celebrating Comic Relief and World Down Syndrome Day in school today. During the day, classes have talked about kindness, friendship and including everyone; important and common themes for our school. Some classes have made posters and others have written messages about what makes them special.

As we approach the Easter holidays, I think it is good to look back at the term and celebrate all the wonderful learning experiences the children have had. It has been lovely to see some parents in school listening to children read, or helping with trips or visits. We welcome **volunteers** in school to support children with projects, off-site visits or to listen to children read. If you feel you would be able to offer support in school on a regular basis, please collect a volunteer application form from the office: we would really appreciate your support. Mr Smith or I would also be extremely happy to arrange to have a chat with anyone interested about some of the roles in the school that would benefit from support from volunteers. For safeguarding reasons, all volunteers undergo a robust recruitment process including being asked to provide references and complete some online training.

We have had another busy week at Withycombe, with lots of fabulous learning going on in our classrooms. Children are really enjoying the topics they are covering and are becoming really knowledgeable about these. We always choose topics that will engage the children and capture their imagination. Staff have spent a great deal of time putting together our 'Withycombe Curriculum' ensuring children are able to build upon prior learning as they progress through the school. Displays in school reflect some of the learning going on.



If you would like to find out more about our school curriculum and what children are learning about, please take a look at our curriculum pages on the website. <https://www.wrpschool.org/main-curriculum-2026>

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs E Jones, Headteacher



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



Weekly School News Roundup

Safeguarding:

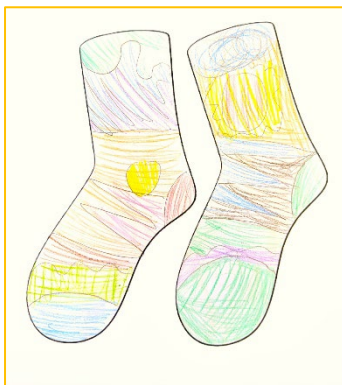
World Down Syndrome Day at Withycombe Primary School

21 March 2026



Today our school celebrated World Down Syndrome Day, a special day in our Withycombe School community that helps us learn more about Down syndrome, and celebrate how everyone is unique.

Teachers talked to the children about what Down Syndrome is and how people can do amazing things just like anyone else. We learned that the day is actually on the 21st day of the 3rd month because people with Down Syndrome have three copies of chromosome 21.



Everyone was invited to come to school wearing bright, colourful, or odd socks – or even the official WSDS socks – for the day. This fun activity helped us to remember that **being different is something to celebrate!** During the day, classes talked about **kindness, friendship** and **including everyone** – important and common themes for our school. Some classes made posters, and others wrote messages about what makes them special.

You may remember we entered a competition to design the official 2026 campaign socks and some Withycombe pupils won some of the 2025 bright colourful pairs of socks! The winning Withy entry from that is shown here.

We also learned about safeguarding, and how some people can be more vulnerable and may need extra help and support to stay safe. Our pupils understand that it's important to look out for one another, be kind, and tell a trusted adult if they're worried about someone. Making sure everyone feels safe, respected, included and has a sense of belonging plays an **important part in our school community.**

World Down Syndrome Day reminds us that our differences make the world a more interesting and kinder place.

Red Nose Day was also celebrated in school today - a day where we raise awareness of the charity that supports children and families (both in the UK and in other countries) who may need extra help. Red Nose Day is another opportunity for our school community to show kindness and support for those who are more vulnerable, **helping everyone feel included and cared for.**

We are enjoyed seeing the children (and some adults!) in their 'Red-to-Toe' red-nose & odd socks combinations!

Mike Smith
Safeguarding Lead

Withy will be going Red-to-Toe on Friday 20th March

It's Red Nose Day

Everyone is invited to come to school in mufti, with your **Official Red Nose** or red themed clothes if you have them - to show your support for **Comic Relief!**

There's no pressure to donate.

We know some families donate direct via the TV Appeal, but for those who wish to your Parent Pay account is an easy way to donate to the appeal.

COMIC RELIEF

and...

World Down Syndrome Day

Add your oddest, most colourful socks to your outfit for the day!

As an inclusive school, this is our fun and colourful way of raising awareness. The official theme this year is:

"Together Against Loneliness"

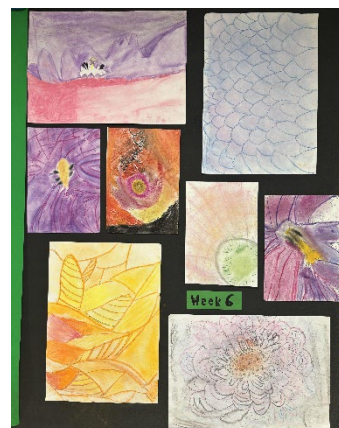
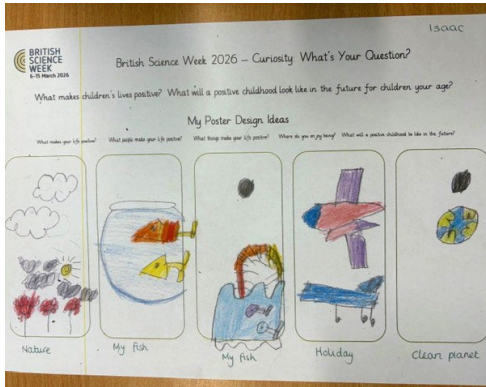
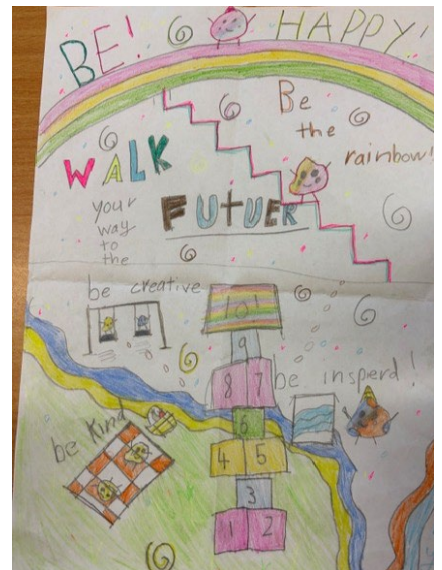
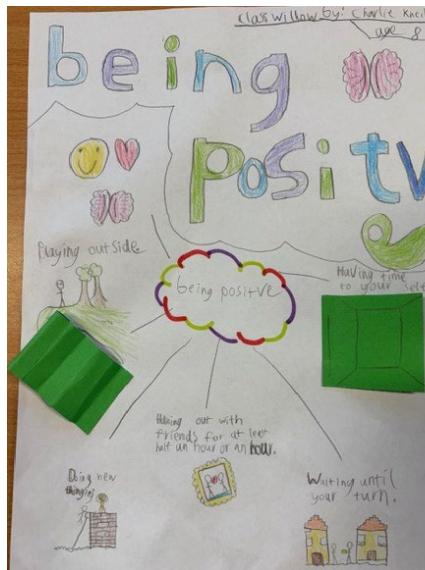
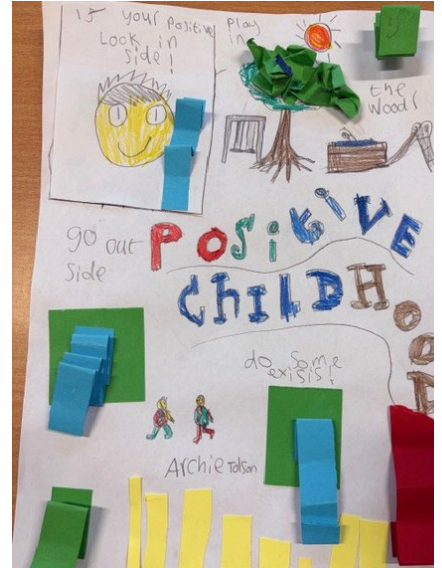
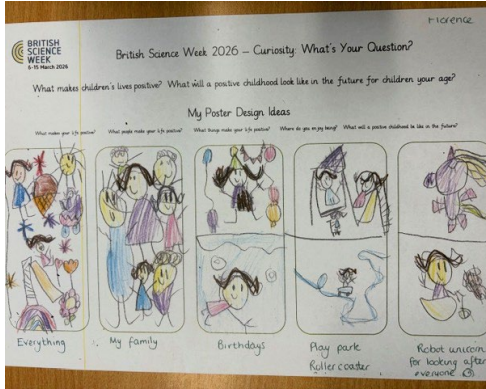
Wear your odd socks on Friday 20th March!

Growing Happy Caring Hearts and Minds

Weekly School News Roundup

Year 1 - British Science Week

This week we celebrated British Science Week in school. The theme for this year is Curiosity. The team behind British Science Week are encouraging children and young people to think about what might make a 'good' or 'positive' childhood in the future. The children shared some fantastic ideas and created posters to represent their thoughts and predictions. We were very impressed with their creativity and thoughtful responses — the posters look amazing!



Some more of the fabulous artwork being displayed around the school.

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People who help us

Ladybirds, Bumblebees and Dragonflies have been finding out all about people who help us! We have had special visits from some Police Officers, Dentists and Firefighters to tell us all about the special jobs they do, and the ways in which they help us or keep us safe.



Sports and Other Achievements

If your child would like to share their achievements, whether that's a sporting success, gaining library reading challenge certificates, or anything else – please email a photo and a short description to admin@wrpschool.org.



Darcie in Hazel Class won GOLD last weekend and Silver this weekend along with her partner in acrobatic gymnastics. She's also qualified to represent the South West at the Inter-Regional finals in Southampton!



Reg in Otter Class was awarded the Top Trainer trophy!



Albert in Dolphin Class got a Player of the Session trophy from this week's Dodgeball ASC with LD Active. He says was awarded it for great listening and great Dodgeball skills!

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OPAL shout out!



Our children love the choices available through our lunchtime OPAL play and the opportunities to interact in so many different ways. The types of play that they experience include: role play such as dressing up; social play, skipping and parachute games are particularly popular; creative play, including Lego and drawing; and exploratory and small world play.

We're always on the look out to **replenish** the stock of **resources** used for our wonderful OPAL play. If you feel you are able to support, please speak to Mr Smith, Mrs Ryan or Mrs Church, or email opal@wrpschool.org.

We would currently appreciate any of the following (although please let us know if you have something else in mind!)

- * toy cars
- * dolls / action figures / animals / dinosaurs
- * pots and pans or similar that could be used for 'music' or our digging pit.
- * large pieces of decorative / see-through fabric

Please also let us know (perhaps if you're a builder, or work for a utility etc) if you have access to any larger 'loose parts' eg:

- * lengths of guttering (for toy cars or water play)
- * long planks or wood like scaffold boards (for den building)
- * plastic drums (non-hazardous)
- * concrete mix or play sand
- * cable drums
- * tarpaulin/sail fabric, preferably with eyelets
- * thick rope
- * long wooden poles or uprights.

We would also love to hear from you if you were ever willing and able to lend a hand in making something for OPAL play – we always have mini-projects on the go! For example, we are currently making boot racks, signs for the playground and music walls. Any donations or other support will be very much appreciated, as always.





VOTE FOR US AT TESCO!



28TH APRIL – END OF JULY 2026

HELP US BRING AMAZING PLAYTIMES TO LIFE!

Our **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** journey ensures **every child has an hour of high-quality play every day.**

Your **vote** can help us:



Create exciting, inclusive play spaces



Boost wellbeing, confidence & friendships



Provide even more creative resources



HOW TO VOTE

1

Shop in Tesco

Make any purchase to receive a blue token

2

Find the voting unit

Look for the Stronger Starts stand

3

Pop your token in our slot!

Vote for: Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School – OPAL Play

WHERE YOU CAN VOTE

- Exmouth Superstore
- Budleigh Salterton Express
- Exmouth Churchill Road Express
- Rolle Street Express

Stronger Starts

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY! ♥



Received your MCAS invitation email?

What you need to do - within 24 hours:

Over the last week we sent out sign-up emails with a link to the 'My Child at School' Parent Login page. We don't think this will have been seamless as we have so many families to get signed up, including some with multiple email addresses and some with split families etc. If you have not received an invitation email and you expect to get one, please be patient with us while we check on the progress of account activations and look over missed or expired links.

As we're sending the emails in stages (so we don't overwhelm the system), we began with priority 1 contacts, so if you're a priority 2+ contact your email should arrive soon.

When your email arrives, you need to open it and click on: '[Please click Here to create your login password](#)'. You can do this on any mobile phone, tablet or PC.

Here's what the email looks like:

From: Withycombe Raleigh CE Primary <16099@bromcomcloud.com>
Date: 9 March 2026 at 14:39:40 GMT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Create Password for your new MCAS account
Reply-To: no-reply@mychildatschool.com

Hello from MyChildAtSchool.com

A request to setup your MCAS account has been received.

Below are the details to setup your account.

Email -

Password - Please click [Here](#) to create your login password. This link will expire in 24 hours.

If you did not request these details, please contact your school.

Please do not reply to this email as any received emails are deleted immediately.

Regards
MyChildAtSchool.com

Missed the 24 hour active link deadline? If we notice any accounts that have not been activated before the link expires, we'll aim to resend it to the same email address next week.

By Tuesday 2nd June you will need MCAS to be able to book and select school lunches, pay for trips and book clubs etc. It is important that you activate your MCAS account on receipt of your email invitation.

A copy of all the information we send out about the MCAS app will be put on our Home Connect page of the website in case you need to refer back to it: wrpschool.org/homeconnect-2026

Thank you for your patience and support as we roll this out across the school!

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THE PTFA
BRINGS YOU

DISCO NIGHT!

Friday
27
March

PTFA
WITHYCOMBE



EYFS & KS1: 5:30 - 6:15
£2.50 ENTRY INCLUDES
DRINK AND CRISPS

KS2: 6:30 - 7:30
£3.00 ENTRY INCLUDES
DRINK, CRISPS AND SWEETS

LIMITED SPACES
BOOKINGS AND PAYMENT TO BE
MADE ON PARENTPAY

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En Plein Air

A day event and art festival
on Exmouth's stunning seafront

Artists of all ages and skill levels are
welcome!

Prizes include: Art Materials, vouchers, and potential
gallery representation.

*Sunday 3rd of
May 2026*
Free Entry!

Please bring your own
materials and equipment!

Poster art and design by
Hattie Lee

Registration

ARTISAN ART GALLERY | No.1 Chapel Hill | EX8 1NY
For further details email gallery@artisanfineart.com
www.artisanfineart.com

The Exmouth Seafront En Plein Air Painting Festival
invites artists of all ages to paint outdoors along one of
Devon's most beautiful coastlines.

Artists will create original work inspired by the scenery
between Orcombe Point and the Exmouth Marina
complex, capturing the character of the seafront, harbour,
beach, and surrounding landscape.

Prize categories will include:

- Best Adult Painting
- Best Youth Painting
- Best Children's Artwork
- Judges' Choice

We look forward to welcoming you to a
fantastic day of painting along the Exmouth
seafront!

To view the information pack,
please scan here!



Poster art and design by
Hattie Lee

EXMOUTH ART WEEKEND

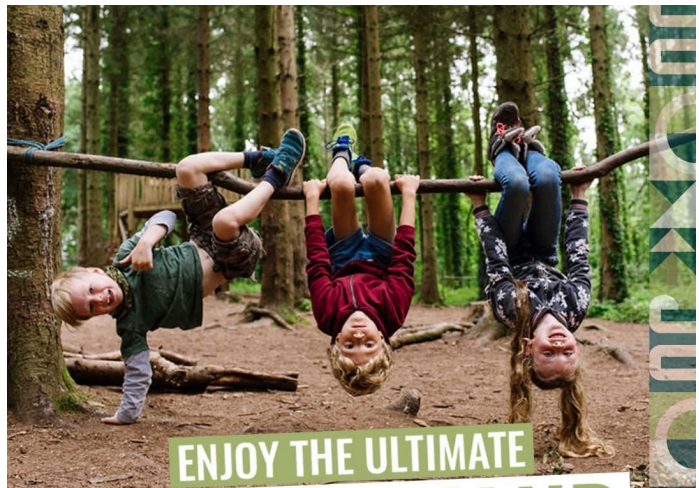
1-4 MAY 2026

The umbrella event for Exmouth's
vibrant arts scene

EXHIBITIONS
OPEN STUDIOS
ART CAR BOOT MARKET
EN PLEIN AIR PAINTING
LIVE MURALS
WORKSHOPS
3D STREET ART
COMMUNITY MOSAIC

YOUR WEEKEND OF CREATIVITY
STARTS HERE

COME CURIOUS. LEAVE INSPIRED.



ENJOY THE ULTIMATE
HOLIDAY CLUB
EXPERIENCE THIS SPRING!

ENJOY ADVENTURE, FUN AND ENDLESS
EXCITEMENT DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
IN EXMOUTH, ESCOT, TOTNES AND OKEHAMPTON