

Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**

Date: 27th February 2026



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News from your Headteacher

I hope that you all managed to enjoy the half term break; I can't believe we are half way through the school year already! There are a few things to draw your attention to as we enter the final part of the Spring Term.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Sponsored by NATIONAL BOOK WEEK

We're Reading for Pleasure this World Book Day & you're invited join us!

Thursday 5th March

Come to school dressed as:

- * your favourite **book character**
- * OR come in your warmest, comfiest reading **pyjamas** or **onesie**
- * OR if you're in **KS2** and don't have a favourite book yet, wear a plain T-shirt and ask your friends to write their best book recommendations on it!

On **Thursday 5th March** we will be celebrating **World Book Day** - children will spend the day participating in 'book themed' activities around this year's theme **Reading for Pleasure**, and celebrating the wonderful world of books. Everyone is invited to come to school dressed as their favourite characters from books. We especially love to see costumes that are free, low-cost or hand-made and any fun or creative ways to celebrate books and reading.

A **low-cost idea** for children in Key Stage 2 (that I also like) is to wear a plain top (or turn a printed one inside out) and ask friends to write their best book recommendation on it, so please don't feel you need to buy a brand-new costume just for the day.

Please check the calendar on our school website for details of other events booked in already, including:

Bags2School on 13th March

School Disco on 27th March

PTFA Non-Uniform Day on 2nd April

Spring Half Term 25th May – 29th May & **Inset Day** on Monday 1st June

Class Photos on 8th June.



SEND White Paper February 23rd 2026

Recent announcements about the Government's SEND White Paper, published on 23 February 2026, have sparked lots of questions and emotions from families across England. We want to reassure you with clear, factual information about what these proposals mean now, and how the changes are intended to improve SEND support for all children.

The White Paper sets out the Government's long-term vision for education and SEND support.

The aim is to build a system where:

- Every child with additional needs has tailored support in school.
- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) will still be available for children with the most complex needs.
- Extra funding is being invested in schools, early years settings and specialist services to strengthen support overall.
- Plans will be phased in gradually over several years, so existing support isn't removed abruptly.

First and foremost, it's important to know that:

Nothing changes overnight. The White Paper is a consultation and planning document – it doesn't immediately change the law, or how support is delivered this term.

Existing support stays in place. Children with current EHCPs will keep them until they move to their next stage of education (e.g. primary to secondary) when carefully planned transitions begin.

As we learn more about how the changes will be implemented, we will keep parents updated accordingly.



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



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Uniform: a reminder

It is our policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, and when participating in school-organised events outside normal school hours. We ask children to wear their polo shirts tucked into their skirts, shorts or trousers and to take pride in their personal appearance. Some items of uniform can be bought from our school uniform suppliers (currently Proserve and Shipshape) whilst others are easily available at competitive prices in local shops / supermarkets.

Our PTFA also has supplies of second-hand uniform which they sell via their Facebook page, or make available at PTFA events. A complete list of the items needed for school uniform, including those for Physical Education, is provided below:

Uniform Essentials	Uniform for PE	Jewellery and Hair Accessories
<p>Bottle green sweatshirt or cardigan with our school logo embroidered.</p> <p>Black school shoes with heels and toes covered all year – please no sandals, canvas shoes or trainers.</p> <p>White short-sleeved polo shirt.</p> <p>Long light grey trousers or shorts worn with grey socks.</p> <p>Light grey culottes, skirt or a pinafore dress worn with grey tights.</p> <p>Green and white gingham dress (not striped) worn with white socks.</p>	<p>Green polo shirt with the school logo and black shorts*, white or grey socks, black trainers.</p> <p>Green PE Hoodie (optional).</p> <p>*A plain black tracksuit can be worn in colder weather.</p> 	<p>For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exception to this rule is small ear studs in pierced ears.</p> <p>Wherever possible children are required to remove any jewellery items during PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury. Please note: staff are not permitted to remove earrings for pupils.</p> <p>Long hair should be tied back. Hair accessories should be plain green or plain white and without embellishments.</p>



We were very excited to welcome our new School Crossing Patrol Officer this week! Please say a very warm hello to Georgia, who some of you may already know as she's a Withycombe parent.

Georgia has received her training this week and will be helping our children safely across the road in the mornings and afternoons. Please be patient when Georgia halts traffic so people can cross.

Please help Georgia to keep our children safe by remembering to: **Slow Down!** - Withycombe Village Road is a very busy road.

Drivers **must not stop to drop off, or turn around, or park:**

- ⊗ near the school entrance / in the drive by the school gates
- ⊗ on the School Keep Clear yellow zig-zag lines and double yellow lines
- ⊗ outside the school where it might affect the visibility for families trying to cross the road.

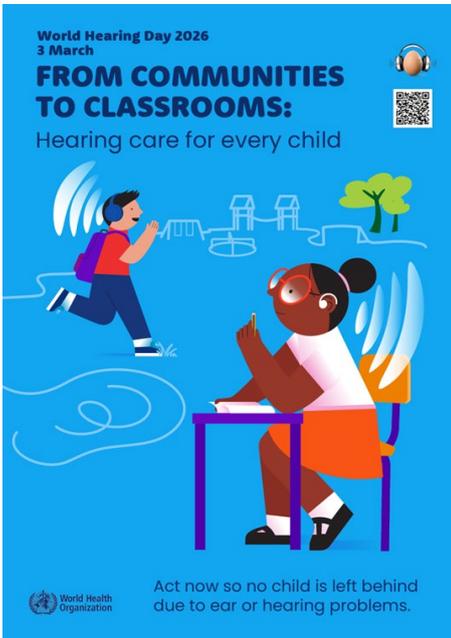
Rule 243 of the highway code says that it is illegal to park on yellow zig-zag lines, and says that drivers should keep these areas clear at all times (meaning no stopped vehicles, even if 'quickly' picking up or dropping off children – and including for breakfast and after school clubs!)

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs E Jones, Headteacher

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Safeguarding

World Hearing Day 3rd March



The World Health Organization's theme for World Hearing Day this year is "From communities to classrooms: hearing care for every child".

This campaign focuses on preventing avoidable childhood hearing loss and ensuring early identification and appropriate care for children.

Why Hearing Health Matters

Good hearing is essential for children's:

- ✓ Communication and language development
- ✓ Learning and academic progress
- ✓ Social interaction and friendships
- ✓ Emotional wellbeing

Even mild or temporary hearing difficulties can affect a child's confidence and ability to engage fully in school life.

Safeguarding Through Awareness

Safeguarding is about protecting children from harm and ensuring they can thrive. Supporting hearing health forms part of this responsibility.

In school, this means:

- * **Early identification** – parents and school staff being alert to signs such as inattentiveness, unclear speech, frequently asking for repetition, or difficulty following instructions.
- * **Safe listening habits** – educating pupils about keeping volumes low when using headphones, and taking listening breaks.
- * **Safe environments** – minimising excessive noise where possible and promoting calm, supportive classrooms.
- * **Open communication** – encouraging children to speak up if they are experiencing ear pain, ringing in the ears, or difficulty hearing.

If you have concerns about your child's hearing, please seek advice from your GP or local health professional. Informing the school enables us to provide appropriate support in the classroom.



Promoting Inclusion

In school, children with hearing impairments may require reasonable adjustments to ensure equal access to learning. As part of our school's safeguarding culture we are committed to being inclusive, understanding and responsive to every child's needs.

Mr Smith - Designated Safeguarding Lead

As an inclusive school you may have noticed that we introduce the children to **sign language** as part of their everyday learning. We all sign our greetings in class and at community worship, and you may have spotted that sign language is included at all the nativity performances. Exmouth has a large and thriving deaf community and we're enabling our children to be great communicators.

Perhaps you could ask them to teach you a few signs too?

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Wellbeing Friendships

Friendships

It is common for children to have up and down times with friendships. If you find you are regularly concerned about your child's friendships please speak to your child's teacher. There is also much a parent/carer can do to help their child with developing social skills and forming healthy friendships.

Five top friendship tips!

1. Work together on friendship skills.

Talk to your child about what makes a good friend. Practice friendship skills such as listening, sharing, compromising, and negotiating. Use examples in everyday life and from TV and books. Encourage friendships beyond school, eg clubs or play dates.

2. Help build confidence

Give lots of opportunities to connect and communicate with you, particularly for shy children. Practising with you will build confidence to connect with others. Have one-to-one play-dates to practise social skills and deepen friendships without being in a crowd. To overcome the initial struggle to engage, base play-dates around activities your child enjoys.

3. Model healthy, positive relationships

Happy relationships between parents and significant adults leads to better mental health for all involved. Children thrive emotionally when they see, and are involved in, warm and caring relationships where they are respected and valued. By modelling positive relationships of your own, you can help your child to see what positive, healthy and meaningful relationships should look like, and to recognise when friendships aren't positive.

4. Normalise friendships

Reassure them that it's natural for friends to sometimes fall out. Children's friendships often change and can look different depending on your child's age and stage of development. While having friends at school is important, it is normal for your child to have friendship difficulties at times. Let your child know that being friends doesn't always mean agreeing or getting along with others all the time.

5. Talk the talk!

Sometimes children can find it difficult to know what they can say when talking with their peers. You can help by practising what they can say to make a new friend or to join in with play. This could be to ask a question or to invite a child to play with them. By asking questions children can find common interests and form connections with others.



Here are some ideas to try!

- ✓ Would you like to play Tag or something else at break time?
- ✓ What's your favourite thing to do at weekends?
- ✓ I'm looking for a new book to read, what's your best one?
- ✓ That looks good! Can I join in?

Mrs L Jones, Wellbeing TA

*Ref: The children's mental health charity 'Place2Be'

This week we sent out some information to Key Stage 2 families about the NHS Funded app/game Lumi Nova – this could be a talking point for children at school too! We have shared a copy on the website Wellbeing page.

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Year 2 Potty Joy!

What an absolutely fabulous day we had in Year 2 – with the super Potty Joy coming in to teach the children. They were all focussed, inspired and really worked hard on their creations. Each class made their own emblems, so we had a delightful range of Seals, Dolphins and Otters! They were all full of such enthusiasm, it was wonderful to see!

Thank you for supporting this special activity – we hope they came home and told you all about it!



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Sports and Other Achievements



Lily in Year 6 created this **amazing, life-like** model of a horse using papier-mâché!



Poppy in Dolphins Class Has achieved her 25m swimming badge.



Our very own AMAZING Mrs Jones completed the Exeter Half Marathon before half term. It was a VERY rainy day, and she still managed a PB!



Eliza in Hazel Class achieved her Silver club certificate and badge for P Bars at Gymnastics.

She also attended her first Devon Squad training in Plymouth, and last Sunday she took part in the Devon Preparation and Development grades, with an overall grade of 'Working Beyond'!

Well done Eliza!



AI image for anonymous illustration

Do we have up-to-date contact information for you?

We quite often need to phone a parent/carer during the school day **if children become unwell** or are **injured** and need picking up to go home early to recuperate, or sometimes to see a medical professional where our first aiders recommend it.

We do understand that many parents work and may not be able to receive calls during the day, in which case we please ask you to nominate a further trusted contact who may be able to receive calls on your behalf **in case of an emergency**.

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EASTER ACTIVITY CAMPS

£15 PER DAY

VENUE:
EXETER ROAD
PRIMARY, EXMOUTH
EX8 1PU

DATES:
13TH - 16TH APRIL 2026
10AM - 2PM

5-13 YEARS

SPORTS, CRAFTS & GAMES
LUNCH INCLUDED

BOOK TODAY! HEAD TO
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/BDZJSC6U](https://tinyurl.com/bdzjsc6u)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

*FULLY FUNDED for those on benefit related FSM

EGG HUNT!

INFLATABLE GAMES

ONE DAY ONLY

Primary School
£8pp | Book Online

Sunday
22 February, 2026

KS1: 5:15pm - 6:15pm
KS2: 6:30pm - 7:30pm

6 INFLATABLES
BOUNCY CASTLE | CURLING
FOOT DARTS | AXE THROWING | BASKETBALL | TARGETS

LD ACTIVE
WITHYCOMBE BASKETBALL ASC
THURSDAY 15:15 - 16:15
KS2 BOYS & GIRLS
BOOK VIA LINK

WITHYCOMBE FOUNDATION MULTISPORTS ASC
LD ACTIVE
BOYS & GIRLS
WEDNESDAY 15:15 - 16:15
BOOK VIA LINK

WITHYCOMBE KS1 MULTISPORTS ASC
LD ACTIVE
BOYS & GIRLS
WEDNESDAY 15:15 - 16:15
BOOK VIA LINK

LD ACTIVE
WITHYCOMBE FOOTBALL ASC
FRIDAY 15:15 - 16:15
HS1 - HS2 BOYS - GIRLS
PLEASE BOOK VIA LINK

DODGEBALL!

LD ACTIVE