

Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**



Date: 8/4/2022

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

I can't quite believe that the Easter holidays are here already and that in two weeks' time we will be starting the Summer Term. In almost every end of term newsletter for the past two years, I have written about how I hope the upcoming term may be more normal. I actually think that next term might be as close to normal as we have had for a good while! Although restrictions have pretty much disappeared and the Government have launched the 'Living with Covid' guidance, in school next term, we will continue to keep several of our precautions in place. This half term, we have seen fewer children displaying Covid symptoms but unfortunately, our staff have been hit quite hard by Covid infections, meaning at times that staffing levels have been so low we have considered moving to remote learning. I am really proud that we have managed to keep school fully open throughout the term and this is purely thanks to the dedication and hard work of staff in school who have ensured each and every class can continue on site learning.

As April started, so did a new phase of living with COVID-19, where the virus will be managed like other respiratory illnesses.

The [government has published important advice](#) for people with symptoms of respiratory infections, such as COVID-19; people with a positive COVID-19 test result and their contacts; and advice on safer behaviours for everyone.

For schools this means that the guidance around what you should do if your child is unwell or tests positive with Covid has changed slightly.

Updated guidance states:

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days

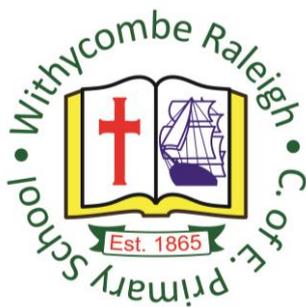
This means that children who test positive with Covid should isolate for 3 days and can return to school after this period as long as they are well and do not have a high temperature.

If you have any queries regarding the new guidance or if you are unsure what to do if your child is unwell, please contact our school office.

Devon County Council have produced a useful summary to help us all reduce the risk of spreading respiratory infections including Covid:

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As we learn to live safely with COVID-19, there are actions we can all take to help reduce the risk of catching the virus and passing it on to others. These actions will also help to reduce the spread of other respiratory infections, such as flu, which can spread easily and may cause serious illness in some people.

- *Getting vaccinated - vaccines are the best defence we have against respiratory infections such as COVID-19 and flu. They provide good protection against hospitalisation and death as well as reducing the risk of long-term symptoms.*
- *Let fresh air in if meeting others indoors - the amount of respiratory virus in the air can build up in poorly ventilated areas, which increases the risk of spreading it.*
- *Remember the basics of good hygiene - cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or the crook of your elbow when you cough and sneeze to reduce the distance your particles travel and the time they stay in the air; wash your hands properly and regularly so you remove viruses and other germs you may have picked up from contaminated surfaces; clean your surroundings frequently, particularly those touched a lot such as handles.*
- *Wear a face covering - this can reduce the number of particles that are released from the mouth and nose of someone who is infected with a respiratory virus and also protect the person wearing the face covering from becoming infected by some viruses.*
- *Try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people when unwell - if you have symptoms of a respiratory infection and you have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until you no longer have a high temperature or until you no longer feel unwell.*

Attendance

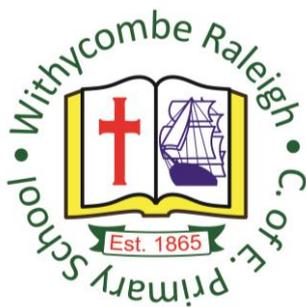
In last week's newsletter I explained about the Government's drive to improve children's attendance at school so that children have the best possible opportunity to learn and make progress. As well as monitoring attendance, as a school we also monitor lateness.

The start of the day continues to be staggered to ease congestion on Withycombe Village Road and around our school site. Please see below the current start times for children when they should be on site:

Start time	Year group
8:40	Year 1, Year 5, Year 6
8:50	EYFS, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4

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Please note that the school gates are locked at 9am - if children arrive after this time please ensure that they are brought to the main entrance so they can be registered by our Admin Team. From the start of the Summer Term, for any child who arrives late (After 9am) a short form will need to be completed by an adult, providing the reason for the late arrival. This is to enable us to keep an accurate record of children's attendance.

Tree-tops

Several children, parents and staff have enquired why the official opening of our tree-tops structure has been delayed! Rhino Play who installed the construction are awaiting delivery of some 'non slip' materials for the steps. We hope this will be done over the holidays along with our other site improvements. Once opened officially the play equipment will display this sign:

With enormous thanks to Amanda Pope
our School Business Manager
whose hard work and dedication to the school
made this new play area possible.

Part-funded with a generous donation from Exmouth and
District Round Table, and with the School Sports Grant.

Opened Easter 2022

Mrs Pope's last day with us was Thursday, but we hope she will come back for the official opening of the Tree Tops structure. She has worked so hard to get all the quotes, permissions and funding towards this development and for this reason we have decided to honour her with a dedication: recognising this properly! She will be greatly missed.

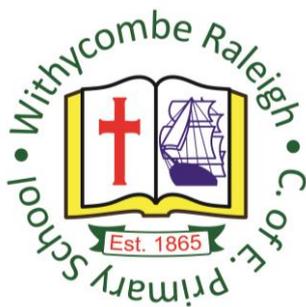
Contact us

Please remember that there are many ways you can contact school staff if you have any queries. You can email your child's class teacher directly using the class email account; alternatively, you can email admin@wrpschool.org or enquiries@wrpschool.org or call us on 01395 263397. Please be aware that teachers do not have the opportunity to check emails during the school day and therefore if you have an urgent message for staff within the school day, please ring our office or email as indicated.

Have a lovely Easter
Mrs. E Jones

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Upcoming Events

Friday 8th April-Monday 25th April

Easter Holidays

Monday 25th April

Children can wear Summer uniform from this date

Monday 16th May

Year 5 Trip to the Eden Project

Friday 27th May

Jubilee Celebration Day in School

Further details to follow

14th, 15th and 16th June

Circus Skills Workshops

Friday 24th June

Big Wild Sleepout

<https://events.rspb.org.uk/events/14900>



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Collective Worship

This week in Collective Worship the theme was Easter. On Monday we had a Big Easter Quiz where children competed against one another to see which class knew the most about Easter. The winning classes were Lapwings and Seals. Children have also enjoyed our Easter trail where they had the opportunity to experience the Easter story using all their senses and creativity. Many thanks to Mrs Pritchard and Miss Lee for all their hard work putting the trail together.

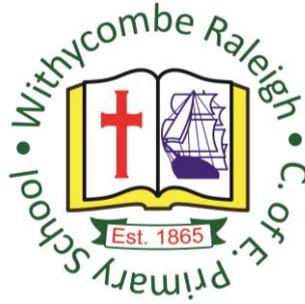


After Mr Smith's practical Collective Worship, some of our children had a go at making their own version of an Easter garden. We are pleased to share pictures of these beautiful gardens created by Barney, Alicia, Eve and Charlotte.



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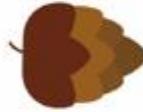
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Top Tips for Wellbeing

This holiday, why not try this Easter Treasure Hunt with a difference! By helping our children use their senses to connect with nature we are empowering their mental wellbeing and helping provide a sense of calm. Being with nature is about mindfulness; it allows us to use our senses to enjoy being in the very present moment.

Sensory Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

• CAN YOU FIND THEM ALL? •

 <p>FEEL WIND ON MY FACE</p>	 <p>SMELL A FLOWER</p>	 <p>FIND A PATTERN OR DESIGN NATURE</p>	 <p>TOUCH THE BARK ON 2 DIFFERENT TREES</p>
 <p>PUT MY FINGERS IN SOIL</p>	 <p>FIND A ROCK THAT SPARKLES</p>	 <p>HEAR A BIRD CHIRPING</p>	 <p>TOUCH A BUMPY & SMOOTH ROCK</p>
 <p>LISTEN TO INSECTS BUZZ</p>	 <p>FEEL 3 DIFFERENT KINDS OF LEAVES</p>	 <p>LISTEN T WATER RUNNING</p>	 <p>TOUCH A PINECONE</p>
 <p>SMELL GREEN GRASS</p>	 <p>LOOK FOR ANIMAL TRACKS</p>	 <p>WATCH ANTS MOVE AROUND</p>	 <p>TOUCH MOSS</p>

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Sports & Achievements

We love to hear about your children's sporting and other achievements. If you have anything to share, please email enquiries@wrpschool.org with your news and a photo if possible. We will endeavour to include as many of your photos as possible each week.



This week's sporting stars:

Beth and Eloise (Oak) both received their Stage 5 Swimming Award.

Anya and Imogen (Maple) and Marnie, Kara and Megan (Otters) all performed in the dance show 'Inspire' on Sunday. Between them they performed: ballet, street, acro and musical theatre.

Jacob (Lapwings) has worked extra hard for his double belt grading. He has put in 100% effort to get his green and brown belts.



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More stars:

Lewis (Kestrels) did brilliantly in his ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal School of Music) Piano Prep Test last week. He was awarded this certificate with some lovely comments from the examiner.

A small team of runners took part in a cross country competition at Brixington Primary Academy on Tuesday. It was a very warm day and children had to run either 6 or 7 laps of the field. Everyone ran very well and represented our school brilliantly once again! Thank you to all the parents who transported the children and cheered our teams on.

Well done to:

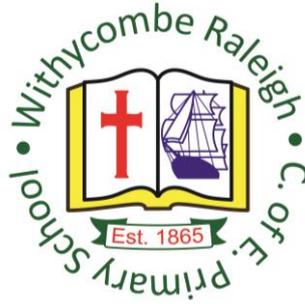
Kyle, Harry, Jack, Jake, Tess, Robyn, Holly, Bea, Eliza, Poppy, Lexi, Callum, Ben, Morgan and Max.



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Emmy and Sienna some our Year 6 fundraisers received a bag of goodies and a letter each from Wood Green Animal Charity as a thank you for the money they raised.

The Foundation children have been choosing colours and mixing paints to create beautiful observational paintings of spring flowers.

