

Weekly School News Roundup

Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School

Date: 30th January 2026



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

Please ring us on: (01395) 263397
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News from your Headteacher

It's been another lovely, busy week in school with lots of exciting learning going on in the classrooms. Members of the Senior Leadership Team and Subject Leads are fortunate to be able to regularly visit classrooms and to witness first-hand the children's learning. Children at Withycombe are keen and enthusiastic learners and it is always a pleasure to be a part of their lessons. Visitors often comment on the very positive learning behaviours of the children in the classrooms.

With this in mind, we hope that you will be able to meet with your child's class teacher during the week beginning 9th February and that you will be able to get a flavour of what your child has been doing this term. These meetings are a really important part of the school year and a chance for parents to discuss progress made, and any areas of the curriculum which may require greater focus or development. Please also feel free to spend some time outside the classroom looking at your child's exercise books and taking some time to celebrate what they have achieved.

If possible we prefer that children don't attend the parents' evening to enable a fully open and honest conversation.



Next week it is **Children's Mental Health Week** and children will be thinking about this year's theme 'This is my place'. When children feel they belong, they feel happy, safe and ready to learn and play. Now, more than ever, it is important that we are aware of how we can take care of our own emotional well-being and support one another too. As a school, we promote the '10 a day; Pick and Mix' which has a range of strategies to help children to look after their own emotional well-being.

We are really fortunate as a school to have a dedicated Pastoral Teaching Assistant who is responsible for delivering Emotional Wellbeing Support for children.

In our newsletter Mrs L Jones regularly provides some 'Top Tips for Well Being' - easy and credible ways to support children who may be struggling emotionally. We also have a designated 'well-being' page on our website which includes lots of handy tips. If you haven't already found them, there are some short 'courses' all about how to support children with anxiety too. **If you are at all concerned about your child's well-being and mental health, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.**



Storm Chandra brought in some very windy and wet days, making getting to and from school a little trickier than usual on Tuesday. Thursday's additional rain didn't help matters either! We know this was challenging for many children and families and we are proud of how everyone coped - although the enormous puddles on site were very exciting and attractive to the children! A big thank you to all our staff who made extra efforts to get to school and work together so that we could keep learning going this week.

Have a good weekend, Mrs E Jones, Headteacher

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Safeguarding: Providing Safe and Responsible Care

At school we teach children how to keep themselves **safe** and how to recognise **trusted adults**. An important part of this work is partnering with families to make sure children are **cared for** in safe, stable environments.

We kindly remind all parents and carers that children rely on the adults around them to make safe decisions, especially when supervising, transporting, or caring for them. This includes being **fully alert** and able to respond to their needs at all times.

Using drugs or drinking alcohol while responsible for children can affect judgement, reaction time, and awareness, which increases the **risk of accidents** or **unsafe situations**. We appreciate the great majority of families who already follow this expectation, and we ask everyone to help keep our whole community safe by ensuring:

- Children are always supervised by an adult who is **fully able** to care for them
- Parents and carers **avoid consuming alcohol** or any substances **when responsible for a child's safety**
- If an adult feels unable to supervise safely, another **trusted and capable adult** steps in

Protective factors

The NSPCC list protective factors which help reduce the impact of parental substance use on children.

These include:

- ✓ the child being able to ask for help
- ✓ parents being willing to acknowledge their difficulties and seek help and support
- ✓ the parent and child having a positive relationship
- ✓ social support being available to the family (e.g. relatives or friends who can provide the children with care and stability, offer financial support, and make sure the home is clean and safe)
- ✓ the parent and child having good general physical and mental health
- ✓ having one parent who does not have a substance use problem

There are all sorts of reasons why someone may struggle and our goal is not to criticise, but to support the wellbeing of all our children and their families. If you ever need help, guidance, or **someone to talk to**, please know that our school is here to support you.

If you recognise that you have (or are developing) issues with substance or alcohol abuse, please do speak with us or reach out to a dedicated organisation. There are various confidential routes to support, including:

Waythrough - Exeter Drug & Alcohol Services. *Together Drug and Alcohol Service offers support to those over 18 who wish to address their drug and alcohol use.*

They provide advice & information for drug and/or alcohol users, or anyone concerned about someone else's use (eg friends and family) via group work programmes, one to one recovery navigation, whole family support, recovery support, and post treatment programmes and activities. We also have links to some support organisations at the bottom of our school website's Wellbeing page.

Mr Smith – Safeguarding Lead



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Contacting us:

Reporting absences: please remember to report your child's absence **as soon as possible** on the first day of their absence (ideally before 9:00am to help us with the class registers), giving a brief description of why they are absent.

Telephone calls: calls to our main admin line 01395 263397 are now **recorded**. Recordings are securely stored for 7 days, after which they are automatically deleted. Please be reassured that if a call is transferred to another member of staff (eg SLT), it stops being recorded to maintain **your confidentiality**.

Thank you for your continued patience while other staff are doubling up their roles and providing **temporary absence cover** in the admin office. Our Senior Administrator Miss Wilson is currently being supported by Sarah Smart (Communications Officer) for the mornings on Monday-Wednesday, and Janine Meecham (Clerk to the School Governors) for an hour first thing on Thursdays and Fridays.



Emily has been awarded 'Gymnast of the Month' for her brilliant effort and exemplary listening skills!



Hedgehog Class designed an illustration of Mrs Jones as part of their DT lessons – we loved it so much we made it into a badge for her to wear!

Upcoming Key Dates:

Parents' Evening Week
9th – 13th February 2026

PTFA Mufti Day
Friday 13th February 2026

Half Term Break
16th – 20th February 2026

PTFA Bags2School
Wednesday 25th February 2026

Term dates are on the school website Home Connect and FAQs pages.



⌚ Hours: Monday-Friday 3:00-6:00pm
📅 Plus 1 hour flexible admin time per week
📅 Term-time only

Free Childcare Space when working

MORE INFORMATION: 01626 325808

APPLY NOW >

Withycombe Raleigh Primary School
We are seeking an enthusiastic and organised After School Club Manager to lead our Withy provision. This is a fantastic opportunity for someone with childcare experience who is ready to take the next step into a leadership role.

SEND YOUR CV TO:
sarah@fishkids.co.uk

Vacancy: Club Manager, Term-time only

Hours: Monday–Friday, 3:00–6:00pm, plus 1 hour flexible admin time per week.

The role includes:

- ✓ Managing the day-to-day running of the club
- ✓ Leading, supporting, and motivating staff
- ✓ Ensuring high-quality care, safeguarding, and compliance

Requirements:

- ✓ Experience working with children
- ✓ Leadership or senior playworker experience preferred
- ✓ Relevant childcare qualification (or working towards)

Apply at www.fishkids.co.uk

<https://www.fishkids.co.uk/vacancies/withycombe-afterschool-club-playworker-manager/>

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Outdoor Activities

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NERF GUN BATTLES, FOOTBALL, LASER TAG, ARTS & CRAFTS, DODGEBALL, GLOW IN THE DARK SPORTS, TALENT SHOWS, SILENT DISCO, CRICKET & MUCH MORE!!!

PRICES:
STANDARD DAY - £21
EXTENDED DAY - £26

TIMES:
STANDARD - 8:45AM - 3:30PM
EXTENDED - 8:00AM - 5:30PM

2025/26 Dates:
MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY
TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY
WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY
THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

THE BEACON C OF E PRIMARY
1 BEACON PLACE
EXMOUTH
EX8 2SR

Ofsted Registered

BOOKING LINK - <https://www.primary-sports.co.uk/events/2026/02/16/the-beacon-primary-school-ultimate-holiday-camps-february-2026>

More Information: marcus@primary-sports.co.uk / 07976979202