

Newsletter



16th November 2018

Is it dark already?

Since the clocks have changed it seems to get dark so early! In fact by the end of after school clubs it is already getting dimpsy. We soon will be covering our 'Be safe, be seen' message in PSHE lessons, remembering simple rules like wearing bright clothing, crossing the road at appropriate places and taking a torch out with you.

Stay safe everyone!

Amazing phonics results

In the summer term the Year 1 children took their 'Phonics screening check', a statutory assessment for phonics learnt since entering school. We were delighted when all of our children passed the check and we were rewarded with a letter of congratulations from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Standards. The letter informed us that Exbourne Primary is in the top 3% of all schools nationally for phonics – what an achievement!



The children's wreath on the war memorial

New September starters

The admissions process for new September starters (Children who will be 4 before 1st September 2018) is now open. You can apply for your school place on the Devon admissions website. It is very quick and easy to do!

Free CPR and Choking course for parents and carers

We are very pleased to be offering parents and carers the opportunity to learn some lifesaving skills – for free! Joe Rice first aid has been commissioned, to deliver a 2 hour session on Thursday 29th November, 9am – 11am on child CPR and Choking. There are only 15 spaces available, so please book with Mrs. Chapman.

Non-pupil day

Friday the 23rd of November is a non-pupil day and the school will not be open.



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards
Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Mr Adam Hill
Exbourne Church of England Primary School
Exbourne
Okehampton
EX20 3SQ

Dear Mr Hill, 31 October 2018

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2018 phonics screening check.

Achieving early fluency in decoding is a necessary first step in acquiring the key skill of reading.

There is a significant body of evidence, which demonstrates that systematic phonics is the most effective method for teaching early reading. We want to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics, which is why I was delighted to see your results. With 100 per cent of pupils at Exbourne Church of England Primary School reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top 3 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

This year's figures show that 89 per cent of pupils who achieve the expected standard in the check go on to achieve at least the expected standard in key stage 1 reading teacher assessment, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation in reading, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you for your work in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulations again to you and your staff for all you have achieved.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Parent's forum

We will be holding a parent's forum on Friday 30th November discussing any issues the parents wish to bring to the meeting. Mr Hill will be discussing internet safety to include mobile phones, tablets, gaming devices as many children may receive these at Christmas – with practical tips on how to keep your children safe. A discussion around the suitability of book bags has already been proposed and if you have any other topics you wish to talk about, please email Mr Hill or Mrs Chapman. The forum will be at 9am, in contrast the last one which was in the afternoon. The spring term forum will be in the evening.

Christmas Carols and CD

As part of the Music lessons delivered by Mr Miners the children will be recording a Christmas CD, available for purchase. The children will use professional recording equipment and design their own CD covers. This makes a great Christmas gift and will be ready before the end of term. Profits will go to the PFA.

We have also arranged for a group of children to sing carols at Waitrose Okehampton on the 14th of December, 1.30 – 2.30 pm. Please come along and support us!

Sporting events

On Friday 2nd November 2 teams of children represented the school at a Futsal competition at Okehampton College. Futsal is a fast version of football, with kick ins rather than throw ins and varying rules around the goalkeepers. The teams did extremely well and were a credit to the school.

The Tag rugby event on the 8th was postponed due to poor weather and will now take place on the 27th.

Castle Drogo was the venue for the Cross country event on Wednesday the 14th. Our small team of runners were a credit to the school and came 2nd in the Small Schools category – well done!

Coming up are Climbing and bouldering on the 22nd, Tag rugby on the 27th and Indoor Athletics on the 7th of December.

Remembrance Sunday

Thank you to the children and parents who represented the school at the village's remembrance parade. The children were brilliant and had a great time making wreaths after the parade. We also invited members of the community into the school for refreshments which many enjoyed. A special thank you to Mrs Dunn who organised and served the refreshments.



EYFS open afternoon

Thank you to the parents and children who visited the school on the 14th to learn more about our Early Years Foundation Stage provision. It was lovely to meet some of the children who will be starting in September and see them so happy to join in play with our current foundation. If you would like an opportunity to visit our EYFS provision or speak to staff, please do not hesitate to make an appointment.

Parking

My monthly reminder about parking – please be considerate when parking at pick up and drop off times. The safety of our children is priority. Do not park on the yellow zigzags or in front of our ‘No stopping’ cones. Please also leave pavements clear for the children to walk on. Thank you for your continued support.

Playtime games

There have been a couple of incidents on the playground this week where ‘Catching’ games have resulted in children being hurt. As a result I have asked the children not to play these games for a couple of weeks so that staff have time to remind children how to play these games in a safe, gentle and fun way.

Diary

November

- **20th** – Last swimming session
- **21st** – ‘Meet the schools’ evening at Stepping Stones nursery
- **22nd** – Bouldering/Climbing at Milton Abbot – year 5/6 selected team
- **23rd** – Non-pupil day
- **29th** – CPR and Choking free course – 9am – 11am (Please book with Mrs Chapman)
- **30th** – Parent’s forum – Internet, phone, tablet, gaming safety – 9.00am

December

- **4th** - Christmas craft and shopping Fair at school – 3.30pm
- **7th** – Indoor athletics – Year 5/6 selected team
- **14th** – Carol singing at Waitrose, Okehampton
- **14th** – Christmas jumper day
- **18th** – Christmas Play, afternoon and evening (Led by Class One)
- **20th** – Christmas Carol Service

Mr Hill – head@exbourne-primary.devon.sch.uk

Star of the Week

8th November 2018

Class one – Bertie for a brilliant story map

Class two – Ruby T for thinking critically in Maths

Class three – Molly for persevering in maths

Kindness award- Malachi for helping around the classroom

15th November

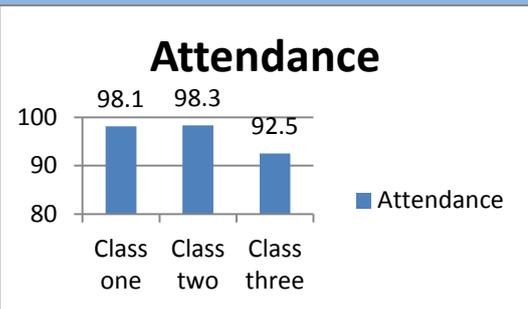
Class one – Zola for fantastic phonics

Class two – Seth for fantastic writing this week

Class three – Joseph for taking pride in his handwriting

Kindness award – Mia for being a great friend in class

Attendance since 2nd November



Much better attendance figures for Class One this week, now it's Class Three's turn to catch up!

Futsal at Okehampton college.

