



Exbourne: Encouraging Excellence

School Newsletter  
4<sup>th</sup> March 2024



'Let us spur one another to acts of love and good deeds.' Hebrews 10:24

Dear Exbourne Families and Friends,

With March upon us, at last we have some brighter and drier weather and longer days! I am looking forward to getting up to the field, and no more wet play times!

### **SEND Support**

I am delighted to announce that we have a new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Teacher - Juliet Boyce. She will be working with Adam Newland and her counterpart Liz Davidson (who is SEND teacher at Chagford and South Tawton) to support us to deliver the best provision for our SEND pupils across the Foundry Hub. She has started to get to know the children at Exbourne and will be introducing herself to parents of children with SEND needs over the coming weeks.

### **Attendance**

Well done to Olive class for 100% attendance last week! That's fantastic!

With lots of colds and bugs this week, attendance has significantly dropped, however I hope this will improve greatly over the weeks ahead.

Olive Class **100%** last week, 94% this week

Dove Class 97% last week, 87% this week



### **Courage**

Our theme this term is Courage. As it was Chinese New Year in the half term holiday, we started the term with an active performance of the Chinese Great Race, a traditional story to explain the Chinese zodiac. The Jade Emperor summoned thirteen animals to meet at the shore to compete in a race across the river. Ox gave Rat and Cat a lift. Rat pushed cat into the water jumped off Ox and won! Tiger swam steadily across the river, Rabbit found stepping stones and bound across. Dragon stopped to help others and then flew across the river, Snake hitched a lift around Horse's feet, then slithered in before horse. Goat, Monkey and Rooster made a raft together. Dog played in the water before making it to the shore and Pig stopped for a meal and a sleep and then swam across coming in 12th. Cat came in last, bedraggled and exhausted, and didn't get a year named after them.

We had fun performing the story and then thought about the following:

Should Rat have had a year named after them?  
Is it fair that there is not a year named Year of the Cat?  
Who showed courage?  
Is courage the same as winning?  
Were there winners?  
Is it courageous to cheat?  
Who needed to show more courage?



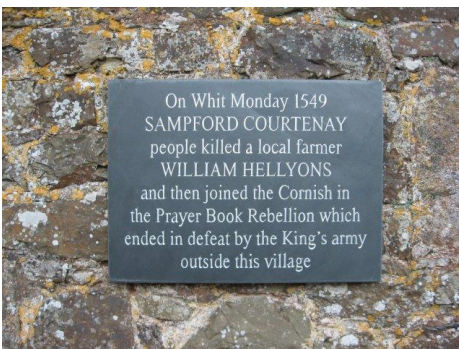
Over the following weeks, we will be exploring courage, looking to the Bible for stories and inspiration and finding for examples in history and current news to think about what courage means and how we can show this in our day to day lives.

**Be good of courage and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.  
Psalm 31:24**

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

In the half term holiday, I attended the Diversity and Inclusion drop in coffee morning at the community centre in North Tawton. This was a great opportunity to talk about the good work we are doing at both schools to support our children to learn about diversity and to prepare them for the wider world. I met with representatives from the police, Plymouth and Devon Racial Equality Council and local people who share an interest in learning more and networking about including others in our community. I look forward to this group building members and momentum.

### **Prayer Book Rebellion**



I met with Marion Pratt and David Botting Page last week to find out about The Prayer Book Rebellion, a local historic event. They have a whole programme of exciting events to mark the 475<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We have planned some events in school to find out more about Tudor times and learn about this historic event. There will be lots of local events for families to get involved in too.

More details to follow!

### **Mental Health**

During mental health week we completed activities around my voice matters. During our assembly we discussed ways in which we can use our voice for good and how our voice is heard. We also discussed areas of school life in which we would like more of a voice. We thought about who makes us feel that we are listened to and who we could talk to. We decided we could even talk to the snails if we wanted to! We made cards for each other to say thank you for something that someone had done to make us feel happy and listened to. On Friday we wore an accessory to express ourselves. We also planted a seed that we need to take care of, just like our mental health.

## Exbourne 40 Acts of Kindness

How are you getting along with the 40 acts of kindness? I have seen many examples in class at lunch time and at play. I am particularly pleased with the increase of 'Good Mornings' at the gate and more 'Pleases' and Thank Yous' in classes. Some families are colouring the days as we go and others are ticking boxes when they see examples at home.



## Exbourne 40 Acts of Kindness



<b>Lent 2024</b>	1 Tell someone how much you love and appreciate them	2 Draw a picture for a friend.	3 Share a toy or game with a friend or sibling.	4 Forgive someone who upset you.	5 Pick up litter.
6 Say Good Morning to everyone you see on the way to school.	7 Tidy up in class, without being asked to.	8 Look after someone who looks sad.	9 Say sorry if you made a wrong choice.	10 Make a card for someone <u>too</u> make them smile.	11 Say thank you to someone at home who has helped you.
12 Listen to a sibling / friend read.	13 Make a thank you card for someone.	14 Remember to say please.	15 Remember to say thank you.	16 Ask 'can I help?' at school and at home.	17 Help tidy up at home.
18 Draw a picture for a friend.	19 Help cook a meal.	20 Smile at everyone you see during the day.	21 Praise someone in class for their work.	22 Help a friend or sibling with their homework.	23 Let someone else go first.
24 Play with someone you don't usually play with.	25 Tidy up your bedroom, without being asked or reminded to!	26 Say a prayer for someone else.	27 Say thank you to an adult at school who has helped you.	28 Give someone a compliment.	29 Hold a door open for someone else.
30 Make a bookmark for a friend.	31 Write a letter to a relative.	32 Help lay the table or do the dishes.	33 Donate a book or toy to a sibling, friend, or charity shop.	34 Tell a joke to make someone laugh.	35 Help with the chores at home.
36 Make a drink for someone at home (don't use the kettle on your own!)	37 Write a poem or a rap about someone to cheer them up.	38 Help to look after a pet.	39 Make an Easter card for someone at home.	40 Share some sweets or chocolate.	<b>We are going to try to do one of these every day this Lent.</b>

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## Tin Can Collection

You can be a Two can Toucan Too! We are collecting aluminium cans for the charity Families in Greif. Mike Clark, President of the Rotary Club has set up collection points in the local area to support this worthy charity. The cans will be recycled, and the money obtained given to the charity. We need your cola, soda, beer and cocktail cans! Please bring them to school on a Wednesday where there will be a box at the gate. [Help for grieving children & families | Families in Grief](#)

## SIAMS

I am very pleased with our SIAMS report. I have seen it in draft form and hope to have the final copy to share with you this coming week.

With very best wishes

Tara Penny  
Principal