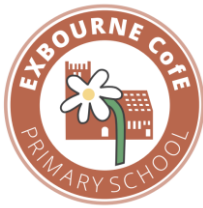


Let us spur one another to acts of love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:24



**Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust**

...everyone in our Trust.



Newsletter

16th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy couple of weeks we have had at Exbourne! School has been filled with a lovely Christmas buzz over the last two weeks and the countdown to the Christmas holidays is always a favourite of ours. Highlights have been the wonderful Christmas performance in the church, the theatre trip and seeing the whole school making Christmas craft together after our wonderful Christmas lunch.

Christmas Performance:

It was lovely to see the church full of so many parents and family members for the Christmas performance. I know the children loved performing to you all. We would like to thank you for attending (if you were able to) and by the beaming smiles from the children it was evident they did as well. Below are a selection of photos taken by Mrs Head during the performance.



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Christmas Lunch:

The children were treated to a great feast on Wednesday for our Christmas lunch. The pigs in blankets went down a treat as did the chocolate cake for dessert! Our Class 1 children enjoyed having their first whole school Christmas lunch together and the whole school even sang Happy Birthday to the birthday girl. As with tradition, the Christmas cracker jokes were shared, party hats were worn and Christmas songs were played and sang by all the children. I would like to thank all the staff for making this such an enjoyable event for the children. After lunch, the whole school completed Christmas craft activities together. It was lovely to see the older children supporting the younger children and the children were proud of their creations. I think the comment by one of the children summed up the afternoon perfectly, "It was really good fun and I had a great time!".

Northcott Theatre Performance:

Yesterday, we had an amazing time at the theatre watching Robin Hood. The whole school were thoroughly entertained from the moment it started until final curtains. There were lots of clapping, booing and audience participation involved from children and adults alike! The children behaved impeccably on the bus and in the theatre, even when we had to wait for our bus to arrive due to other buses holding it up! I was really impressed with how the older children were looking after the younger children when waiting for the bus and with helping with them remembering to pick up their coats, bags and lunches. A massive thank you to the PTFA for helping to subsidise the trip. It really was a magical experience for all.

PTFA Christmas Presents:

The children should have brought home a Christmas present from the PTFA today which were handed out before the end of the day. They were very excited to get these and were keen to open them. If your child has not received theirs due to not being in school, they are in the office being kept safe until their return in the new year. Another massive thanks to the PTFA for purchasing the gifts for every child in the school.

Staffing update:

We interviewed on Tuesday and have managed to appoint an experienced teaching assistant who has worked at Chagford Primary in the past and is currently working at Exeter Cathedral school. She will hopefully start sometime in the new year once all the necessary safeguarding and recruitment checks have been completed. She is very keen to start working at Exbourne Primary as she said was made to feel very welcome by all children and staff during the interview process and looks forward to becoming part of the Exbourne family. We are saying a sad farewell to Mrs Hayes who has decided to return to her carers role. In the couple of weeks she has been here she has been a great support in class and has relished getting to know the children. We wish her all the best for the future.

Class 3 have met their new teachers this week. We are delighted to let you know that Mrs Fiona Willis and Mrs Sasha Bonnett will be teaching the class for the rest of the academic year. Mrs Willis is an experienced teacher from Okehampton Primary school and has wealth of knowledge and expertise in teaching Upper Key stage 2 children. She will teach the class on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Bonnett is also an experienced teacher from

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South Tawton Primary school and also has a lot of experience in teaching Upper Key stage 2 children. She will teach the class on a Thursday and Friday. Parents from both schools have high regard for Mrs Willis and Mrs Bonnett and I know their caring, nurturing and positive approach will benefit all children in Class 3.

Messy Church:

As you may remember, Reverend Leigh mentioned Messy Church starting in January 2023 at the end of our Christmas performance in the church. The first session is 19th Jan 2023 and will normally be every third Thursday of the month during term time. However, in February it will be the 23rd February as the third Thursday falls in half term. Revd. Leigh has written the following for the newsletter: Messy church is for the whole family [not an after school club just for kids], so please come along with any other siblings not yet, or still in the school. It begins with crafts and games in the school; moves across to the church for some fun Christian content and then comes back to school for a meal for us to share together. There is no cost, but please message the school if you're coming [and how many you are] so we can cater for the right numbers. Thank you! Revd. Leigh Winsbury. It will be great to see many of you there and Miss Balsdon is kindly going to be supporting these events too.

From all staff at Exbourne, we wish you and your families a very happy, safe and wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

Warmest wishes,

Martin Evely and all staff of Exbourne C of E Primary School.



**within you,
upon you,
may the blessing of love flow out through
you. May all the blessings of the Lord be
yours at Christmas time and in the New
Year.**

Amen



[Community Diary Dates and Events](#)

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**URGENTLY
NEEDED**

**WE
NEED
YOU!**

LOCAL STAKEHOLDER BOARD GOVERNORS

Are you interested in making a difference to the outcomes of pupils in the South West?

We need you to fill our vacancies on our boards! More information on our website or email j.hooper@dmatschools.org.uk



www.dartmoormat.org.uk

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Happy Families, Happy Futures Devon

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We are pleased to announce that the Happy Families Happy Futures Devon offer that supports parents to improve the quality of the interparental relationship has restarted through a collaboration between Devon County Council and our Community and Voluntary Sector and Private Sector partners. The programme will continue to deliver support to parents, via virtual or face-to-face delivery.

This programme offer includes:

Family Transitions Triple P

*** Advice and guidance to support co-parenting and to deflect the pressure of divorce or separation away from children**

Within My Reach

*** Help to understand and develop healthy relationships and the positive impact this can have on children**

These programmes are aimed at supporting parents, both together and separated, to reduce parental conflict, develop positive communication and problem-solving skills, to manage emotions and create more positive environments for their children.

Requests for support should be submitted by completing this online Devon HFHF request form (click on this link) [Happy Families Happy Futures Referral Form](#) and a completed the consent form available here [Download the HFHF Consent Form](#)

For more information please contact the Parental Relationship Coordinator Emma Winter: emma.l.winter@devon.gov.uk

'Autism and Us' Parent Programme and autism themed workshops (Spring Term 2023)

[Support from the Communication and Interaction Team - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

Support for parents/carers of Devon primary and secondary children who are either on the autism waiting list or who have received a diagnosis of autism.

Our 'Autism & Us' programme and themed workshops delivered this academic year will once again be offered during the forthcoming Spring term for parents/carers of Devon primary and secondary school children, pre or post diagnosis.

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We are delighted to announce that we are offering access for families of CYP (Children & Young People) who are currently on the autism assessment pathway, in addition to families of CYP who have received an autism diagnosis.

Attending the 'Autism & Us' parent programme gives you an opportunity to develop your understanding of autism and look at practical solutions to managing and supporting your child's presenting needs.

Full programme details and application process below:

Autism & Us programmes:

- 4 weekly 'live online' sessions (approx. 2hrs each) related to the following topic/themes.

No.	Topic	Programme 1	Programme 2	Trainer
1	Autism overview	Wed 11 Jan - 4.30 – 6.30	Mon 6 Mar - 10 - 12	Paul Lamanna
2	Communication	Wed 18 Jan - 4.30 – 6.30	Mon 13 Mar - 10 - 12	Laura O'Shea
3	Understanding and supporting behaviour	Wed 1 Feb - 4.30 – 6.30	Mon 20 Mar - 10 - 12	Laura Matthews
4	Sensory	Wed 8 Feb - 4.30 – 6.30	Mon 27 Mar - 10 - 12	Kevin Jones

Apply direct by email to: educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk

To secure a place on any of the above programmes, or express your interest for forthcoming programmes. We will confirm your booking request, and provide you with a direct link to the event. They will be delivered on line 'live' via the Microsoft TEAMS platform.

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Topic based workshops:

The following topic based workshops, are also available for parents/carers of CYP (Children & Young People) who are currently on the autism assessment pathway, in addition to families of CYP who have received an autism diagnosis. You can choose from these based on the relevance to you and your family.

Date	Time	Topic	Trainer
Tues 17 Jan	10 - 12	Autism – Sensory processing + integration	Kevin Jones
Thurs 26 Jan	9.30 - 12	Autism and Girls	Robert Good
Tues 23 Feb	10 - 12	Autism – Demand avoidance + PDA	Robert Good
Tues 2 Mar	10-12	Autism – Communication (verbal – support strategies)	Laura O’Shea
Tues 14 Mar	10 - 12	Autism – Managing stress + anxiety	Alison Cann
Thurs 23 Mar	10 - 12	Autism – Vulnerability + online safety	Paul Lamanna
Tues 28 Mar	10 - 12	Autism – Communication (pre/non verbal – support strategies)	Laura Matthews

Apply direct by email to: educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk

To secure a place on any of the above topic based workshops. We will confirm your booking request, and provide you with a direct link to the event. They will be delivered on line ‘live’ via the Microsoft TEAMS platform.