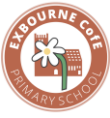


Let us spur one another to acts of love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:24



**Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust**
...everyone in our Trust.



24th February 2023.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of Spring term! We hope you have had a wonderful half term and managed to get some time outside in the sunny weather. I cannot believe that I only have 6 weeks left at Exbourne as Interim Principal – this term is really whizzing by. All classes are starting to learn new facts from their new learning units. Highlights include: Wednesday Welly Walk for Class 1, programming shapes in Computing in Class 2 and Class 3 have been inspired by the local environment for their poetry writing.

Miss Balsdon leaving:

It is with great sadness to report that Miss Balsdon will be leaving us at the end of term to dedicate more time to her Methodist family work. I know that the children will be really sad to see her leave as will the staff and parents. We wish her all the best for the future and hope that she isn't a stranger to the Exbourne family. An advert for her replacement closes today and interviews will be taking place shortly in Class 1. We will of course keep you updated on who will replace her. I would like to thank Miss Balsdon for all her hard work, enthusiasm and dedication to the school in the time she has been at Exbourne – she will be missed!

School Improvement Update – Lyfta

This term, we have launched an exciting global citizenship session called Lyfta during Humanities and Worship time as it focusses on the school and Trust values. The session takes place weekly and allows our children to experience different cultures and perspectives. It gives them the opportunity to see and connect with positive human stories from around the world - modelling resilience, problem-solving and teamwork. More importantly, Lyfta sessions helps us nurture the global citizens of tomorrow. The children have told me they are really enjoying these sessions and are learning a lot about the world and their place in it as well as learning about other people, countries and cultures. More information can be found at <https://www.lyfta.com/>

Trust wide Subject Communities of Practice

Our teaching staff have been very fortunate to have had 9 Trust wide Subject Communities of Practice since the start of this academic year. During these sessions, all primary school teachers from across our family of schools plan and discuss the subjects they lead. This is an amazing opportunity for all the staff as they are led by subject experts and this helps them to ensure that the curriculum we are delivering is irresistible and one that the children can remember more, do more and learn more.

Mrs Jordan update:

Mrs Jordan has become the Lead teacher at Milton Abbott Primary school with immediate effect. As a result, she will no longer be teaching the children French across the school for the foreseeable future due to the demands of her new role. She will still be planning and providing the lessons for the staff to follow and teach. She will continue to be part of the Y6 French residential in July.

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Messy Church

Yesterday's Messy Church was another success with many families attending. Highlights included the snacks, spring craft activities and everyone sharing shepherds pie and cake! If you would like to attend the next session, it will be on Thursday 16th March and then every 3rd Thursday of the month after that. Once again, Rev. Leigh and the church volunteers wanted us to pass on their thanks and appreciation for all who were able to attend. There was a lovely buzz in the hall and church and the acting from the shepherd and sheep were fantastic. Rev. Leigh also mentioned that St Mary's Church are having a 'Family Friendly Pet Blessing Service' this Sunday (26-02-2023) at 11am. Families and pets are welcome to this lovely service to give thanks for all our pets being into our lives.



Safeguarding Update - Children's Mental Health Week:

Last week, the whole school had been learning about the importance of their own mental health and what they can do to help support everyone's mental health. I was very impressed with their mature discussions regarding this important subject and have liked their ideas of what we can do to stay mentally well. My favourite suggestion from a Class 1 was to be kind to everyone to help us stay mentally well! The following link also gives you some ideas if you want to do some follow up work on mental health week. [CMHW Growing Together Parents&CarersTips.pdf \(dropbox.com\)](#)

Throughout the week, the classes took part in different events including many different challenges. Class 1 and 2 completed a team challenge and a 'Wednesday Welly Walk' and worked together to complete an art challenge. Class 3 took part in a Lyfta Live Lesson. The children listened to a presentation by a speaker from Lyfta and then watched a video clip of a young lady, inspired by her friends and family (especially her Grandmother), to play the violin.

The children wrote about the female violinist's inspiration and her resilient personality in the online chat. One of the class even spoke live about her cousins who encourage and inspire her which was

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brilliant. The children said that they really enjoyed the lesson and found it great to connect safely with other children from around the UK.



Happy Newspaper

To continue highlighting and celebrating the importance of Children's Mental Health week, I discussed how reading the 'Happy News' is something I do for my own wellbeing during our assembly. The children were keen to read some of the headlines and were delighted to hear of some of the lovely stories from around the world. We looked in detail about how a group of young black climbers are encouraging more black people to climb Mount Everest as only 15 have so far. They quite rightly said that this wasn't fair and needed changing! More information can be found at: [The Happy Newspaper](#)

House Team Certificates

I am pleased to report that some children from Class 2 and 3 have completed their bronze and silver house team chart and will be bringing home certificates shortly. Some houses have even made it to gold already! Children are awarded a house point for showing great effort, teamwork and perseverance in their learning. I have awarded many house points in each class when I have popped into classes and am delighted that the children are getting rewarded for their hard work. The winning house from each class will be completing an Easter art activity which they are all keen to do!

Parent Forum – meet Miss Penny.

On Tuesday 14th March, Miss Tara Penny will be attending the Parent Forum so you can meet her and ask her any questions you may have. This will take place at 3.30pm in the main hall. Miss Penny will also be visiting the school on the 1st and 8th March and will be on the gate so you can get to know her. Miss Penny and I have met already and will continue to meet until I leave so she can have a thorough handover and transition into Exbourne after Easter.

Festival of Hope Events:

During the month of March, our Trust will be hosting many different events as part of our annual 'Festival of Hope' month. Our children will be taking part in sports and art events with other children across the Trust to promote collaboration and a sense of belonging. The children will also be recorded singing the Trust's Festival of Hope song on Friday 3rd March. The song is called 'Make our future bright' and will be on the Trust's website once all schools have been filmed. The main theme of the festival this year is reading. We will be hosting reading events in school and the community to celebrate the love of reading and the pleasure sharing a book can bring. You are invited to come into school for the following events:

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- Book and biscuit afternoon – 9th March starting at 2.30pm. This is an opportunity to come into class and look through your child's learning with them in their books. We know the children will be very proud to show you the great progress they have made.
- Whole school book swap on Friday 17th March. We are encouraging children to bring in good quality books they no longer want to keep and swap them for books they would like to read and take home instead. All books will be placed in the main hall and the classes will be able to swap them throughout the day.
- Groups of children will also be spending some time reading in the Burrow to members of the community that want to share a book with the children. Class 3 are designing some leaflets to advertise this event. The dates are Tuesday 7th March at 2.00pm and Tuesday 14th March at 2.00pm in the Burrow.

Devon Wildlife Trust:

The 'Wildlife Champions' have continued to work on their project with Mrs Phillips. The posters are finished and look amazing. The children have taken great pride in them and included lots of relevant and important facts which they had to research themselves. This week, the children walked around the village to display them in a variety of locations. Additionally, the posters have also been mentioned in the Parish Pump newsletter to highlight the importance of looking after our local wildlife. The villagers were delighted to display the posters and commented on how professional and factual they were. Let us know if you have spotted them around Exbourne!



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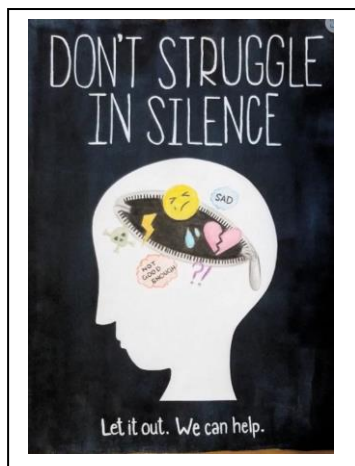


World Book Day Reminder.

World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday 2nd March. If your child/ren would like to dress up as their favourite book character and bring the book to school, that would be great. They could just wear an accessory instead if they wanted based on the character from the story. Please know there is no expectation that you need to go and buy a World Book Day costume for the day as we know how costly these can be. The day is more about celebrating the love of reading and books and not who has the best costume! In class, the children will be sharing their favourite stories as part of their daily reading sessions and discussing authors and characters. Before home time, they will also be listening to Michael Morpurgo reading one of his books virtually. We're sure the children and staff will find this every exciting!

Warmest wishes,

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



Dear Lord,

Please be with all who struggle with their mental health and all who support them. Please give each of us faith to see beyond the troubles of this time and to hope to face this day and every day.

Amen.

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[Community Diary Dates and Events](#)

Exeter Chiefs Rugby Training Day.

Rugby Camps - Okehampton College

 Thursday, 13 April 2023  09:30  Rugby Camps - Participant, Away Stadium

Name of camp- Okehampton College

Location (and any directions necessary)-

Mill Road

Okehampton

EX20 1PW

Age group(s)- U7 – U14 (As of September 1st 2022)

Duration- 1 Day (Thursday 13th April) 9.30am-3.00pm

Cost – Subsidised at £15

[To book and for more details:](#)

<https://camps.exeterchiefs.co.uk/selection/event/seat?perfid=101849000652&productId=101691800515&lang=en>

Happy Families, Happy Futures Devon

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.

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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

[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.

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:

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 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

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Tues 28 Mar	10 - 12	Autism – Communication (pre/non-verbal – support strategies)	Laura Matthews
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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.

Diary Dates and Events

01st & 10th March – Year 5 & 6 Outdoor Day

02nd March – Word Book Day – Dressing up as favourite book character

07th March – Book read at the Burrow to the community – 2.00pm – 3.00pm

8th March – Parents consultation with class teacher – please book with Mrs Chapman

09th March – Book & Biscuit afternoon for parents/grandparents – 2.30pm – 3.30pm

14th March – Year 3/4 Festival of Hope – Indoor athletics at Holsworthy Community College

14th March - Book read at the Burrow to the community – 2.00pm – 3.00pm

14th March – Parent Forum – 3.45pm – 5.00pm

16th March – Messy Church Session – 3.30pm – 5.00pm

17th March – Whole School Book Swap

21st March – Whole school Newquay Zoo trip – please be in school for 8.30am

23rd March – Festival of Hope – Year 5/6 Netball @ Tavistock College

24th March – Whole school photo

24th March – PFA Easter Craft Fair

28th March – Easter Service at the church – 2.30pm – All welcome

30th March Festival of Hope – Year 5/6 Football

31st March – Non-school uniform day & PFA cake sale

03rd April – 14th April – Easter Holidays – Students return on 17th April

17th & 18th April – Year 3 & 4 Outdoor Day

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19th, 20th & 21st April – Bike ability

20th April - Messy Church Session – 3.30pm – 5.00pm

02nd May – Normandy trip parents evening @ North Tawton, 5pm start

14th, 15th, 16th, 17th & 18th May – Year 6 Normandy Trip

17th & 18th May Year 3 & 4 Water sports

18th May – Messy Church Session – 3.30pm – 5.00pm

29th May – 02nd June – Half term. Students return on 05th June

08th & 09th June – Year 3 residential

15th June – Messy Church Session – 3.30pm – 5.00pm

16th June – Leavers Photo's

22nd June – Year 6 Okehampton College information evening

23rd June – Rainbow Day

26th, 27th & 28th June – Year 4 & 5 Residential

29th June – Year 6 taster day at Okehampton College

11th – 14th July – Year 6 Residential

17th July – Year 6 meet the tutor for Okehampton College

20th July – Messy Church Session – 3.30pm – 5.00pm

21st July – Last Day of Term