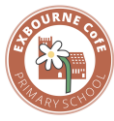


Let us spur one another to acts of love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:24



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



24th March 2023.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that this is the last newsletter I am going to write as Interim Principal at Exbourne! I would like to say a massive thank you to all the children, parents and staff for making me feel so welcome and at home in the past 13 weeks. It has been wonderful getting to know you all and I shall miss seeing you all every day as I feel a real member of the Exbourne family. My last day at Exbourne is Wednesday 29th March. Miss Penny will be at Exbourne on the 30th and 31st March. I know she will love joining the Exbourne family like I have and I know she is excited to be joining the school after Easter. I am hoping to return in the final week of the Summer term to say goodbye to the Year 6 children and wish them good luck in their next chapter as they have asked if I would do that.

March continues to be a busy month for all of us with many different events occurring. All classes are continuing to enjoy their new learning units. Highlights from classes include: Class 1, painting Easter creations in Religious Education, Class 2 making delicious samosas and writing instructions on how to make them. Class 3 have loved designing and making their Easter garden models in Design and Technology lessons. These will be shared during the Easter service next Tuesday!

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 main theme of the festival this year is reading. We have already hosted some events and more are planned in the next few weeks.

Reading in the Burrow:

Class 3 spent an enjoyable afternoon reading in the Burrow as one of our Festival of Hope reading events. The members of the community who attended told us they loved hearing the children read to them. In fact, one local resident even asked if a child could finish the chapter as they were enjoying being read to so much! Due to the success of the 2 reading sessions at the Burrow, we are going to continue this after Easter as the local residents have said they have loved hearing our children share stories with them. Reading at the Burrow will commence on Tuesday 18th April from 2-3pm and will happen every Tuesday so please spread the word!



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Whole school book swap:

Our whole school book swap was a resounding success - there was definitely a sense of excitement in the hall as books were being swapped! The children were enthralled looking through the plethora of books that were brought into swap. It was fantastic to see the older children helping the younger children to choose which book they could swap and share the book with them. Thank you to all who brought books into share. It was such a success that the children were asking if they can do this again in the future!



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Class 2 Athletics at Holsworthy Community College:

Class 2 spent an enjoyable morning at Holsworthy College on Tuesday 14th March competing in numerous different athletic activities in small groups with children from across our family of Trust schools. The children's behaviour was impeccable and the team spirit attitude was fantastic to see. The children also liked making new friends from Okehampton Primary as we shared a minibus to Holsworthy with them!



Class 2 Art Workshop:

Class 2 were lucky to be involved in watching the artist Jazz Rice complete her masterpiece in front of their eyes at Okehampton College. The children were able to question where she gets her inspiration from and how long it takes her to complete her creations. They also had the opportunity to create their own art work based on her piece. As I am sure you will agree, Exbourne certainly have some fantastic artists!



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Newquay Zoo Trip:

On Tuesday 21st March, the whole school had an amazing time at Newquay Zoo! For many children it was the first time they had been to Newquay Zoo so they captivated from the moment we arrived to the minute we had to leave. We even had tears as some children didn't want to leave so we know they definitely had a super time! As well as seeing many different animals throughout the day, we were fortunate to have an animal habitat workshop led by the zoo's educational team. The children learnt all about animal habitats, diets and survival instincts. The most popular animals were the penguins, monkeys and zebras. We would like to thank the PFA again for generously paying for the coach which meant the trip cost nothing for the children to attend. We really do appreciate the PFA helping to enhance the children's educational experience.



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Class 3 Outdoor Day:

On the second Outdoor Day, Class 3 undertook rock scrambling on Bodmin Moor, where the class as a whole climbed up, round and through rocks to points where we they could see Lundy Island and Plymouth Sound. It was fantastic to see the children supporting one another and knowing that some of their peers were feeling a little unsure, take their bag or hand and help them to climb up. Many children were challenging themselves and all really enjoyed the experience. Once back in school, the class wrote thank you letters to the staff at Encompass to show their appreciation of the fantastic experience they had of attending the two outdoor days. A selection of the letters are below:

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Dear Claire, Hannah, Alistair, Milo, Debbie, Fred
and Banjo,

I just wanted to say thank you for taking us on the walk on Dartmoor and rock scrambling. My favourite part on the walk was the orienteering. My favourite part of the rock scrambling was when we all crammed between the rocks.

I hope we can do it again soon!

To dear Claire, Hannah, Alistair and Debbie,

I am writing to thank you for Wednesday and Friday. I had lots of fun on the walk on the moor seeing all the great views. My favourite was the scrambling seeing the cow, ram, the Island and the north coast, going over and under the rocks and going up and down steep rock faces. Thank you so much from
highland cow

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Dear Claire, Hannah, Alistair, Milo and Debbie
I am writing to thank you for taking us up onto the Moor, I really appreciate it. I really enjoyed orienteering and rock scrambling as I never knew how to use a compass or a map originally.

I was also originally a bit scared of rock climbing on actual rocks and you helped me get less scared and do it more confidently, so thank you.

The dogs were so cute and very playful I really enjoyed walking Banjo. I didn't get to see Fred but I'm sure he is as cute, fluffy and playful as Banjo.

I really appreciate your hard work, I x also shocked me when I saw a bullet in the bush. The gun shots also scared me because they happened at random times but overall I had a really joyful and exciting time and I hope to see you again soon.

Thank you



World Autism Acceptance Week:

Next week, we are celebrating World Autism Acceptance Week. Throughout the week, the children will learn what Autism is and we know that improving understanding and acceptance amongst their peers is one of the most important things that can happen. For there to be a truly inclusive educational setting, the pupils as well as the staff need to value difference and be supportive of autistic pupils. For more information please follow the links [World Autism Acceptance Week 2023](https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/parents)
<https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/parents>

School Improvement Update – Assessment Week:

Last week, all children across the school completed an assessment week. Year 2 and 6 practised the Standards Assessment Tests (SATs) in reading and maths. Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 completed the Nuffield Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) reading assessment and White Rose maths assessment. The staff have marked and analysed the children's scores and have adapted their plans and teaching

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accordingly to ensure their teaching is covering any gaps in knowledge or understanding from the assessment tests. The children did amazingly well and tried their best on each assessment which we are really proud of them for. Year 2 and 6 pupils have also been given some extra guidance on how to read each question carefully and to check how many marks each question is worth.

Safeguarding Update – Trust safeguarding data:

This term, all Principals in the Trust have had to analyse their safeguarding data for any patterns or themes. Once this was completed, the information was shared with all staff and our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons have been planned to address the patterns and themes that have arisen.

Reminder —if you are concerned about a child or young person in Devon and want to speak to someone, contact the MASH on 0345 155 1071 and give as much information as you can. You can also complete the MASH form [DCC - Request for support \(outsystemsenterprise.com\)](https://outsystemsenterprise.com) or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk

Volunteer packs reminder!

Just a quick reminder that volunteer packs are available from the school office if you are able to volunteer anytime in school. If you have already taken a pack, please return to the school office once completed so that the necessary safeguarding checks can be completed. We look forward to welcoming you into school and helping.

Messy Church Fun:

Last week's Messy Church was another resounding success with many returning families and some new families attending. Highlights included the snacks, spring craft activities, planting seeds and everyone sharing lasagne and cake! If you would like to attend the next session, it will be on Thursday 20th April and then every 3rd Thursday of the month after that. Please let Wendy know if you are attending so she can add you to the list for catering numbers.



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Easter Service and Homework Project afternoon reminder:

On Tuesday 28th March, we are celebrating Easter and Spring at the church from 2.30pm. During the short service, which Reverend Leigh is kindly leading, the children will sing, read poems and readings. After the service, you are welcome to come back to school to look at all the children's Spring Term homework projects in class. We know the children have worked hard by seeing what have created.

Parent Forum:

On Tuesday 14th March, Tara Penny and I led a very positive Parent Forum where the parents who attended were able to ask many questions regarding transition, future plans as well as hearing what is going well and what they would like to see developed. Wendy has already emailed out the Parent Forum minutes but if for any reason you did not receive them please contact her so she can send them out again.

Wednesday Welly Walk:

Wednesday Welly Walks are continuing weekly this half term and the children are loving the outdoor and woodland activities. I had the joy of joining them last week and had a great time learning in the outdoors making animal shelters and looking for signs of spring.

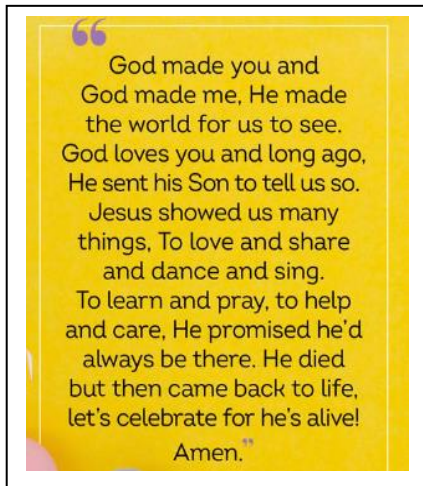


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Finally, I would just like to say a massive thanks again for all your good wishes regarding my new exciting adventure. I really have loved my time at Exbourne and wish the children, parents and staff all the very best for the future.

Warmest wishes,

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



Dear Lord,

May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear. May Christ, Our Risen Saviour, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide.

Amen.



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AIM Group Free Courses.

The AIM Group are working together with **DMAT schools** to support staff and parents access **FREE children's wellbeing support courses** (already helped 55 people this year)

How does this work? By using government funding, they offer free learning resources designed to learn and complete in your own time on a laptop or tablet

What is involved? You will learn all about the subject, and answer a number of questions to show your understanding (only requires a few paragraphs)

Courses available to start in March/April? Adverse Childhood Experiences, Distressed Behaviour in Children, Specific Learning Difficulties, Understanding Autism, Children's Mental Health

Funding Criteria? Aged 19 or over on or before 31st August 2022 / UK/EU residency for 3+ years / Not already on a free online course (Apprenticeship for example)




Application Deadline [31st March] funding changes expected so we want to make sure as many people get on before that happens.

If you are interested, click the link below Chris Greenfield will be in touch once you have registered interest so he can explain more and confirm if you would like to go ahead

[DMAT Schools \[March applications\] - link to register course interest](#)

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>

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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.

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](#)

[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:

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

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

Diary Dates and Events

24th March – PFA Easter Craft Fair

27th March – Spring Term Homework due in at school

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

28th March – All welcome to view Spring Term Homework after the Easter Service

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

19th April – Year 3 Residential Meeting @ Boasley Cross 5.00pm

19th, 20th & 21st April – Bike Ability for Year 5

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

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

04th May – Year 4/5 Residential meeting @ Boasley Cross 4.00pm

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

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08th & 09th June – Year 3 residential

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

15th June – Wildlife Champion Conference @ Meeth Quarry

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