



# NEWSLETTER

Exbourne: Encouraging Excellence

**FRIDAY 28TH JUNE 2024**

'Let us spur one another to acts of love and good deeds.'

Hebrews 10:24



Dear Families,

As always, our pupils and staff are working incredibly hard!

In the last two weeks, our Year Six pupils have been to the Finch Foundry with other Year Six pupils from South Tawton and North Tawton, and they have been to Okehampton College for a taster day. Year Three and Year Four have been away on their first school residential with pupils from other small schools and the whole school have been to Rosemoor!

These experiences are so important for our youngsters and will be memories for life.

Please see our Facebook page for all of our latest news.

My highlight was the look on the faces of our pupils when they saw that the 'coach' to take them to Rosemoor was in fact a double decker bus!

Today, staff across the Foundry hub have met together to continue our professional learning and development together. In the morning we had training and discussion about safeguarding and SEND. This afternoon KS1 and KS2 colleagues met to enhance and embed our skills teaching handwriting and spelling. Our EYFS colleagues met to plan the foundation stage curriculum for the year ahead.

Tomorrow is the North Tawton FontsFest. The weather looks great - it may not be glorious sunshine, but there is no rain forecast! You are all welcome, it's a public event, not just for North Tawton families!

Come along to the school for lots of fun including trying your hand at circus skills, hear live music, play games, see birds of prey, join in the zumba and enjoy gelato, a BBQ and (for adults!) a bar! Details below.

## **Exbourne Advocate News**

**I am delighted that Anande James is our Advocate for Exbourne! This is a new role within our leadership structure. This is a voluntary position.**

**Here is her introduction:**

**Hi! My name is Anande James and I am super excited to be your new Community Advocate. As an Advocate my main aim is to work in partnership with the school leaders at Exbourne CofE Primary School, and the trustees of the Primary Advocacy Board, to visit the school on a termly basis, meet with the pupils, staff, and the wider school community to look at information, evidence concerns and progress and most importantly listen to views.**

**My goal in this role is to support in the best way that I can by enabling that every child has access to the education and support they need to thrive in their school life.**

**Just a little bit about me - my professional background is in Law and Governance. Currently I work in HR for Libraries Unlimited but from the 1st of August, I will be joining the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust as a Governance Professional, alongside my Advocate role here at Exbourne, as well as my Advocate role at North Tawton Primary.**

**If you have any concerns you'd like to share or questions you'd like to ask around the general education, safeguarding or wellbeing of your child and the school, feel free to email me at [ajames@dmatschools.org.uk](mailto:ajames@dmatschools.org.uk) and I will endeavour to respond as soon as I can between the working hours of 10am to 3pm, Monday to Friday.**

**Alternatively, you can catch me for a quick chat at the school gates on selected days that will be announced in advance.**



## Attendance Questions

### What are the risks of missing a day of school?

Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in Year 10 who is absent for three days over a half term could miss 15 lessons in total. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments. Data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

### What if my child needs to miss school?

Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure your child gets a full time-education. Usually, that means going into school from the age of 5 to 16. There are only a small number of circumstances where missing a school day is permitted. Your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- Your child is too ill to attend.
- You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on a specific day due to exceptional circumstances.
- Your child cannot go to school on a specific day because they are observing a religious event.
- Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it's not available or has not been provided yet.
- Your child does not have a permanent address and you are required to travel for work. This exception only applies if your child attends their usual school or another school where you are staying as often as possible. This must be 200 half days or more a year if they are aged 6 or older.

These are the only circumstances where schools can permit your child to be absent.

### What counts as an exceptional circumstance?

School leaders are responsible for deciding what counts as an exceptional circumstance when it comes to a child missing school. They should look at each application individually, considering the specific facts and background context. If a leave of absence is granted, the school will decide how long the pupil can be away from school.

Holidays are very rarely an acceptable reason for a school absence and are unlikely to be treated as an exceptional circumstance.



SATURDAY 29 JUNE



North Tawton PRIMARY SCHOOL

FEATURING

11AM - 5PM

CIRCUS WORKSHOP ★ FIREBLOCKERS  
BIRDS OF PREY ★ BAR BY LONDON INN  
ZUMBA SESSION WITH KATIE ★ FOOD STALLS  
FREE GAMES CRAFTS ★ RAFFLE

**TICKETS** £15 GROUP 4 PEOPLE ★ £5 SINGLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION [friendsofnorthtawton@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofnorthtawton@gmail.com)



# School Term Dates September 2024 – August 2025

September						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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July						
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August						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Bank Holiday	Inset day	Occasional days
School Holidays	Nursery Closed	