

## Exbourne: Encouraging Excellence

School Newsletter  
13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

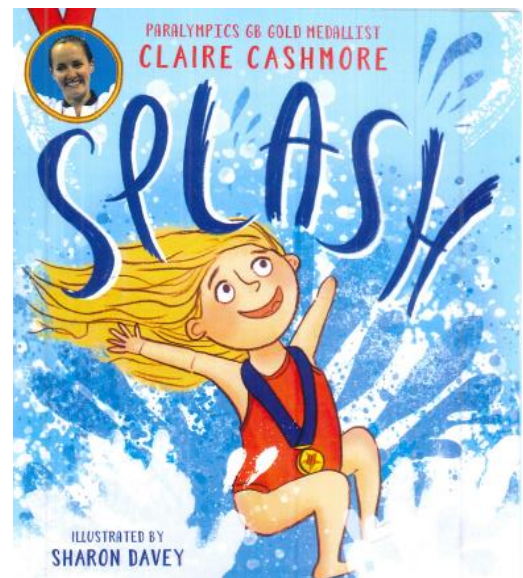
'Let us spur one another to acts of love and good deeds.' Hebrews 10:24

Dear Exbourne Families and Friends,

It has been wonderful to see all of the children after the summer holiday and find out about their adventures. We are delighted to welcome our new children Hazel, Kora and Rosie in Foundation and Alyssa in Dove Class. It has been great to see them making friends and settling into the routines so smoothly. We also welcomed back Mrs Willis who is teaching in Dove class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

In Worship we have been looking to the Olympians and Paralympians as role models. I shared stories of inspiration and courage from the Paris Games, and read the autobiographical story of Claire Cashmore. This book was particularly apt as we started swimming lessons this week!

We looked to these athletes for inspiration about how we can be ready for the term ahead. We agreed that being on time, active listening, having courage and perseverance will all help us to be the best that we can be.



### **Start of the day**

Gates open at 8.40am and learning starts at 8.45. Please make every effort to be on time as this ensures a smooth start to the day. We will close the gate at 8.50am.

## **Communication**

If you need to report a pupil absence, please either telephone the school or email on each day of absence, this is to bring all schools in the DMAT in line with reporting absence. Communication will be going out through Arbor in the future, if you haven't downloaded the app yet and need an activation email sent to you, please let us know.

## **School Meals**

Please remember to book school dinners in advance. If you are not sure if you qualify for Free School Meals even if you currently are in KS1 please apply. You have nothing to lose and your child and the school benefit.

## **Jewellery and Hairstyles**

In the interests of safety, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in school. If ears have been pierced, studs may be worn. These should be removed/taped over before swimming. We encourage children to be independent individuals, however we request parents to consider the impact of fashion on their child's learning and social development and ask parents to ensure their children do not wear inappropriate hairstyles or fashion items to school. Long hair should be tied back for both safety and hygiene reasons. Watches are allowed, but not ones with access to internet, games, or phones.

## **Healthy snacks**

We are a healthy eating school and as such expect packed lunches and snacks to be healthy. These can include, fruit, carrot/cucumber sticks. Please visit the NHS better health page Healthier snacks – Food facts – Healthier Families – NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) for some ideas.

## **Internet safety**

We promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology through the school curriculum, assemblies and school displays. The UK Safer Internet Centre – a partnership of three leading charities; Childnet, the South West Grid for Learning and the Internet Watch Foundation – provide resources for children, schools and families, and tools for getting involved at [www.saferinternetday.org.uk](http://www.saferinternetday.org.uk). Innocent searches online can lead to not so innocent results. But parental controls can help keep your child safe. The NSPCC website has step by step instructions for setting up parental controls. Please see our website for links and advice. Technology changes and develops all the time so is important that we keep up to date with the best ways to keep our children safe. If

you have questions to ask or would like us to share more information about internet safety or any other safeguarding matters, please do not hesitate to let us know.

### **Clothing**

With the weather reminding us that Autumn is around the corner, please make sure children come to school every day with a jumper / cardigan and a waterproof coat! Please write names in clothes! This will help us make sure clothes are returned to the right children quickly.

### **Attendance after our first 8 days**

DOVE	97.66%
OLIVE	98.67%



Please keep up the positive attendance and only have time off if children are too unwell to be in school or have medical appointments which can not be made in holidays or after school.

### **Dates for your diary**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September- Whiddon Down Music Festival

October TBC - Harvest Service at the church

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Celebration of Work

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Half term break (inclusive)

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November - Back to school

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Parents Evenings

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Santa Run in North Tawton – all welcome, details to follow

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Dove Class theatre trip tbc

Wednesday 14 December - Christmas Performances by Olive Class (times to be confirmed)

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Olive Class theatre trip tbc

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm Carols at the church and mince pies at school

Monday 23 - Monday 6 January - Christmas Holidays (inclusive)

Tuesday 7th January - Back to school

Please follow us on [Facebook](#) where we regularly post news and photos from the classes

All the best for the term ahead,

Tara Penny  
Principal