

Newsletter

Live, love, learn

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

14th December 2020



Christmas break

After such an unusual and challenging year, this Christmas break feels more needed than ever. The last 10 months have allowed us to express the best qualities within ourselves. Compassion, charity, love for one another, support and kindness. I am proud to say that the children, parents and staff of our school have shown all of these qualities and more during difficult times. The facilitation of home learning, delivery of free school meal hampers, return to school, introduction of devices to reduce technology poverty and the regular and consistent check ins with each other to ensure we were all coping. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the miracle of his being, it is important we reflect on the last 12 months and practice our key values. Think carefully about how we are living our lives by respecting one another, our planet and community. Love one another, showing care and compassion and to Learn from everything we have been through this year.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you again in January.

Christmas events

Christmas is fast approaching and we have some events carefully planned to ensure we comply with our Covid procedures.

Christmas cards – The children are welcome to bring Christmas cards to spread messages of goodwill and love on **Mondays and Tuesdays only**. These will then be quarantined for the required 72 hours before being distributed on Friday afternoon.

Class One Christmas play – We have maintained our tradition of participating in a Christmas play. This year the play will be performed in school and filmed so that parents can view at home. There will be a pre-recorded version added to the website and social media and a live stream which will take place on Monday 14th December at 2.30pm.

Christmas jumper day – Thank you to all who took part – you looked great and very festive. All monies have been donated to Save the Children.

Christmas lunch – This will be on Wednesday 16th December. Lunches will remain in bubbles but the normal festive music and additions of crackers will be available.

Christmas Carols – Although we cannot hold our traditional carol service, we will be recording the children singing which will be shared via the school website and with local residential care homes for the residents to enjoy.

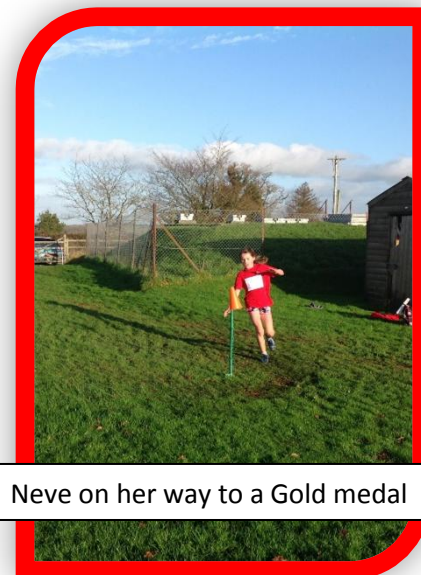


OCRA cross country – Gold Medal

On Wednesday 9th we welcomed OCRA to facilitate the West Devon Cross Country event. Our runner's times were compared with those from schools across West Devon. All the children did fantastically well, especially Neve who won the individual gold medal for Year 5/6 girls in West Devon – Well done!

Healthy Schools

Please can I remind all parents/carers that the school is committed to healthy lifestyles and we strongly encourage children to bring only healthy morning snacks and a balance lunch. Children in Class One are offered a fruit snack by the school.



Neve on her way to a Gold medal

More information can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

Ben and Ted complete 'Santas on the run – goes freestyle'

Ben and Ted completed a charity event for Children's hospice South West. The boys decided on their own challenge; a 2k run, 3-mile bike ride and sea swim. The just giving page has already raised £345, but you can still donate by using the link on our social media pages.

Well done Ben and Ted, we are very proud of you!

Christmas craft bags from the West Devon Methodist circuit

We are very grateful to have received Christmas craft bags for each family from the West Devon Methodist circuits Children, families and youth team. The bags are full of Christmas craft ideas with the materials needed. Thank you also to the PFA who help part fund these bags for our children.

New PE equipment

The school has invested over £1000 in new PE equipment this week as we continue to prioritise healthy lifestyles, daily activity and fitness.

The Poppy appeal – thank you.

Thank you to all who recently donated to our Poppy Appeal – we raised £80.71

Reducing digital poverty

The school has recently given out Chromebooks to targeted families of Year 5/6 children. The recent pandemic has highlighted the reliance of home learning on technology. We are aware that some of our families simply don't have the digital devices necessary to facilitate efficient home learning in the event of the need to isolate. The Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust has given Chromebooks on long term loan to the families of targeted children in Year 5/6 to ensure everyone has the opportunity to succeed.



The new equipment includes new goals for the playground

Christmas break information on Covid

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 in the first 6 days of the Christmas Holidays, you must let us know by emailing pwhittley@dartmoormat.org.uk. We will need to seek advice from Public Health and we may need to ask children within the bubble to isolate, even though it is school holidays.

If you need advice or help urgently over the Christmas period, you can also contact Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust [Complaints Form - Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust \(dartmoormat.org.uk\)](https://www.dartmoormat.org.uk)

If you or a household member test positive for Covid-19 between Christmas and the 4th January, please contact the school on the 4th of January.

FSM vouchers

Free School Meals Over Christmas: Devon County Council (DCC) have now put in place arrangements to provide supermarket vouchers to families of children who receive free school meals, to help their families buy groceries over the Christmas holidays.

From Tuesday 8th December, DCC will be sending a unique code per child to all families that are currently in receipt of Free School Meals. Each code can be used once on a website called 'Hawk Select' to redeem vouchers to the value of £30 per child (£15 per week for the two weeks of school holidays) for Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrison's, Asda, M&S Food and Waitrose.

The website requires families to provide an email address for the vouchers to be sent to once they have chosen their preferred supermarket.

When received, they can save the vouchers to their phone or tablet to use online (depending on the supermarket) or show at the checkout in store. Alternatively, they can print the vouchers off to give to the cashier.

We are conscious that a few parents may not have access to the internet or a mobile device to receive and store the vouchers on, if this is the case, please contact the office, as they will be able to complete the process for you on the Hawk Select website and print off the vouchers.

Parents will need to provide the office with their unique code in order for us to redeem the voucher on the Hawk Select website on their behalf.

DCC education helpline is available on 0345 155 1019 for any questions about the distribution of the unique codes. There are also some useful FAQs on the Hawk Select website along with contact details for any technical support about using the codes and vouchers.

There is still time to register for your eligibility for free school meals and receive these vouchers. With financial circumstances continuing to change due to the impact of the second lockdown and tier 2 restrictions, some families may become eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and entitled to vouchers during holidays or school meals during term time as well as a free set of uniform, free Morning and After School Clubs and free or subsidised trips.

Please check the criteria below and follow the link, all you will need is your date of birth and National Insurance Number.

https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FCCSCitizenPortal_LIVE%2F

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

If you are successful, please forward any evidence you receive (or do a screenshot of the result) to

admin@exbourne-primary.devon.sch.uk

If you need help applying, please speak to a member of the admin team who will support you through the process.

A note from Exbourne Pre-school

Spaces available!! Open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and will be open Wednesdays too from December. Intending to be five days as soon as possible! New friendly staff joining. Lots of toys and activities to play! Ages 2-5. Reasonable rates and flexible days and hours. Please see <https://www.exbournepreschool.org/> for further information.

Diary

December

14th – Nativity live stream – 2.30pm

16th – Christmas lunch

18th – Last day of term

January

5th – All children return

admin@exbourne-primary.devon.sch.uk

01837 851205

www.exbourne-primary.devon.sch.uk