

Newsletter

23rd April

2021

No.10

Exford Church of England First School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the summer term. It is quite a long term of thirteen weeks, but we are hoping that this will be an uninterrupted spell of learning and catching up on skills following the lockdowns and spells out of school. Please make sure that your child(ren) attend school every day unless they are poorly. We have learned over the last year, how precious classroom time together, is.

We are also hoping that we will be able to do some fun things this term, including running a few curriculum-related excursions and holding outdoor activities. We anticipate being able to re-introduce singing, interact with other schools and open the Cutcombe pool for swimming and water awareness curriculum sessions when the weather is warmer.

You will have received a request to complete a survey being conducted by Exmoor National Park, about a vision for Exmoor over the next ten years. This is an important piece of work looking at how this wonderful place is preserved and yet is able to support us all now as well as provide for future generations. I would commend the survey to you as an important part of the information gathering for this visioning.

I can't wait to be able to invite you all back into school for events such as Celebration Worship each week, meetings and fun activities. It has been a long time since we were last able to meet face to face indoors. Much of the induction of our new Reception children will have to be done remotely again this year, as it was last. Let's hope that the government's road map for coming out of lockdown runs smoothly and we can come together again soon.

Thank you, as always, for all your ongoing support. Please keep in touch and let me know of any concerns, comments or ideas that you may have.

Stay safe and God bless,

Alison Appleyard

Interim Headteacher

Cutcombe and Exford Church of England First Schools



During our Collective Worship this half term we are focusing on the
Core Christian Value of **Peace**.

Skylark Class



We cannot believe that it is the summer term already! We have returned fresh and excited about all the different things that we will be doing this term. The Skylarks have four new members of class, Rose, Poppy, Violet and Rainbow, who are our stick insects. The children all suggested names and then they voted for their favourites. We will be looking after them carefully, taking it in turns to provide them with food and water and helping to clean them out.

This week we have introduced our new book Meerkat mail and have lots of engaging writing opportunities planned. In maths we are learning more about measuring weight and capacity through practical activities and will then move on to multiplication and division.

Our science starts with a focus on seeds and we will plant our own to create a fantastic display on the decking outside. We will keep you updated with photographs and work that we are doing.



Mrs Blackmore



Woodpecker Class



Woodpeckers bounced back to school with a spring in their step and have had a wonderful first week back. They have started a new English book, Meerkat Mail, by Emily Gravett which offers numerous opportunities to inspire fantastic writing as well as helping with our new Geography topic which looks at Africa.

We are continuing with Geometry in maths and have been thinking about 3-D shapes and their properties – perhaps you could spot some real life 3-D shapes at home which your child can name and tell you all about.

Mrs Young and Mrs Stenner



Kingfisher Class

The Kingfishers are looking forward to an enjoyable and interesting summer term.

We have started a new topic on the Stone Age to the Iron Age and we are really looking forward to finding out all about this interesting part of history. We will be finding out about the Bronze Age people who lived on Exmoor too.

We are continuing our maths work with fractions and decimals and have started a new poetry unit about Kennings. We are really enjoying learning how to create our own Kennings.

Outside, we will be signalling the start of spring by Maypole dancing and we will also be enjoying country dancing this term.

Miss Cavanagh



Dates for your Diary (new dates in bold)

April

Thursday 29th - Visit from the Exmoor Zoo



May

Monday 3rd - May Day Bank Holiday

Week of Tuesday 4th - Parents Evenings (more detail and appointments to follow)

Tuesday 11th - Bag2school collection

Little Berries

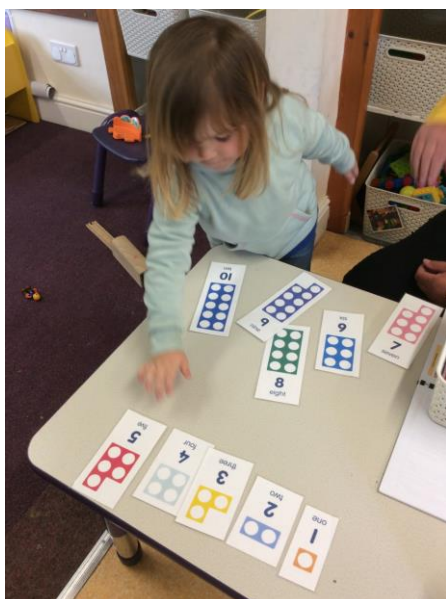


We have all enjoyed coming back to Preschool after the Easter break. The children have been doing lots of role play in the home corner using the new tea set. They have been learning to take it in turns to make and serve the food.

We have been ordering numbers from 1 - 10 and looking at size using words such as 'big' and 'little'. The older children have been using the fridge magnets to recognise letters in their names and have been practising sounding them out.

Our topic for this half term is Summer.

Sarah and Lucy



Safeguarding

We are all responsible for keeping children safe at all times

The school's Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Appleyard and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Stenner and Mrs Blackmore.

Taking care of your Mental Health

Being a parent can be challenging in everyday situations. Now, more than ever, taking care of your mental health is important. Staying at home more or having to work during a difficult situation can put different pressures on everyone. And if you're struggling, it's okay to reach out for support from friends, families and organisations that are here to help.

Changes to our mental health can sometimes affect children and their well-being. They may pick up on your anxiety or low mood. This doesn't mean you should hide or minimise your feelings. You can try to explain them using phrases like, "It's ok to get big feelings, everyone gets big feelings but it's still the grown up's job to look after the children" or "If grown-up's get big feelings it's not your fault - we can ask other grown-ups for help with our feelings."

When things are different to what we're used to and everyone is going through a big change, it's important to give children reassurance and support. Looking after your own mental health is vital to their well-being so don't be afraid to try new things together or feel worried about doing something for yourself to take care of your own well-being. And reach out if you need help. The NSPCC helpline counsellors are here, whatever your worry. You can call them on 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

Exmoor Zoo



The Exmoor Zoo will be visiting Exford School during the morning on Thursday 29th April. We are very excited about their visit and are waiting in anticipation to see which rainforest creatures they will bring to show us. Hopefully, we might even get the opportunity to handle some of them!



PE Kits and Uniform

Please can everybody make sure that their children have their full PE kits in school at all times.

It would be helpful to both children and staff if all items of uniform could be clearly named as we have already had mix-ups with uniform this week.

Thank you.