

'A family where we flourish and learn to be the best version of ourselves'



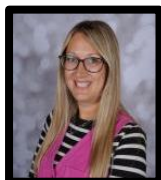
The Erme Primary School
Station Road, Ivybridge, PL21 0AJ
Telephone: 01752 892247



Email: theerme@moorsway.devon.sch.uk
Website: <http://www.moorswayfederation.org.uk/>

1st May 2026

Issue 29



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a brilliant week it has been!

The Year 3 and 4 children have had a fantastic time on their residential at Adventure Okehampton. They have pushed themselves to try new things, showing amazing resilience and perseverance. I am very proud of each and every child for how they have challenged themselves this week. Please see our Facebook page in the next couple of days for photographic evidence of our bravery!

Back in school, the children have been working really hard on their different units of work, enjoying the local area to support learning. Please remember to bring a coat to school every day, even if it is sunny, as it can be chilly in the wind.

I hope you have a great bank holiday weekend. See you back at school on Tuesday!

With best wishes,

Mrs Penhallurick

Residential Visit Lost Property

Mrs Penhallurick will bring any lost property from residential visits to The Erme Primary School afterward the trip. Please contact the school office [01752 892247] if your child has lost anything on this year's visits and items will be returned to your child's school. Unclaimed property will be disposed of five school days after the visits end.

Absences calls reminder

If your child is absent from school, you must contact the school on each day of their absence to inform us of the reason. When your child is absent, please call 01752 892247 and press 1 to leave a message or 2 if you would like to speak to the office.

Please ensure that you call the school office as soon as possible each morning your child is not attending. Providing a clear reason for the absence helps us maintain accurate attendance records and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils.

Thank you for your cooperation.

From Mr Jolliffe



This week we have had the first of our residential visits, with Year 3 and 4 pupils going to YHA Adventure Okehampton. The visit has been very successful indeed and the children have behaved extremely well during the visit; they are a real credit to their families and schools. The children have challenged themselves to try several adventurous activities, including kayaking, high ropes, raft building and climbing.

I am very aware though, that the increasing costs of accommodation and transport are making residential visits very expensive, so we will be reviewing the residential visit programme for 2027 to make sure that the costs are kept down over the four years that children are in Key stage 2.

If you didn't comment on this in the recent parent survey, but would like us to hear your views, please do let me know via email to your child's school office in the next few weeks.

'A family where we flourish and learn to be the best version of ourselves'

Cornwood Head of School

Governors will be advertising internally for an Interim Head of School for Cornwood C of E School this week. Interviews will take place in the week before half term and we will let parents know about leadership arrangements there as soon as they are confirmed.



Meadowsfoot

EYFS have been continuing their investigation into all things that grow. The children have closely observed seeds, bulbs and beans, noticing how they change over time and discussing what plants need to stay healthy. They thought carefully about the best way to plant a seed and, as a class, worked together to write a clear set of instructions to help other gardeners. They have also been practising their letter and number formation. It's been a challenge at times, but they've shown real determination and reminded each other that we don't give up.

Learners of the week

Meadowsfoot - Roselyn for working hard and not giving up.

Mothecombe – Alice for her amazing story writing this week.

Riverside – Seb for working hard to follow instructions.

Oldaport - Hayden for his quick retrieval answers in reading.



Mothecombe

Mothecombe have enjoyed our extended English lessons this week where they have been writing their own versions of 'The 3 Billy Goats Gruff'. Their perseverance with their stories has blown me away. Everyone has used their phonics knowledge to sound out unknown words, used accurate punctuation in their sentences and ensured their stories flow. In Maths we have completed our unit on Statistics by analysing a range of data and answering questions about it. In Science we went on

a spring walk to compare what we could see from our winter walk. We found blossoms and green leaves on trees, new plant life, birds, nests but were disappointed to not see any butterflies. In History we have found out why Florence Nightingale decided to go to Crimea and become a nurse, the class asked really sensible questions about her decisions and explored what they may have decided to do using the evidence provided.



Values of the week

Meadowsfoot - Freya for perseverance when writing.

Mothecombe - Cruz for his perseverance with his spelling.

Riverside – Toby for persevering with his maths learning.

Oldaport - Trustworthy is awarded to Robyn for carrying out tasks sensibly.

PTFA – Ice lollies

The PTFA have stocked up on ice lollies and will be selling them on the playground on Friday afternoon at home time. They plan to do this where possible every Friday if our weather allows them too. Lollies will be 50p each and this will be payable with cash only please.



'A family where we flourish and learn to be the best version of ourselves'

Riverside



It has been another brilliant week, with the children showing a fantastic attitude to their learning throughout. In Maths, we have continued exploring capacity, volume and mass. The children have worked extremely hard to read a range of scales accurately and to solve measure-based problems — well done, children. In History, the class travelled back in time to discover what life was like in the Indus Valley. They were fascinated to learn how advanced this

ancient civilisation was, particularly in their early sanitary systems and the careful planning of their cities. On Monday afternoon, we enjoyed our first Forest School session — and we were very lucky with the gorgeous weather. The children loved taking part in team-building activities, building dens, creating their own woodland slide and making spinning tops. We are all thoroughly looking forward to our next session. On Wednesday, we set off for our residential and we will update you on all the fun we had in our next newsletter.



Report from FGB Meeting 28th April 2026

At the Full Governing Board (FGB) Meeting on 28th April Governors from across the Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation (EVMF) met at Chudleigh Knighton Village Hall. Governors ratified the new Head of School appointments at Silverton and at Brampford Speke. From 1st September 2026 Matt Brown will be the new Head of School at Silverton and Lily Nichols at Brampford Speke.

Update reports were received and discussed on safeguarding, behaviour, attendance and SEND. Governors also received an update report from Heidi Last, School Business Manager, regarding school finances. As reported following the last FGB meeting, the Federation continues to face challenges in managing its budget. This is mirrored nationally as schools continue to face financial pressures.

Mr Joliffe updated Governors regarding the Management Partnership with the South Hams Federation. The formal Management Partnership has come to an end, but it is hoped that collaborative work will continue in an informal partnership as this is mutually beneficial to both Federations.

Governors had the opportunity to discuss the Federation Strategic Plan 2026 – 2031. The last Federation Strategic Plan was written in 2021 at the end of the pandemic. Five key aims have been identified that will shape the strategic direction for EVMF for the next five years:

Sustainability and Growth, Educational Excellence, Inclusion and Well-being, Our Community, Our World, Our Future, Outward facing collaboration and Sustainability and growth. Other stakeholders (staff, parents and children) will have the opportunity to discuss the Strategic Plan in due course. Children remain central to the work of Federation Leaders and staff and the focus of their work is to ensure that children across the Federation receive the best possible education.

Oldaport



In Oldaport Class, we have been creating a shared text inspired by *How the Whale Became*. We explored the structure of the story together and have begun writing our own version as a class, carefully thinking about the grammatical features we want to include. In Music, we have been learning about musical theatre and how it has developed over time. The children enjoyed discussing musicals they have seen at the theatre and sharing what they liked about them. In RE, we have been exploring how many Muslims live in the UK and

how many mosques are local to our area, helping the children develop a deeper understanding of our diverse community.

'A family where we flourish and learn to be the best version of ourselves'

Therapy dog

We are very excited to be welcoming Ozzie into school as a Therapy Dog. Ozzie is Mrs Pasmore's dog who has recently passed his full assessment to support children in school. Please see MCAS for the full details on their training and the plans we have for him in school. Thank you to those who have already completed the consent link on MCAS. If you haven't completed it yet, please do so as soon as possible so that we can begin our sessions. Many thanks.



Reader of the Week Certificates:

Meadowsfoot	Roo
Mothecombe	Arlo
Riverside	Tyler
Oldaport	Henry L

Reading with your child at home is one of the simplest and most powerful ways to support their learning. Just a few minutes each day helps build language skills, confidence, and a love of books, while also creating special time together. Talking about the story, pictures, or characters makes reading even more meaningful and fun for children.

We appreciate your support with reading at home and ask that you please log any reading that you do in your child's reading log. Thank you



Year 5 and 6 Residential visit

Great Western Railways have altered the times for our return to Ivybridge on 19th June and we will now be arriving at 16:21.

Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time
Mondays	Forest School starts for Riverside	
Monday 4th May	Bank holiday – school closed	
Mon 11 th – Thurs 14 th May	SATs week	
Wednesday 20 th May	Bags to School – am only	9am
Friday 22nd May	Last day of term	
Monday 1st June	Children return to school	
Saturday 6 th June	Ivybridge Community Festival Parade – more details to follow	
Monday 15 th June	Sports Day – more details to follow	
Weds 17 th – 19 th June	Year 5 and Year 6 residential	
Friday 26 th June	Non pupil day	
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 6 pupils to visit Ivybridge Community College	

'A family where we flourish and learn to be the best version of ourselves'

Our Green Schools – New Date

Due to availability, our online meeting has been rescheduled to 14th May, 8-9pm. This session will bring parents and teachers together from across the federation to share ideas and practical ways to make the most of the green spaces in and around our schools and to look at ways to become greener schools in every sense of the word, from increasing outdoor learning and providing farm visits to reducing energy use and using nature to support wellbeing.

We're fortunate to live in an area where our children can connect to food, farming, conservation and the natural world on their doorstep. These experiences can play a powerful role in helping them understand and navigate a complex, changing world. All federation schools now have Climate Action Plans and many are already doing great work, but with growing pressures on schools, parent involvement or engagement can make a real difference. This is a chance to find out more about an important part of your children's education and, if you'd like to, understand how you can support the way it's shaped at your child's school.

This will be a parent led session supported by Mr Jolliffe. The parents who have bought this session together are:

Hannah Jones McVey – Federation parent governor and policy lead at The Country Trust. Hannah has supported the development of the grounds at Cheriton Fitzpaine School, including the annual School Force Day and the Eco Council.

Alice Miall – Landscape architect at Forestry England, specialising in play spaces. Through her volunteer work as a Climate Ambassador, Alice has supported Thorverton School and led soil- and Earth Day-themed sessions.

Becca Brendell – Head of Clinical Trials for a national charity. Becca has worked with parents and teachers at Newton St Cyres Primary to enhance the school grounds, creating a series of wildlife- friendly outdoor learning areas.

This is a chance to:

- ☐ Hear about national developments and opportunities to connect learning with nature, food and sustainability
- ☐ Share and celebrate examples of what's already happening across our schools
- ☐ Explore ideas for the future and how parents and schools can work together

We are really keen to make sure someone is there from each of the federation schools. There is no expectation of any further engagement if you do attend, this is an informational meeting as much as one to share ideas and discuss possible next steps. Please sign up via the form to attend or receive the recording if you're unable to join.

Greening our schools Parent and Teacher Meeting – Fill out form

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=5IEhRCy2p0W1WtFjIJvYhUeuJ7LqcbtMqssEGaoZ7NVUOUU0VVcyUVQ3OU00Nkg2M1paSkozWkQyUi4u&route=shorturl>

Term dates

Summer term 2026

Monday 20th April to Friday 22nd May

Monday 1st June to Wednesday 22nd July [Staff Development Day 26th June]

Autumn term 2026

Thursday 3rd September to Friday 23rd October [Staff Development Days 3rd and 4th September]

Monday 2nd November to Friday 18th December [Staff Development Day 27th November]