

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



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Issue 01



Dear Parents and Carers,

I have been really proud of how well the children have settled into their new classes this week, following our school rules and showing our school values every day. We have 5 school values which are: trust, perseverance, truthfulness, compassion and forgiveness. We use these in our discussions with the children about their behaviours and choices, and encourage you to use these at home too.

We have lots of exciting things to look forward to this half term, including some parent engagement sessions, our MacMillan coffee event, and our harvest festival performance. The dates and details for all events can be found within the newsletter each week.

In PSHE this half term, we will be using the NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe resources with the children; you will have received a letter giving more detail about this on MCAS. Please speak with your child's class teacher if you have any questions about these lessons.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes,

Mrs Penhallurick



From Mr Jolliffe

Welcome back to a new school year! After a summer holiday with amazing weather, it has been great to see all the children back at school and ready for another year of learning and growing, both physically and emotionally. Welcome too, to the four new Heads of School, Mrs Nichols at Brampford Speke, Miss Aldridge at Cornwood, Mr Brown at Silverton and Mr Wootton at Whimble.

Federation development plan

A summary of this year's Federation Development Plan has now been published on the federation website. This plan outlines our development priorities for this year under the five aims that are part of the federation's overall strategic plan. Please do take a few minutes to read through it so that you are aware of the development priorities for the federation. Each school also has a School Development Plan that reflects the development priorities that are specific to each member of the federation. The link to the Federation Development Plan is here [Exe Valley Federation - Strategic Plans](#)

Attendance reminder

Schools are required to send a letter about attendance from Devon County Council twice a year. This letter is attached to this week's newsletter. Overall, attendance levels at federation schools have been broadly in line with county attendance but we don't want this to slip. There is a Staff Development Day on Friday, 27th November which gives families an opportunity to have a long weekend away, so please take advantage of this rather than taking days out of school. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us in making sure every child is in school every day whenever possible, this is very much appreciated. The Head of each school is the lead for ensuring that attendance is as good as possible and that avoidable absences are picked up and addressed.

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Parent engagement sessions:

Oldaport (Y6) Mega Maths sessions – Tuesday 29th September 2026 – 8:45am

Come along and join in with some maths activities with your child!

Riverside (Y4/5) Amazing Art afternoon – Monday 5th October 2026 – 2:30pm

Spend an hour with us completing some artwork with your child.

Mothecombe (Y2/3) STEM workshop – Friday 20th November 2026 – 3pm

Join us to complete a STEM activity with your child.

Meadowsfoot (YF/1) Christmas Props workshop – Monday 23rd November 2026

Come along to help us make our props for our Nativity play!

Stay and Read/ MacMillan Coffee

We would like to invite you into school on Friday 25th September at 8:45am for a Stay and Read session followed by our MacMillan Coffee morning. All details can be found on the poster, which can also be found on our Facebook page. Please note that all entries to the cake competition require a full ingredients list, to help keep our children safe under Benedict's Law. Thank you for your support.

Healthcare plans

At the start of the year, we would like to remind parents about the importance of updating Individual Health Care Plans. Individual Health Care Plans are written by health practitioners and schools to make sure that everyone looking after a child with medical conditions knows what to look out for and what to do if intervention is required. This includes Asthma Care Plans, which are one type of IHCP and these have a tendency to go out of date, so now is a good time to review them and make sure all the medication held in school is in date and still relevant.

Where pupils develop medical conditions other than asthma, an IHCP should be written to cover all aspects of their healthcare. This is important as one condition may impact on another and the needs of the whole child should be considered by educational professionals.

New legislation about Adrenaline Auto-Injectors [Epipens] also means that all children who carry these devices need an IHCP. If your child may have an allergic reaction, please make sure that the plan is up to date and the device is in date. All staff will receive training on the use of Adrenaline Auto-Injectors next week.

If your child has an IHCP, please contact your school office to arrange to talk to the admin assistant or Head of School to make sure that your child's IHCP is up to date. Thank you for your help.

Changes to family circumstances

If your family circumstances have changed recently, it would help us to know about these changes so that we can update our communication system. Our School Comms can be set up to send email notifications to either one parent or both parents and you may want to change the current settings if your circumstances have changed in the last few months. We are very happy to send newsletters and other email communications to one or both parents, so please do let us know what you would prefer.

Macmillan Coffee Morning / Stay and Read Session
Friday 25th September 2026

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT
Together we make a difference

Venue: The Erme Primary School
Time: 8:45am until 10:00am

Stay and Read - 8:45am until 9:15am
MacMillan Coffee Morning - 9:15am until 10:00am

Stay and Read
We invite you to join us in class for some shared reading at the start of the school day, to share a love of **books** and enjoy simply reading for pleasure.
Real books. Real moments. Lasting impact.

MacMillan Coffee Morning
Join us in the hall after the Stay and Read session for tea, coffee, cake and a chat.
There will also be the chance to meet our PTFA members and ask them any questions about the PTFA.
Good cake. Great company. A great cause.

Cake Competition
We would really love donations of cake to support our coffee morning and so we are launching a cake competition! We would love for you and your child to bake a 'school-themed' cake that will be sold at our MacMillan Coffee morning.
There will be a prize for our winners!

Benedict's Law: Please provide a full list of ingredients along with every cake entered into the competition, to help us keep our children safe. Without the ingredients list, we will be unable to sell the cake.

Help us make a difference for people affected by cancer

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Meadowsfoot – Miss Gilberthorpe



It has been wonderful welcoming our Year One children back to school and meeting our brand-new Foundation Stage children. This week has been all about exploring our new classroom, catching up with friends and practising the Meadowsfoot way — calm, kind and ready to learn. The children have loved sharing their summer adventures, and it's been a joy hearing all the stories that have made them smile. I can't wait for all the fun to come as we begin this new year together.



Mothecombe – Miss Docking



Wow! What a brilliant start to the term. The Mothecombe team have been so impressed with how confidently the children have settled into their new classroom and routines. They have come in with big smiles, positive attitudes and a real eagerness to learn. We have also loved hearing all about their summer holidays and the exciting adventures they have been up to.

This week has been jam-packed with fun learning. On Monday, the children enjoyed their PE session with Premier Sports, focusing on travelling across a space and practising different types of jumps. In music, they explored how to create animal sounds using musical instruments – the classroom was filled with elephants, tigers and monkeys. It was wonderful.

The children have also started their reading programme this week. From Monday, they will begin bringing home a reading book. Please could we ask that you listen to your child read at least four times a week and sign their reading record each time. Just five minutes a night makes a huge difference to their confidence, fluency and ability to retain new vocabulary. Thank you in advance.



Learners of the week

Meadowsfoot - Ayda for her wonderful confidence.

Mothecombe - Stanley for confidently contributing to whole-class discussions in Maths.

Riverside - Toby for his enthusiasm with all of our new learning.

Oldaport - Rayan for being a supportive partner.

PTFA AGM

Our PTFA are a small, friendly and supportive group of parents who work closely with Mrs Pasmore and Mrs Penhallurick to fundraise and support the school. Without our PTFA, we wouldn't be able to provide as many wonderful opportunities for our children. The PTFA support us by: subsidising school trips to reduce cost to parents; organising school discos and sponsored events for the children; and fundraising for big projects, including our front playground development.

We would like to encourage as many parents as possible to get involved with the PTFA, in whatever capacity they feel able to, whether that's simply helping out at an event or by attending regular meetings.

We have our annual PTFA AGM on **Monday 28th September at 3:30pm**, at The Erme. We invite you to please come along and join this initial meeting, to find out what the PTFA is all about and how you could get involved. We hope to see lots of you there!

Reader of the Week Certificates:

Meadowsfoot	Eleanor
Mothecombe	Ewan W
Riverside	Arlo S
Oldaport	Martha

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.

Riverside – Mrs Pasmore



It was so lovely to welcome back all of Riverside yesterday. I was very impressed with everyone's mature learning attitude, amazing behaviour, perseverance and respect. Riverside have adjusted to our class routines and expectations well and as a result have earned themselves lots of marbles towards our first-class reward. We are all looking forward to starting our new units of work this week. We have started our maths unit on place value investigating 4- and 5-digit numbers. In English we are focusing on

transcription, handwriting and sentence structures. We have used a photo of an old map to inspire our writing and our oracy skills are really developing. In music we enjoyed our body percussion lesson where we worked in small groups to create rain, wind and thunder sounds. We created pictorial scores to support our timing and musicality.

Year 3 and 4 have also settled into our new routines and enjoyed revisiting healthy plates and balanced diets. Everyone could recall some previous facts on food groups and extended our knowledge on why it's important to eat a balanced diet. In PHSE we have thought about how to be safe in our homes and thought about when we need to ask a parent for help or permission.



Oldaport – Mrs Benson



This week in Oldaport Class, the children have been busy preparing and delivering their house captain and vice-captain speeches. They wrote passionately about why they would make a great leader, then presented their speeches to their house before pupils cast their votes. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and sense of responsibility grow.

In History, we began our new unit on the Maya civilisation. The children discussed why historians study the Maya and explored what makes this ancient society so fascinating. In Science, we introduced the term inheritance and talked about how characteristics are passed from parents to

offspring. The children enjoyed making connections to real-life examples. In English, we have been focusing on transcription skills and working hard on improving our presentation — especially handwriting. We also revisited what makes a complete sentence, helping children strengthen their accuracy and clarity in writing.



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Values of the week

Meadowsfoot - Freya S for persevering when writing.

Mothecombe - Orla for showing wonderful compassion when welcoming Year 1 into Mothecombe.

Riverside - Ellie for her perseverance in music.

Oldaport - Trustworthy is awarded to Hayden for carrying out jobs effectively.

Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time
Monday 14 th September	Year 4, 5 and 6 start swimming today	pm
Friday 25 th September	Stay and Read / MacMillan coffee morning	am
Monday 28 th September	PTFA meeting – all welcome	3:30pm
Tuesday 29 th September	Oldaport (Y6) Mega Maths sessions	8:45am
Thursday 8 th October	Riverside's (Y4/5) Amazing Art afternoon	2:30pm
Friday 9 th October	Open morning for 2027 EYFS	10-12pm
Wednesday 14 th October	Harvest Festival at St Johns church	2:30pm
w/b Monday 19 th October	Parents evening week – more details to follow	various
Friday 23rd October	Last day before half term	
Monday 2nd November	Children return to school	

Clubs Autumn 1

w/b 14th September - Friday 23rd October (running for 6 weeks)

Day	Club	Year group	Teacher	Time
Monday	Invasion Games	Y1- 6	Premier Sports	3:30 - 4:30pm
Monday	Civic Award	Y6	Miss Docking	12:15-12:45pm
Tuesday	Drawing	All years	Mrs.Readey	3:30 - 4:30pm
Thursday	Dodgeball	Y2- 6	Mrs Benson	3:30 - 4:30pm
Thursday	STEM	All year	Mrs.Readey	3:30 - 4:30pm

If your child would like to attend a club, please book this on the MCAS app.