

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



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Issue 02



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, our School Parliament (previously known as School Council) have been busy carrying out a waste audit in school with Izzy from Recycle Devon. She'll be coming back in a couple of weeks to make a plan with the children about how we can improve the way we dispose of our waste.

We are really looking forward to our Stay and Read session, followed by our MacMillan coffee morning, next Friday, 25th September. We hope to see lots of you there! Any cake competition entries can be brought into the atrium please, with a full ingredients list. Full details can be found below.

I would like to remind parents that we close the door to school at 8:55am each morning to allow for a prompt start, with children in classes ready to begin lessons by 9am. Thank you for your support with this.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes,

Mrs Penhallurick

From Mr Jolliffe



In this week's newsletters there is important information about two changes to the government's statutory expectations for schools. The first relates to the use of mobile phones by pupils in schools: Keeping Children Safe in Education expects that pupils will not have access to mobile phones during the school day. The second changes relate to the way schools manage allergies and anaphylaxis under Benedict's Law. More information about both changes can be found below.

Allergy and Anaphylaxis – Benedict's Law

New legislation on managing allergies and anaphylaxis is due to be passed in December 2026 and ahead of this, the government has published statutory guidance for schools to prepare for the new rules. Pupils who have allergies and have had anaphylaxis already have healthcare plans in place to cover the risks of harm to them, but the new guidance strengthens the training expectations and requires each school to have spare auto-injectors in case another child has an anaphylactic reaction. More information about this and the background to Benedict's Law can be found on the website under 'information for parents' or by following this link: [Exe Valley Federation - Allergy and Anaphylaxis Information](#). A copy of the information on Benedict's Law is also attached to this week's newsletters.

Mobile phones in school

Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones in school and a new Mobile Phone Use Policy is due to be approved by governors on 29th September. The draft policy may be found on the EVMF website under 'key information' and 'policies' or by following this link: [Exe Valley Federation - Policies](#)

Pupils should continue to hand in phones to the school office if they need to use them on the way home to keep in touch with their parents. The policy also strengthens the rules we have had about mobile phones on residential visits. If there are particular circumstances that you would like to discuss, please contact your child's Head of School.

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Should I keep my child off school?

A poster with guidance on when to keep children off school due to illness is attached to this newsletter. There is a QR code for more information about each one.

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.

Can you help our PTFA?

Colour Run! The Erme Primary PTFA need your help, can you help?

1. **Volunteers** needed during the Colour Run event 28th September 2:45 – 3:15 to spray water or colour along the course.
 2. Can you lend us **water pistols**? For use at the colour run (all will be returned and used by adults only)
- Please let the school know if you can help!!



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.

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.

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.

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



This week, we have enjoyed reading the story 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. We've talked about what made the giant a kind character and had a go at being kind to those around us. We've seen lots of examples of kindness such as offering help to a friend, inviting someone new to play with you and by congratulating a friend for their good work.

In maths, year one continue to develop their knowledge of place value by representing objects with counters and cubes on a tens frame and learning to spell numbers to ten! In EYFS we have been enjoying singing number rhymes and acting them out with props!

Year 1 Weekly Timetable		
Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Miss Gilberthorpe (all day)	Miss Gilberthorpe (all day)
Tuesday	Miss Edgcombe (Miss Gilberthorpe's PPA & Leadership Time)	Miss Edgcombe (Miss Gilberthorpe's PPA & Leadership Time)
Wednesday	Miss Gilberthorpe (morning)	Mrs Docking (Science & RE)
Thursday	Miss Gilberthorpe (morning)	Mrs Penhallurick (PSHE & History)
Friday	Miss Gilberthorpe (all day)	Miss Gilberthorpe (all day)

Our Teachers	
Miss Gilberthorpe Monday - Wednesday morning - Thursday morning - Friday	Miss Edgcombe Tuesday - all day (Covering Miss Gilberthorpe's PPA and Leadership Time)
Mrs Docking Wednesday afternoon (Science & RE)	Mrs Penhallurick Thursday afternoon (PSHE & History)

Mothecombe – Miss Docking



The children have settled beautifully into their learning routines in Mothecombe Class, and we have been so impressed by their determination and perseverance as they tackle new concepts across the curriculum.

In maths, the children have been using lots of practical apparatus and visual models to deepen their understanding of place value. They can now confidently partition 2- and 3-digit numbers and read and write them with growing accuracy — a fantastic start to the year.

In Art, we launched our exciting new topic on *Explorers and Collectors*. The children were fascinated to discover how two artists use their surroundings and natural materials to create stunning artwork. Inspired by this, the class has now planned where they would like to explore around the school grounds to collect their own materials for their upcoming art projects.

Finally, in PE, the children have loved practising their balance, coordination and travelling skills. Their enthusiasm during our circuit-training sessions has been wonderful to see and we have already noticed brilliant improvements in their core skills – well done children.



Learners of the week

Meadowsfoot - Samuel for working hard to show the Meadowsfoot way.

Mothecombe - Amelia for her excellent attitude across all areas of learning.

Riverside - Niamh for putting great effort into all of her learning.

Oldaport - Henry for his great explanations.

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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	Runa
Mothecombe	Alice
Riverside	Zara
Oldaport	Hugo

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



This week, Riverside have smashed their work on number lines. Children have been confidently placing 4-digit and 5-digit numbers on a range of number lines, including those with different starting points, intervals and scales. Building on this, pupils explored nearest multiples of 10, 100 and 1000, using number lines to visualise which benchmark number each value is closest to. This helped them strengthen their understanding of place value, rounding, and number magnitude. We have continued our transcription weeks in English and have recapped noun phrases, expanded noun phrases as well as coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. We all enjoyed our first swimming session, showing excellent listening skills throughout the

safety briefing. Some children confidently swam 25 metres front crawl, focusing carefully on their arm and leg technique, while others gained confidence in the water through games designed to strengthen their kicking and overall control. In French, we have been practising simple greetings, learning how to ask someone's name and share how we are feeling, with lots of opportunities to speak and respond to one another. In Science, Year 3 and 4 applied their maths skills brilliantly by presenting data on sugar content in different cereals, using information from packaging to compare, record and discuss their findings. A week full of confidence, curiosity and great progress across the curriculum.



Values of the week

Meadowsfoot - Arlo for preserving in phonics and always trying his best.

Mothecombe - James for his perseverance in handwriting and phonics.

Riverside - Heidi for being a kind and compassionate friend.

Oldaport - Compassion is awarded to George for helping others.

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Oldaport – Mrs Benson



This week, Oldaport explored adaptation through the fascinating example of Darwin's finches. They learned how each finch's beak shape is linked to its environment and diet, helping it survive on its particular island. This supported their understanding of how animals change over time to meet their needs. We also enjoyed our first swimming session of the term. The children demonstrated great enthusiasm as they entered the water and great listening to the instructors. Alongside this, we have also been learning how to talk about our emotions in French. The children practised saying how they feel using simple, accurate phrases such as *je suis content(e), je suis triste, je suis froid, je suis chaud*.



Join Our Governing Team – Make a Difference in Education!

We are seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic individual to join our School Governing Board. As a governor, you'll play a crucial role in shaping the strategic direction of our school, ensuring the best possible outcomes for the children.

What's Involved?



Attend three Hub Board meetings per year (one per term) and an AGM in September



Read and engage with the Head's report, generating insightful questions



Participate in an annual school review and termly learning walk

Commitment:

- Meeting dates are scheduled in advance, ensuring sessions are efficiently run from 6–8pm
 - New governors complete Devon County Council (DCC) training online
 - You'll be assigned a mentor to support and guide you through the process

This is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to your local school, bringing your expertise and passion to a dynamic team. If you're interested, please send a brief Pen Portrait outlining why you'd like to get involved to Heidi Last, Clerk to Governors, at hlast@exevalleyfederation.org.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you to our team!

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Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 15 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
Monday 5 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	
Monday 2 nd November	Flu vaccinations, all years with consent	am
Tuesday 3 rd November	Swimming begins for Mothecombe and selected Yr 6 pupils	pm
Friday 27th November	Non pupil day	

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

Bookings are now closed for this half term. Bookings for next half term will be available week beginning 19th October.