

LINK ACADEMY TRUST

EASTER 2025 NEWSLETTER



A Happy Easter to All

FROM NICKY DUNFORD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear parents and carers,

The end of another term and as you can see the schools have the usual amazing learning experiences to report on as schools continue to offer their five star pledge. It is even more exciting when you see what has been planned for the summer term when we hope the sunshine and warmth will enhance our days out even more. As always we will continue to enlist your assistance in all the ways you are able to support us at each school, as providing additional resources to ensure we are able to continue to involve pupils in exceptional learning experiences is so important to pupils overall education.

Apologies for this next piece being a bit gloomy, but I feel I need to make sure you are all aware that many schools and Trusts are really struggling with their financial picture as this government at the moment is concentrating on other areas and education seems to be taking a backseat, particularly in terms of finance! Furthermore, as a Trust of small schools we are really finding the significant tightening of funding is having a real detrimental impact on how we can run our schools. The lessening of funds is part of deliberate policy, as clearly demonstrated through the lack of many sources of grant funding which are no longer available. Alongside this, our schools are seeing the drop in birth rate coming through as a considerable decrease in numbers on roll which has impacted on the financial allocations to schools enormously this year. Unfunded pay awards are to come and expected to be at least 2.8% on top of which the change in National Insurance has left this Trust £90,000 short of what is needed. I'm sure you are all aware of the daily increases in the cost of living- utility costs, food, and resources which are all having a detrimental effect. In the same way as 67% of Trusts nationally are experiencing, we are no longer able to set balanced budgets without cutting expenditure and as a result we are looking at every penny we have to spend. I tell you this as I need parents to understand that if we are making any cuts in the future- it is with great reluctance and is done with full consideration of the impact, but we are no longer able to mitigate such actions.

Now back to something a little more interesting. At the end of last term Ofsted visited Harbertonford for just one day on an Ungraded Inspection which led to a continued Good judgement. Bearnas also had a visit on the day before the last day of term, so pupils had a mix of visitors- Ofsted Inspector and Santa!!! There were some areas to work on, but Good judgements were achieved in Personal Development, Behaviour and Attendance and Early Years.

Farway had a SIAMS visit this term which are no longer graded but was also highly successful, making the comment 'the school has cultivated a series of effective partnerships, including with the Link Academy Trust, which has created a sense of togetherness. The decisive, strategic changes made in the last six months have had a significant impact on how the school community flourishes'. As I write this Ofsted are in Landscope completing an ungraded Inspection- which seems to be going well!

Many of you may know this already, but I would just like to ensure everyone is fully aware that I am retiring at the end of the summer term. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in education, returning from running a business to lead first Hennock and then Bearnas primary schools which led to the formation of the Link Academy Trust initially with the four Totnes area schools. As a Trust specialising in small community and church schools we have continued to expand steadily as we have a great reputation for ensuring our village schools are an integral part of the community but more importantly deliver an excellent education. We have had some schools that have brought nothing but excellent practice to the Trust and others that have needed support to ensure they offer the best possible outcomes for pupils and their families. All of us work together to create a very special organisation that support and improve each other- we always share the very best practice and have fun together doing this. The process to appoint my successor is now underway and parents will be informed as soon as the position is filled.

I am sure my final Newsletter next term will just illustrate all the amazing experiences our children are involved in which demonstrates just how unique each school is. Have a lovely Easter holiday and many thanks for your continued support.

Nicky



Bearnes Primary School



As we approach the end of another exciting term, I wanted to reflect on the wonderful experiences and events at our school over the past few months. At the beginning of term, our KS2 students visited two iconic landmarks in London: the Natural History Museum and the Houses of Parliament. The museum sparked curiosity and excitement among our students, while the Parliament tour, highlighted by a meeting with our local MP, Martin Wrigley, was truly inspiring and educational. Sycamores Class had an unforgettable night at the Heatree residential on Dartmoor. They enjoyed muddy, night walks and stories around the campfire, creating a warm and communal atmosphere. The highlight was a journey back in time to the Stone Age and Bronze Age, where students dressed in period costumes, made shelters, and crafted jewellery. Redwoods Class enjoyed a fantastic two-night trip to Slapton Ley, hiking through woodlands, participating in bush craft survival challenges, and exploring the coastline. Evenings were filled with local stories and campfire games, creating

lasting memories. The Acorns, Oaks, and Chestnuts classes enjoyed a delightful visit to the Avenue Church, where they engaged in Easter crafts. They created beautiful decorations and learned about the significance of Easter from Reverend Gill, Sarah Wood and the church volunteers. The Early Years enjoyed a trip to I-Town, where they dressed up and played in various role play outfits such as a police officer, fire fighter and farmer. This experience allowed them to explore different roles and have fun in a creative environment. Thank you to all the staff, parents, and students for making this term so memorable. Your support and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated.

Branscombe CofE Primary School



There has been lots to celebrate at Branscombe C of E this term. The children have taken part in a number of traditional celebrations from Wassailing to pancakes on Shrove Tuesday! The annual Wassailing is a long-standing tradition of the school and one that we are very proud to uphold. The children sang and spoke beautifully, blessing the fruit trees for the coming year. The children scared away the evil spirits by making lots of noise and then blessed the trees with bread dipped in apple juice. The children (and adults) also thoroughly enjoyed getting in character for World Book Day. There were a lot of great costumes and the children shared their passion for different books, authors and genres with each other. To continue the theme of reading, we were also delighted to be joined by local author Anne Parsons who shared her book 'Archie, Wait!' with us. The book is part of a series that Anne has written about her beloved Airedale Terrier - Archie. Hands on experiences are so important for the children and it was great to see them inspired by Anne and her work. We are looking forward to seeing the writing that the children go on to produce as they utilise all of her top tips for becoming an author. Happy Easter from all of us at Branscombe CofE.



Broadhembury CofE Primary School



Another action-packed term at Broadhembury CofE with the children having some wonderful experiences. There have been lots of celebrations this term with World Book Day, Red Nose Day and Ash Wednesday to name just a few. The children have had the opportunity to spend time in the Church, leading services for the school and local community, with local residents regularly commenting on the children's increased confidence and ability to speak publicly. As well as the usual celebrations, we have really been trying to utilise the great outdoors and all of the incredible spaces that we have in our school grounds and within the village. The younger children have been using their outdoor spaces to use water, sand and the mud kitchen to enhance their learning. The KS2 children have been selected to take part in a science project with The Exeter Science Centre and The Royal Chemistry Society. It involves checking the water quality of the river that runs through the village and submitting the data to form part of a wider study across the South West.

The children complete a monthly check of the river, which includes 10 scientific tests, and record the outcomes carefully to ensure validity. We are incredibly proud to be able to take part in this and help support the health and protection of the environment around us. Happy Easter from all of us at Broadhembury CofE.

Broadhempston Primary School



The Spring term at Broadhempston has been packed with creativity and excitement! Every class has had two days at Forest School where they learned fire lighting, cooking, and team-building skills in the great outdoors. For Comic Relief, students took part in a fake cake bake and we had cakes made from Lego, shaving foam, polyfilla, and kitchen sponges! Science Week was a highlight featuring a robot workshop, live lessons about whales and climate change, experiments with non-Newtonian liquids, melting ice and investigations into animal adaptations and seasonal change. World Book Day celebrated 'Little People, Big Dreams' focusing on inspiring figures with character battles and buddy reads and a workshop from MED Theatre introduced students to the 'Magic of the Hare' through storytelling and games. Birch Class celebrated 100 days of school with smoothies, spa activities, and dancing and KS2 have exchanged letters with our partner school in Uganda, learning about their culture and planting beds for as part of the Food for Thought project. It's been a term full of learning, fun and new experiences and we can't wait for what's next!



Cheriton Bishop Primary School



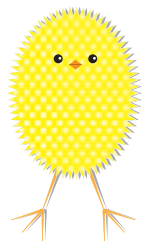
It has been another busy and successful term at Cheriton Bishop! From sports events like the recent Year 3 & 4 Handball Festival, to our Year 5 children completing their Bikeability course, the children have been making good use of the change in the weather. The children have also benefitted from having lessons from a specialist cricket coach as part of their PE learning. World Book Day is always a highlight of the year, and the children impressed with their imaginative costumes of some of their favourite book characters. The children's personal development is a priority at Cheriton Bishop and our Year 6 children have been working towards the Torbay Civic Award. The award is given to children who can show that they are giving back to their school and the wider community in different ways. Some of our children are giving their time as playleaders, or buddy readers for the younger children. The children have also raised money for their chosen charities through cake sales and other events. We are so proud of how enthusiastically the children have taken on this challenge. Best wishes to everyone for a restful Easter holiday.

Diptford CofE Primary School



As we come to the end of another busy Spring term, it is lovely to take this chance to look back at the wealth of enrichment on offer here at Diptford. For a small school, it is quite remarkable to review the number of additional activities we are able to include in our curriculum. World Book Day was a great success with children and staff putting their own spin on their favourite story book characters with some fantastic costumes. Other highlights include the very loud and explosive science show, community tree planting at South Brent, a visit to Dartmoor Zoo for our younger pupils with Key Stage Two exploring the geography of Dartmoor guided by a ranger. Thank you to our amazing Friends of Diptford School (FODS) for their support in helping to fund many of our trips as well as running exciting events for the children such as the Wonka's 'Golden Ticket' competition for World Book Day and posy making for fabulous females to coincide with Mothering Sunday. Year 5 & 6 learned some key life skills during their Bikeability sessions. You may have seen our pupils navigating

the roads around school in recent weeks and they can now negotiate cycling on the road safely. We have also welcomed many new families into school as part of our new 'Stay and Play' sessions for preschoolers and we look forward to continuing these popular drop-in sessions every Wednesday afternoon in the Summer Term. Thank you to all who were able to join us at our traditional Easter Service on Friday where our pupils really shone with their instrumental pieces, singing and class presentations. What a wonderful way to finish the term! From all the team here in Diptford, we hope you have a wonderful Easter break.



Drake's CofE Primary School



World Book Day was a fantastic celebration of reading and creativity at our school this year! The children had a wonderful time sharing their costumes and books with each other. Hedgehogs and Otters were lucky to have a visit from author Eva Le Bon, who read her story *What a Little Star*. The children loved joining in with songs on the ukulele. The whole school also came together to create potato characters inspired by their favourite books, displaying some imaginative designs! Another exciting event for Hedgehogs and Otters was a visit from the Hawkridge Bird of Prey Centre. The children were thrilled to see a Barn Owl, an Eagle Owl, and a Southern White-Faced Owl up close. They even had the opportunity to hold the birds. Year 3 and 4 participated in a handball festival, while Year 5 and 6 took part in a tag football tournament, competing against other local primary schools. Their teamwork and sportsmanship were outstanding, and we are so proud of their efforts! We also enjoyed a lovely Easter-themed toddler group where we made Easter chick cards.

A huge thank you goes to all the parents who volunteered for the Love My School afternoon - your support makes such a difference!

Farway CofE Primary School



It has been a fantastic term at Farway CofE! The children have had some incredible experiences both in school and out and about in the local area. Most recently they had a fantastic day at the KS2 handball festival, where all of the children represented the school admirably. Earlier in the term we celebrated World Book day, Red Nose day and had a visit from a local author to share her books and passion for writing. We are also incredibly proud of the feedback that we received from our recent SIAMS inspection. The inspector was blown away by the family feel at the school and shared how welcome he has been made to feel throughout his time in the school. He also commented on the way that the children support each other and engage positively in their learning - they shared a real curiosity about the world around them and an enthusiasm to be the best that they could be. This was also shown through the award of the International Cross of Nails that was achieved for the children's work on reconciliation and was presented at a special service at the Church.

We would also like to share the amazing news that Mrs Tubbs has had her baby - a beautiful little boy. We would all like to wish them well as they begin life as a family of 3! Happy Easter from all of us at Farway CofE.



Harbertonford CofE Primary School



Harbertonford has been celebrating its own fantastic report following the OFSTED visit in the last week of the Autumn Term. It is great to have inspectors confirm what we already knew: "There is a strong sense of community, a rich range of opportunities and a broad and balanced curriculum; parents value our caring nature and in our Early Years, children get off to a strong start." Our pupils described Harbertonford as 'a democratic school where everyone has a voice'. We have been seeking to further expand our wider curriculum offers over the course of this term: we have been visited in school by the Wonderdome science roadshow, the Climate Change Action workshop, the Devon Cricket development team and by Kipp, our resident musician who supports the pupils with their music performances. Alongside our in-school visits, pupils have performed at the Future Musicians Performance in Totnes, visited the RAAM museum in Exeter and the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth, competed in football fixtures and a handball tournament, performed an Easter show in our local

church, and raised around £2000 towards playground improvements through a sponsored endurance run, attended by our local MP, Caroline Voaden. When all of the above are added to our regular Forest School sessions, World Explorer Days, World Book Day, PTFA Film Nights, Quiz Nights and Bake-Offs, it's easy to see why pupils love coming to school at Harbertonford. There really is never a dull moment!

Hennock Primary School



We have had a busy term at Hennock from the first week to the last. All of our classes have taken part in curriculum enriching activities. Willows visited Exeter Mosque. Birch tracked the River Bovey from the source to the sea. Ash went on a walk through Bellever Forest led by the Dartmoor Pony Heritage Fund and to examine the world of polar exploration at Torquay Museum. Our children have also tried their hands at some exciting sporting activities. Willows scaled some impressive heights at a climbing centre, while Birch had a go at abseiling and caving. As well as lots of trips out we have also had many visitors come into school. Science Week brought a tree surgeon, an ecologist from Castle Drogo, a personal trainer and a bat specialist. We had a children's author come in for World Book Day and a member of the UK Parliament education team come in to talk democracy with our older children. The last week of term sees the annual Easter Fair run by our tireless PTFA and the children are all working hard on their performances for our Easter Celebration at St Mary's church. We wish all our families a very good Easter break.



Ilstington CofE Primary School



What a busy and exciting Spring Term we've had at Ilstington C of E! From the fantastic fundraising efforts on Red Nose Day with Owlacombe, to our whole school Cricket Day, to the Messy Church event with Foxgloves and Honeywell, this term has been filled with wonderful experiences that have brought our school community together. The EYFS and Honeywell Easter Party was also a highlight, with the children having a blast, especially with the bouncy castle! Thank you to Friends of Ilstington PTFA for supporting these events. Throughout the term, the children have explored fascinating topics like World War II, plant growth, living things and sustainability. One of the most exciting experiences has been watching our tadpoles grow as we have studied life cycles in science. Owlacombe students performed brilliantly at the Dance Festival at South Dartmoor School, not only showcasing their dancing skills but also participating in art and music workshops throughout the day. It was a day full of creativity and collaboration. This term, we also had a special treat with local author Jennifer Davy

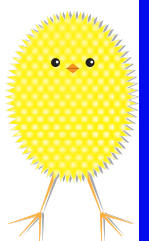
visiting, inspiring our students with her book. Honeywell also had a wonderful trip to Trago for a magical storytelling session. Finally, with summer on the horizon, we've recently enjoyed having our bell tent up for outdoor learning and fun. Looking ahead, we can't wait for another term of learning, fun, and adventure. From everyone here at Ilstington CofE, we wish you all a wonderful Easter break and look forward to welcoming you back for the summer term!

Landscope CofE Primary School



The term has been super busy - opportunities and experiences have been many, from the Future Musicians Project where KS1 took part in musical workshops before having the opportunity to perform alongside 100 talented musicians at KEVICCs to the whole school learning about electric circuits and motors before making their own amazing robots during science week. Our children's Ethos and Eco teams have engaged with decision makers and secured a fabulous eco and sustainable set of results. Rather than replacing stock with our usual supplies, we have made some changes. Firstly, every child in school has their own glue stick, which is refillable, saving on single use plastic as well as on money. Our whiteboard pens (of which we get through hundreds) have been switched out for whiteboard pencils which are water soluble and biodegradable to go with bamboo fibre cleaning cloths for the whiteboards. RESULT! Global Neighbours continues to drive some interesting and thought-provoking projects in school. We have been working closely with ambassadors from the Food for thought project

looking at injustice across the world in terms of climate and food. It has been truly amazing to set up pen pals, receive food diaries (a real source of discussion and disbelief!) and work on a tandem growing project to make comparisons with our friends in Kabuubu Primary School, Mubende, Uganda. The term will draw to a close with our annual Mothering Friday service - to celebrate all those who 'Mother' us, following which we will hold our Easter in a day celebration - offering fun and learning to all.



Littleham CofE Primary School



The Spring term at Littleham C of E Primary has been full of exciting and enriching experiences for our pupils! The whole school went on a memorable trip to Buckfast Abbey, where they explored the stunning surroundings and learned about its significance. The school also participated in handball and football tournaments against Otterton and Drakes schools, showcasing their teamwork and skills. Every child performed admirably from all three schools. Chestnut and Willow children had a fantastic visit from the Sidmouth Toy Museum, where they discovered toys from different eras and how they are different to their own. Pupils also enjoyed an after-school club in collaboration with Exmouth Library and the libraries unlimited project which has engaged families from across the community. Ash class have had the chance to explore the outdoors, linking it to the curriculum, through weekly forest school sessions and we have hosted parent workshops, run by the Inclusion Hub, which has provided valuable support too. Additionally, the school participated

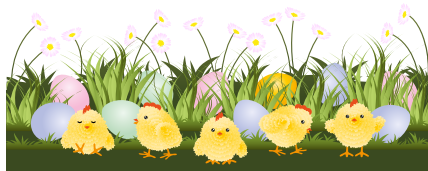
in the DAISI project. As part of this, the children had the exciting opportunity to learn how to play the steel pan drum, expanding their musical talents and cultural awareness. Overall, this term has been filled with diverse and exciting experiences, which we hope will last a lifetime for our children! Bring on the Summer term for more! I hope everyone has a great Easter break.

Morchar Bishop CofE Primary School



From Spring walks to DT projects using pneumatics, this term has seen lots of amazing learning going on in all classes with the children enjoying some fantastic opportunities to support their work in class. Music has stood out this term with Oak Class being part of a song writing project. With the support of Devon Music Hub, they wrote a song about the changing weather in Morchar Bishop, which they enjoyed performing to the whole school! Meanwhile our instrumentalists joined with other local schools to form a Future Musicians Orchestra. We were 98 children from beginners to students who play in county ensembles - it was an incredible experience and looks likely to become an annual event. There have been many sporting events across the term including gymnastics for KS2 and a dance festival for KS1, both hosted at QE secondary school. Chestnut Class are very proud to have won the Year 3/4 handball event organised by Mr Luxa. We have recently chosen ambassadors to be a pupil voice and suggested ideas that can be used across the school. The new

ambassador teams are excited to begin their roles in the summer term. The highlight of the term was World Book Day. As well as a visit from our local award-winning independent book shop, 'The Bookery', we were privileged to welcome Pierce Sweeney and Ben Purrington from Exeter City Football Club. They spent time talking to the children about reading and sharing their favourite books - there was a lot of talk about football too! As we head into the Easter break, we look forward to welcoming our new Academy Head, Hannah Bancroft, at the start of the summer term.



Moretonhampstead Primary School



We have had a busy term and are very proud of how hard our children have been working. The children have made good progress in their classroom lessons and have engaged in numerous enrichment activities too! Early in the term we had a couple of snowy days at school. The children really enjoyed playing together in the snow and even made several huge snowmen! Our Year 5 and 6 children took part in the 'Body Language' dance performance at South Dartmoor. The children performed alongside several other local schools including Ilsington and Widecombe. Moretonhampstead chose a wonderful picture of Dartmoor to inspire them and they were amazing! The whole school enjoyed a visit from The Science Dome. With much excitement about the recent and rare celestial event of six planets being visible, the children benefited from the visit learning loads and asking a huge amount of superb questions! Our year 3&4 children recently returned from a 'winter one-nighter' near Cadover Bridge. They enjoyed walking, cooking, a night walk and some weasling! The weather was amazing and the children

were all stars! Many thanks to Spirit Of Adventure for looking after us so well. We hope you all have a very Happy Easter and enjoy some restful family time.

Otterton CofE Primary School



What a fantastic Spring Term we have had at Otterton C of E Primary School. There have been so many highlights and lots of achievements celebrated along the way. The Year 1 and 2 children in Otters class experienced a shabbat celebration as part of their exploration into the Jewish faith in Religion. Heron Class were challenged to let go of perfectionism and be creative as they experimented with mixed media in Art. Sporting events have seen our Year 3 and 4 children show our school values in abundance, working well as a team and always caring and supporting those around them. World Book Day this term, brought with it some interesting costumes as the children embraced a silent letter word day. Of course, the all important Hot Chocolate stop was another definite highlight! Heron class had a wonderful afternoon inspired by their learning in History on the Ancient Greeks. Otterton's pupil ethos group have continued their hard work and have provided collective worships for their peers and teachers in the school to enjoy. Parent engagement events have been a big hit this term, with family members

coming in to help sew bunting and to test out and evaluate marble runs in design technology. It is lovely to be able to open our classrooms and empower the children to articulate what they're proud of to their loved ones. Our wonderful PTFA have worked hard this term, they've also played an active role in our Spring Term 'Love My School' event, which saw the climbing wall have a complete revamp. Thank you so much.



Sparkwell Primary School



Sparkwell Primary has had a wonderful Spring Term! We've been exploring the speed of light through special visitors and learning how to stay healthy with fruit smoothies and mindfulness activities like yoga. Mr Cole has settled in as the new Academy Head, and we've welcomed many new children to our flourishing community. We have been courageous advocates for causes close to our hearts - raising money for epilepsy awareness, Red Nose Day and supporting local volunteers wanting to develop their understanding of outdoor learning. We are also very grateful to all the volunteers, staff and parents that make Sparkwell so unique. Our Gardening Club has been busy creating a sensory garden and planting potatoes, ready for roast dinner come Easter. Our school dog, Chip, has settled in well and is eagerly awaiting new additions to our community, including an axolotl and perhaps a chicken or two. Our community partnership with the zoo has been working towards creating a new garden for visitors to enjoy as the weather warms up. We've been focusing on the

a power of "yet" and how to be ready to learn and be our best each and every day. Our Junior 10 Tours group is raring to go, and our Year 3/4s are off to their first-ever sports' tournament. Robin's Class visited the Eden Project to learn about sustainability, and we welcomed a faith speaker to teach us about Ramadan. We've also been learning about protected characteristics and the importance of diversity in society.

Stoke Gabriel Primary School



The Spring term in Stoke Gabriel started with the village Wassail celebration which raised an incredible £2800 for the school! Our Wassail King and Queen led the lantern parade into the orchard for the annual blessing of the apple trees, well done to everyone involved. As a result of this fundraising, we have been donated a huge amount of new playground equipment. The playground spaces are developing well and the feedback from the children has been positive. Thank you, FOSS! In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), the focus on outdoor learning has truly blossomed. The children have embraced nature-based activities, where learning has extended beyond the classroom into the school grounds. From planting seeds to observing the local wildlife, making, moving and being curious, the outdoor environment has provided a rich, hands-on learning environment. Across the school we have enjoyed visits from Exeter University's drama students who ran workshops about the local wildlife and Plymouth Argyle

Football Club who are teaching Key Stage 2 PE on a Friday. Our new baby and toddler group has been incredibly well attended, and it has been a pleasure to meet so many new families, we're enjoying connecting with the community in this way. We're all looking forward to the events planned for the summer term which include sports day and our Year 5 and 6 residential and class trips. As always, a huge 'thank you' to our school community for all of the support you give us. Have a wonderful Easter break.



Tedburn St Mary Primary School



Hello from Tedburn St Mary Primary! There have been many highlights at our school this term with a local author visit from Claire Helen Welsh, Music and Words workshops, the famous Tedburn Pancake Races, a Dance Festival at QE, Link Academy Mid Devon Handball Festival, two World Explorer Days where we visited Wales and Egypt, Easter Egg Hunt arranged by our fabulous PTA (FOTSMS), and dressing up galore for World Book Day and Red Nose Day. Our School Values focus this term has been on Ambition and Curiosity and the children have shown these two values in abundance. At Tedburn, we strive to encourage all our children to be the best that they can be and there are many ways in which they can do this. Through the sports partnership with QE, our children can access quality sporting experiences which they might not have the opportunity to enjoy elsewhere. As well as this, our brilliant Link Academy PE team always arrange memorable and fun opportunities for all children to experience. This term our years 3 and 4 children took part in the Handball Festival and

managed to get a team to the finals, narrowly missing out on the top prize to Morchard Bishop. Our year 6 children have been taking part in the Music and Words workshops and learning about songwriting and having a go at writing their own Leavers Song. We are going to need the tissues at this year's Year 6 Leavers Assembly.

Widcombe in the Moor Primary School



Spring has sprung in Widcombe! The daffodils are brightening our mood with their golden glow. Reception children and new starters are preparing to visit our local farm to witness the birth of a spring lamb as part of our 'Five Star Pledge'—a treasured and unforgettable moment! We've continued outdoor learning in our forest school, where children have been making wooden whistles and cooking with rationed ingredients to replicate WWII rations. Webburn and Cherry Brook visited Dartmoor Zoo, and we welcomed the outdoors inside with animal encounters, including a gorgeous barn owl spreading its wings in our school hall. Lower Dart headed out to get an authentic taste of Saxon costume, craft and culture at WildWood Devon and had a wonderful learning experience. Upper Dart completed another pledge this half-term with an outstanding dance performance at South Dartmoor, inspired by a Becky Bettsworth piece of art. Becky was there in person and was amazed by the creation. This half-term had a two-wheeled theme as Year 5 and 6 completed

their Bikeability training, making them safer cyclists on the roads. Lower Dart is gearing up for their level one training, and our balance bikes are whizzing around the playground daily, ridden by skilful Webburn and Cherry Brook children. World Book Day at Widcombe was celebrated in style. The children shared their love of reading, made an incredible effort with their costumes, and thoroughly enjoyed the top titles scavenger hunt. What a packed term of learning we've had. Summer term, here we come!



Wolborough CofE Primary School



What a lovely term we've had! It's been packed with adventures, creativity, and plenty of hands-on learning. Our Year 6s had an unforgettable time on their residential in Slapton, where they embraced the great outdoors—rock pooling, den building, and taking in the coastal views on long walks. Evenings by the fire on the beach made for some special moments. Our amazing dance club absolutely smashed their "Wicked" performance at the South Dartmoor School Sports Partnership dance show, showing off their hard work and talent. They also took the initiative to raise £70 in a cake sale for their costumes. Sports-wise, our handball team competed in an area competition and showed incredible determination, coming third overall after winning all but one of their 13 matches—what an achievement! Meanwhile, we kept the tradition alive with our pancake races in Market Square, which brought plenty of laughs and friendly competition. Back at school, the children have been busy with their D and T projects; baking bread (which filled the classrooms with the most amazing

smell!), making fruit kebabs, and creating a variety of delicious seasonal soups. We continue to celebrate the success of our much-loved book swap, which remains a big hit with the children. And of course, our Woolly Bears Coffee Mornings are still going strong, bringing our school community together for a warm cuppa and a chat. This term they have been visited by the Neurodiversity Navigator Team, Communication and Interaction Team and a Devon SEND Advisory teacher. We are so lucky at Wolborough to have such a wonderful school community!

Woodbury Salterton CofE Primary School



This term we have worked hard on developing our indoor and outdoor learning environments. Our pre-school children now have their own classroom which has meant that we have been able to provide a range of sensory and play based learning experiences based on their 'Book Bud' text and their own interests. We have redesigned our forest school area and trained two of our staff to deliver 'Wild Tribe' activities. This has enabled us to take many of our lessons outside and to use the natural learning environment to deliver many aspects of the National Curriculum. Alongside this, we have completed work on our Climate Action Plan. This has involved conducting a waste audit and running recycling workshops for our pupils to enable them to make positive changes in reusing, reducing and recycling their waste. Years 4,5 and 6 also enjoyed a trip to the Exeter Energy from Waste plant to find out what happens to our waste once it leaves our homes. Our Green Team have conducted their first litter pick and are busy planning their next action as agents of change. A highlight

for Key Stage Two was their Anglo-Saxon day where they thoroughly enjoyed engaging in a number of different activities to bring their learning in history to life and a highlight for our Key stage One pupils has been their learning in Design and Technology where they have enjoyed designing and creating their own moving vehicles.



Yeoford Primary School



What a fantastic and action-packed spring term it has been at Yeoford Primary School! Here are just a handful of the things we've done over the last few months. Our pupils have embraced a wide range of exciting experiences, starting with a brilliant opportunity to explore professional gymnastics equipment during a special visit to Exeter Gymnastics Club. Their enthusiasm and energy were a joy to watch! We also travelled back in time with a fascinating trip to St Nicholas Priory, which beautifully linked to our Tudor studies. Another highlight was our visit to Exeter Museum for the immersive 'Time Odyssey' workshop—an immersive, interactive experience that encouraged children to look closely at interesting artefacts. Road safety took centre stage with our 'Walkability' training sessions, helping children develop vital skills to stay safe when out and about. Meanwhile, Science Week brought a buzz of curiosity and discovery through hands-on experiments across all classes. World Book Day was a big hit, with creative costumes, potato book character making, and a special visit from our

local bookshop to celebrate a love of reading. Our children also took part in energetic dance sessions at the local secondary school and showed off their teamwork at a handball festival. Outdoor learning has flourished this term too. From geography fieldwork adventures at Haldon Forest to a delightful farm visit where children foraged for eggs and helped feed the lambs, these real-world experiences brought their learning to life. And of course, who could forget the joy (and the competitiveness!) of some good ol' pancake races? As we look ahead, we're excited for our upcoming Easter service, and plans are already underway to enhance our school environment further. These include additional play equipment, a redesigned forest school area, and the creation of a beautiful new wildlife pond—developments we can't wait to share more about in the summer term. Thank you to our wonderful staff, pupils, and families for making this term so special!

