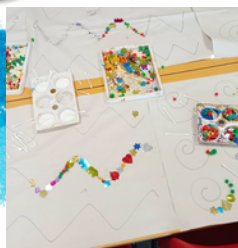




Axminster Community Primary Academy Newsletter

18th September 2026, Issue 2



This Week

It was lovely to welcome parents who came to our phonics, meeting with the Head and SEND coffee morning this week to explain our routines. This year we have adjusted the school day so children begin with a skills focus. This includes reading, handwriting, spelling and phonics (RWI) or arithmetic fluency. After break, pupils have a maths and writing session. Afternoons are for the foundation subjects. To deepen learning, we now block History, Geography and Science so each subject is studied intensively for 2-3 weeks (three afternoons per week). This approach helps children delve more deeply and become genuinely immersed in each topic. Art, PE, music, RE and PHSE are taught weekly. You can find more detail about what your child is learning on their year group curriculum map on the school website. Children will bring home a reading book matched to their reading level and a library book to share at home.

Our revamped library has launched and the new pupil librarians are already creating a lovely buzz about reading. Children in KS2 have a login for Lexia (reading/phonics support) and Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS). We ask that pupils spend 10-15 minutes on each platform at home daily where possible; regular short practice makes a big difference to progress. If you need another copy of your child's login details, please ask their teacher.

The government has withdrawn the Sports Premium funding that previously provided nearly £20,000 to the school. This funding had been a major contributor to our catch-up swimming offer. Because of this significant reduction in the budget, we have remodelled our swimming provision for this year to ensure the best use of resources and that as many pupils as possible receive quality sessions. Hawks, Falcons and Eagles (Years 5 and 6) will each swim for a term, giving each class 10 sessions focused on stroke development and life-saving techniques. We appreciate your understanding as we adapt to this change.

Year 3 have enjoyed a trip to Trill Farm this week. Thank you to staff and parent helpers who support trips like this; they really bring the curriculum to life. Huge thanks to Trill Farm for providing this fantastic opportunity.

We want to say a special thank you to DeeDee Redford and her family for the very generous donation of a piano this week. This will greatly enhance our music provision. We look forward to welcoming DeeDee for a recital at school soon.

We held our 'Big Vote' this week - voting in our new school and sports councillors. Huge thanks to the Town Council for supporting us and helping the children to develop their understanding of democracy.



Next Week ...

Breakfast Club and After School Stay and Play club run daily - MUST BE PREBOOKED AND PAID FOR BEFORE THE DAY

Monday

Carnival Day! (Nothing for parents to do!)

Tuesday

Wednesday

Trill Farm Trip - ½ of Y3

Thursday

Guitar lessons

Friday

Sponsored Obstacle Course - raising money for school funds

This Year's Whole School Attendance
94.9%

Winning Year Group
Year 3 96.52%

Attendance Matters



Our Core Value this half term is:

Kindness

Our Learning this Week...

Little Acorns

This term, we are exploring ourselves, our emotions and our families, and the children have already been having so much fun with their learning! The children have enjoyed looking at themselves in the mirrors and making lots of different facial expressions, including happy, sad and angry faces. They have also been learning about different emotions through our Colour Monster activity, sorting the emotions into their correct colours. Our learning has continued outdoors too, where the children have been getting creative making faces in the sand. In Maths, we have been exploring colours and practising our counting skills up to 10.



Robins and Starlings

Robins have made a wonderful start to Week 2 and are ready to get stuck into lots of learning! So far this week we have been counting while sorting old and new toys, as well as exploring and playing with some old favourites including a kaleidoscope, Rubik's Cube and yo-yo. We have also been busy creating our own toys through junk modelling and having lots of fun buying and selling toys in our classroom shop. In PE, we became witches and wizards and had great fun learning how to move safely through space, change direction and stop with control.

Hedgehogs and Squirrels

We have had a wonderful week in Squirrels and Hedgehogs. In Art, we have been exploring spirals. On Monday, we explored lots of old and new toys as part of our topic launch before making our own toys out of junk modelling. We decided if the toys we saw might belong to us, our parents or our grandparents!



Foxes, Otters and Badgers

Year 3 children enjoyed a fantastic visit to Trill Farm, where they explored how vegetables grow from seed to food. They walked around the farm, observed the different plants growing, and had a go at drawing the plants they could see. They also enjoyed a little taste testing, trying fresh cucumber and tomato and sharing their thoughts about the different flavours and textures! Back in school, Year 3/4 have been learning about Islam in Britain today. They have been researching how many Muslims and mosques there are in Britain and thinking about the different communities that make up Britain today. A lovely week of hands-on learning, exploration and discovery! It has been a great week of hands-on learning, curiosity and discovery!

Falcons, Hawks and Eagles

In Computing, we've been exploring how yes/no questions can be used to find information when working with databases. Our pupils have been getting to grips with how the questions we ask can help us sort, filter and discover data. We've also been travelling back in time to Ancient Greece, learning about the origins of democracy and how people took part in decision-making. What better way to put our learning into practice than by holding our very own class elections! Our pupils cast their votes for our School Council and Sports Council representatives, putting democracy into action right here in our classroom.





The Year Ahead

Axminster Community Primary Academy

2026/27 PLANNER

SEPTEMBER

Monday 7th: Children return to school
Wednesday 16th - Coffee with the Head - hall 9am
Thursday 17th - SEND Coffee Morning - hall 9am
Monday 14th - Recycling week
Tuesday 15th - Flu vaccinations / Phonics workshop in the hall 3pm
Wednesday 16th - SEND PLP meetings (hall)
Monday 21st - Carnival Day
Wednesday 23rd - Maths workshop in the hall 3pm
Friday 25th - Eagles Class Assembly 3pm
Friday 25th - Sponsored obstacle course
Monday 28th - European Day of Languages
Wednesday 30th : Film night :3.30 - 5.30pm

OCTOBER

Thursday 1st - National Poetry Day / - Stay and Play Family OPAL session 3.15 - 4pm
Friday 2nd - Falcons Class Assembly
Friday 9th - Harvest Festival / Hello Yellow day - wear yellow accessories with uniform
Tuesday 13th / Thursday 15th - Parents Evening 4-6pm
Wednesday 14th - PTFA AGM
Monday - Friday 19th - 23rd - Bikeability
Wednesday 21st - Disco
Thursday 22nd - Non school uniform day
Friday 23rd - INSET school closed
Monday 26th Friday 30th - Half Term

NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd - Children return to school
Friday 6th - Otters Class Assembly 3pm
Monday 9th - Opal Award and Stay and Play Family OPAL session 3.15pm
Wednesday 11th - Armistice Service
Thursday 12th - Individual Photos
Friday 20th - Children in Need non uniform day - wear spots
Monday 16th - Odd socks day - wear odd socks to school today (Anti-bullying week launch)
Friday 20th - Hawks Class Assembly 3pm
Thursday 26th - Thanksgiving
Friday 27th - Non-School Uniform Day and Decorate for Christmas 3.30pm (bring children to join in the fun!)

DECEMBER

Monday 30th - Christmas Fayre 3.30-4.30pm
Tuesday 1st/ Wednesday 2nd / Thursday 3rd - Christmas Craft
Friday 4th - Badgers Class Assembly
Tuesday 8th - Little Acorns Nativity 3pm
Thursday 10th - Reception Nativity 3pm
Monday 14th - Christmas DT Day
Tuesday 15th - KS1 Christmas Show 2.30pm and 5pm
Wednesday 16th - Christmas Lunch and KS2 Carols Around the Tree 3pm
Thursday 17th - Christmas Discos
Friday 18th - Christmas Service 9.30am / Christmas parties
Monday 21st - Friday 1st Jan - Christmas Holidays

JANUARY

Monday 4th - INSET day
Tuesday 5th - Children return to school
Tuesday 12th - SEND PLP meetings (hall)
Friday 15th - Foxes Class Assembly 3pm / Winter Family Bingo 3.30-6pm
Monday 18th - World Religion Day
Tuesday 19th - Acceleration plan meetings (hall) - invited parents only
Wednesday 20th - Film Night - 3.30 - 5.30pm
Friday 22nd - M and M Pantomime
Thursday 28th - KS2 Spring Concert 2.50pm

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th - Parents Evening 4-6pm
Friday 5th - NSPCC Number Day
Tuesday 9th - Safer Internet Day / Pancake races
Wednesday 10th - Disco
Friday 12th - Non-Uniform Day
Monday 16th - Friday 20th - Half Term
Monday 22nd - Children return to school

MARCH

Thursday 4th - World Book Day
Friday 5th - Robins class assembly 3pm
Monday 8th / Tuesday 9th - Mothers Day Crafts
Monday 8th - 12th - Science Week
Wednesday 10th - Eid
Thursday 11th - Stay and Play Family OPAL session 3.15 - 4pm
Friday 19th - Red Nose Day / Spring Family Bingo 3.30 - 6pm
Monday 22nd - Sponsored Run
Wednesday 24th - Y3/4 Show 2pm and 5pm
Thursday 25th - Easter Service 9.30am / Easter Egg hunt / Easter bonnet parade 3.15pm

APRIL

Friday 26th March - Friday 9th April - Easter Holidays
Monday 12th April - Children return to school
Friday 16th - Squirrels Class Assembly
Tuesday 20th - SEND PLP meetings (hall)
Thursday 22nd - Earth Day
Tuesday 27th - Acceleration plan meetings (hall) - invited parents only
Friday 30th - May Day Fete - parents from 2pm

MAY

Monday 3rd May - Bank Holiday - school closed
Tuesday 4th May - Inter House Sport Festival
Monday 11th - Thursday 14th - Y6 SATS
Monday 17th - Friday 21st - Walk to School Week
Wednesday 19th - Numeracy Day
Monday 24th - Non School uniform day
Wednesday 26th - Disco
Thursday 27th - Class Photos
Friday 28th - Sports Day

JUNE

Monday 31st May - 5th June - Half Term
Monday 7th - INSET day
Tuesday 8th - Children return to school / School Disco
Friday 11th - International Day of Play - Stay and Play Family OPAL session 3.15 - 4pm
Monday 21st - World Refugee Day
Tuesday 22nd - Y5 STEM day at Axe Valley
Friday 25th - Y6 Fiver Challenge / Summer Fete 3 - 4.15pm

JULY

Wednesday 30th - Axe Valley Transition Day Y6
Friday 2nd July - Axminster's Got Talent
Monday 5th - Art Day and Art Exhibition
Wednesday 14th - Transition Day and Meet the Teacher 3.30pm
Thursday 15th - Y5/6 Show 2pm and 5pm
Monday 19th- Wednesday 21st - Y6 Residential
Thursday 22nd - Whole school Awards Service
Friday 23rd - Y6 Leavers Service (hall) 9am

We will endeavour to keep all dates as scheduled, but please note there may be changes if necessary, i.e. if events rely upon good weather. We will alert you to this as early as possible if any alterations are required.

Safeguarding Information



Mrs Hulbert
DSL



Mrs Elsworth
Deputy DSL

Our safeguarding and child protection information, including our policy, can be found [here](#) on our website.

School Noticeboard

Stay and Play After School Club

We are now booking spaces for After School Stay & Play via the Clubs section of your ParentPay account for children in Reception - Year 6, or by speaking to Nursery staff for Little Acorns. Places MUST be booked and paid for online. If you are not registered for these clubs please email the office to arrange this.

These are limited and are offered on a first come, first served basis.

School Lunches

Please make sure you have booked your child's lunches via ParentPay by Thursday evening each week, even if your child is in KS1. Meal choices cannot be guaranteed if they are not booked in advance

Lost Property

Please have a look at the lost property in the boxes at the front of school. We would love to reunite people with their things. Please could you check that your children's things are labelled with a permanent marker or label so that we can return things easily.



Events

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OUR SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE