



Trust Perseverance Respect Forgiveness Friendship Compassion Truthfulness

t 01884 881354 | e admin@rackenford-primary.devon.sch.uk

Available online at [www.rackenford-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.rackenford-primary.devon.sch.uk) and via subscription

## Welcome back

Welcome back to the new school year, and welcome to all our new intake in Reception and those children and their families who have joined us in other year groups.

The children have been really busy settling into their new year groups and and for some, new classrooms and new teachers.

We have noticed a happy, calm and caring atmosphere in school this week and the children have been really contentious about their learning and outcomes.

We are currently composing class and school prayers, thinking about our whole school theme – There is no Place Like Home – and discussing our expectations around school, our behaviour for learning and building learning power, our golden rules and stag code.

**Mrs Maude**



## Chickens & rabbits

Our chickens will be returning to school next week. All three had a lovely holiday at Mrs Maude's house in Coobinteignhead.

Daisy and Maisy, our new rabbits, will be joining us as soon as we have sorted their accommodation out!



## Meet your teachers

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our school this year – Mrs Rachel James in Class 3 and our new administrator Mrs Michaela Bundy. We also have the pleasure of welcoming back Miss Hannah Wotton to Class 3.

We will be holding '**Meet your Teacher**' afternoons on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>, 3.40pm - 4.30pm. This is an opportunity to visit your child's classroom, meet your teacher and find out about what's happening this term.

Following a brief talk/presentation by your teacher at 3.45, you will have time to look round, meet other parents and carers, ask questions, and see what your children have been doing in the first week – we'll put the kettle on too!

Don't forget we have an open morning every Tuesday at drop off – 8.45am - 9.15am – which you are always welcome to attend. You could also join us for our daily mile walk around the village, which we do each morning!

## Theatre visit

Theatre Alibi will be visiting school with their production of **Table Mates** on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

The play focuses on three cooks, with three very different lives. Each course tells a story.

Theatre Alibi combines vivid storytelling, live music and a good old boogie to bring this funny and creative household to life – we can't wait!





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## Diary Dates



### 11 September

Meet your teacher afternoon

### 13 September

Meet your teacher afternoon

### 17 September

School council voting

### 21 September

International Day of Peace

### 27 September

Theatre Alibi visit

## PE dates & equipment

### Swimming

Our swimming day is still to be confirmed, but all children are required to bring swimming kit and towels.

### PE

**Class 1** – Monday afternoon

**Class 2** – Wednesday afternoon

**Class 3** – Tuesday afternoon

**PE uniform:** plain white T shirt (no logos) and blue shorts/track suit bottoms. Please make sure long hair is tied back and no jewellery is worn.



## Useful contacts

Early Help For Mental Health:  
<http://eh4mh.co.uk>

Early Help: <http://devon.cc/earlyhelp>

SEND local offer:  
<http://new.devon.gov.uk/send>

## Help wanted

We are in need of 2 regular volunteers to accompany us when swimming on Monday afternoons. We leave at 1.15.

Are there also any parents/carers that have a mini bus license who would be interested in driving the mini bus when we go on visits?

If anyone can help us with these please contact the school office and let us know!

Many thanks

## Music tuition

Music tuition for the following instruments starts again next week:

- Drumming
- Guitar
- Piano
- Keyboard

If you would like to find out more please contact the school office.

## Outdoor Adventurous Activities

All children will be taking part in outdoor education through out the year. This will be a combination of bush craft, outdoor education activities( orienteering, environmental science) and team building, problem solving, etc.

Pupils will come to school in their school uniform and will get changed for (OAA).

They will need clothes that can get wet and muddy, waterproof trousers and jacket, wellies or other suitable footwear.



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## Free school meals

Some children may be eligible for free school meals if you receive certain benefits.

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 get free school meals, but if you are eligible for further support, the school may also get additional funding on top of that.

Please check with your local authority to see if you are eligible.

More information can be found online at [new.devon.gov.uk](http://new.devon.gov.uk).

## Gardening club

The Rackenfords Garden Club was delighted with the children's entries at their Autumn Show last weekend.

The Rackenfords School Cup was won by **Louis Denno** for his design for a willow sculpture, and **Louis** won the Senior Cup for his amazing garden in a seed tray. **Arthur Hyland's** feather hat won the Junior Cup and he also won the Rackenfords Club Cup for most points. There were also excellent entries from **Toby** and **Eliza Denno**. **Millie Wyatt** from Little Angels had firsts for her colouring in and her recycled dragon and the other children from Little Angels all submitted a colouring in. Very many congratulations to all.



## Exe Valley toddler group

Come and join our warm and welcoming group for craft, singing, storytelling and lots of toys.

We meet at Calverleigh village hall on a Friday morning 10-12 (term time only)

Refreshments  
Small charge of £1.50 per child or £2 for 2+ children

Contact Sophie Webber 07792259081 for more information or our Facebook page: exe valley toddlers.

## Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)  
Sarah Maude, Head of School

Deputy Safeguarding Lead  
Sharon Hagley & Claire Shanahan

## Mindfulness

"Each morning we are born again.  
What we do today is what matters most." **Buddha**

## Autumn Days

As the weather is changing, please can you ensure that your child has a warm and waterproof coat in school each day along with appropriate footwear.



## Next week

W/B Mon 10 September 2018

**Monday**  
PE for Class 1

**Tuesday**  
PE for Class 3  
Meet your teacher

**Wednesday**  
PE for Class 2

**Thursday**  
Meet your teacher



## Teacher comments

### Mrs Rogers

"We have noticed how smart the children have looked this week with their new uniforms and shiny shoes."

### Miss Horell

"How lovely to see all the children after the summer."

### Miss Budden

"The children are looking forward to all the exciting learning activities that have been planned for them this half term."

### Mrs Ashdown

"I am really enjoying working in class 1 with our youngest children."

### Miss Wotton

"I am so happy to be back. I am impressed how much the children are excited about their learning. They are raising to challenges, pushing themselves and keen to learn. They are such a friendly group."

### Mrs James

"What a great start, well done every body."

### Mrs Taylor

"We have been using our new sensory room in the afternoons. Come and see the space and meet Blackberry and Tom our sensory fish."

### Jane and Alan in the kitchen

"Happy children, happy faces."

### Mrs Maude

"There is such a lovely feel around the school'. I am looking forward to seeing you all again next week.'

## Absence from school

As you know we have a duty of care for all children, and safeguarding is our top priority. If your child is ill or absent from school for another unavoidable reason it is important that you keep us in the loop.

Please can you telephone the school to let us know. Please can you call between 8.15 and 9.15 to inform Michaela (Miss Bundy) in the school office, giving the reason for the absence.

### Absence Request forms

The law does not grant parents/carers an automatic right to take their children out of school during term time. If the circumstances relating to a request are considered exceptional and the absence is authorised by the school, the authorising of the absences will be conditional on the child(ren) attending satisfactory up to the date covered by this request.

If you wish to request an authorised absence for exceptional circumstances only, please ask Michaela for a Devon County Council form: L5 Absence Request Form.

## Flexi School Arrangement

Flexi-schooling is used to describe a situation where a child's parents or carers opt to educate at home for part of the time.

Rackenford Church of England supports this choice and acknowledges that, "parental involvement in children's education from and early age has a significant effect on educational achievement and continues to do so into adolescence and adulthood". Sylva, et al (2004) Effective preschool education, Final report DFES. London: Institute of Education.

If you would like to discuss this further please arrange an appointment with either Sarah or Sammy who would be happy to talk this through and explain the Flexi - Pathways available.

## Indoor and outdoor shoes

We are very happy for children to change into outdoor shoes to play outside. Some children have been changing into a pair of trainers. This is absolutely fine and it keeps their new shiny shoes shiny!

