

23RD OCTOBER 2026

EAST-THE-WATER PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Key Dates

Last day of half term is Friday 23rd October
Please see your fridge letter for other dates

Dear Parents/ Carers

It's been lovely to welcome so many new children across the school this half term, with more joining us after the break. A warm welcome to all our new families.
Several visiting families have commented on just how friendly and welcoming our children are. It's particularly nice to hear, and the children deserve the credit for making people feel at home.

I hope everyone has a good half term. Enjoy the sunshine.



Best wishes,

Adam Buckeridge, Headteacher







Year 1 Woodland walk

Year 1 enjoyed a wonderful visit to the forest to look for signs of autumn. They observed changes in the leaves and learned to spot the difference between a deciduous oak tree, which loses its leaves, and an evergreen holly tree, which keeps its leaves all year round.







Parking Safely

Please remember to park safely and considerately when dropping off and collecting children. Be mindful of pedestrians, other road users and local residents. The safety of our children must always come first. Thank you for helping to keep everyone safe.

We would like to formally apologise to your car stereo in advance.

The sea creature tracks your children haven't stopped singing are officially loose on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon, and everywhere else you stream music!

Search East-the-Water Primary School, crank the volume, and prepare to have these underwater bops stuck in your head.



Year 5 Bikeability

Year 5 recently took part in their Bikeability sessions, developing essential cycling and road safety skills. The children began by learning how to ride safely in a controlled environment, practising in the school playground before progressing to the local roads around East-the Water to put their new skills into action. It was a fantastic experience that helped build confidence and awareness while cycling. A big thank you to the wonderful Bikeability instructors for making the sessions both educational and enjoyable!









Reception

Reception have been looking at 'where I live' as part of our topic this half term. We took part in some fieldwork around the school- spotting different features and recording them on our sheet. This is because we belong to our school. We have also learnt about different types of homes in our local area; such as bungalows, flats and houses. We had lots of fun recreating these homes out of construction blocks and junk modelling.







Year 6 Northam Burrows trip

Year 6 enjoyed a fascinating WW2 history walk at Northam Burrows, learning about North Devon's important role in protecting the coastline during the Second World War, including the use of radar to detect approaching threats. The knowledgeable rangers brought history to life, sharing insights into the remains of wartime defences that can still be seen today. A big thank you to the National Landscape Community Transport Fund, which kindly covered the full cost of travel, making this valuable learning experience possible.



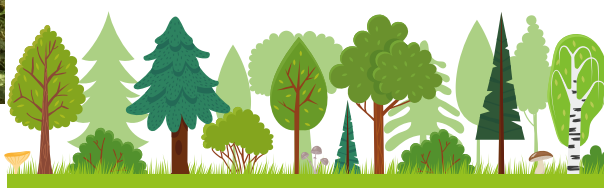


Year 4 Woodland biome fieldwork



Last week year 4 ventured to the Woodland Clinic. The children explored the area and identified the different plant and animal species in the area. The children used the iPad to take photos of the different animals and plants but also used apps to identify them. Once we had completed our field work, the children added their information to their books.







Year 4 Egyptian day

On Monday, year 4 travelled back in time to the Ancient Egyptians civilisation. The children came dressed as Ancient Egyptians and took part in a number of exciting activities including; artefact handling, cartouche creating and a live mummification performance.
The children in year 4 discussed what life was like as an Ancient Egyptian when observing the different artefacts. They understood the importance of religion and loved ones when they created their cartouches. And finally became mummification experts when they performed their mummification to another year group.















Year 3 performance poetry

Year 3 have been learning their new poem 'The Sound Collector' by Roger McGough. Each child has worked incredibly hard to remember their lines and use SHAPE when performing to the class.

We are all very excited to showcase this to adults on Friday!



Starting School in September 2027?



Is your child getting ready to start their school adventure in September 2027?

Applications for primary and junior school places open on 15 November 2026 and close on 15 January 2027.

If your child is due to start Reception or move to junior school, please remember to apply before the closing date.

Applications can be made through the Devon County Council school admissions website.

We look forward to welcoming our new starters in September!



Could You Be Our Next Parent Governor?

Do you care about our school community? Do you find yourself wondering how decisions are made, or have ideas about how we can make our school the best place for every child to learn and thrive?

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor and we'd love for you to consider joining our governing board!

Interested or want a quick chat first? Contact clerk@etwschool.com for more information.

If more parents apply than spaces available, we'll hold a friendly ballot where the school community votes.





Year 2 library trip and book club

Year 2 pupils ventured out for their first library trip of the year. They were enthralled with the story of 'My Name is Bear' and the librarian praised the children's excellent listening. After, pupils were able to choose their own reading for pleasure book to keep at school. They enjoyed a snack on Bideford Quay which helped when walking back to school (up that huge hill!)





This half term, we have been discussing our reading preferences and sharing opinions of our class books. Year 2 pupils even brought in their own favourite books from home to share with their peers.











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SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS



Pupils in years 3-6 had an extremely hard choice to make last week during the annual school council elections. Electees visited numerous classes to share their ideas and give reasons why they would make a fantastic school councillor - and they did this so confidently! Children then were able to make their final vote on election day in the official voting booth. We'd like to say a big thank you to Devon County Council for lending us their booth and ballot boxes, allowing us to make this experience as realistic as possible!

It was an exceptionally close vote but we can confirm that your new school councillors are Sidney, Millie-Rae, Frankie, Harry C, Freya, Amber representing year 6 and Rosie, Preston, Emelie and Fraizer representing year 5. Huge congratulations to you all! We can't wait to see what exciting projects you get up to this year.





Halloween Discos

A massive thank you to everyone who came along and helped make our Halloween Discos such a success. The costumes, dancing and enthusiasm were fantastic, and we hope your children came home full of happy memories





Ugly Bob has shared his holiday snaps with the squad and it looks like he had a fabulous time.

Obbie, and his cousin Marvin, have also visited lots of you at home. They have made so many new friends and can't wait to meet more of you.

Please remember to send us your fabulous photos!





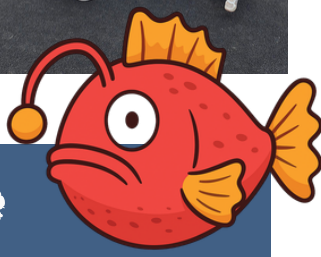












Attendance - Let's keep up the great work!

Despite a few sickness bugs doing the rounds, our whole-school attendance is currently 96.2% – just above our 96% target! Thank you to all our families for helping us achieve this positive start to the year.

We know that children sometimes need time at home to recover from illness, and we hope everyone who has been poorly is feeling better.

Every day that children are well enough to be in school gives them another opportunity to learn, build friendships and enjoy being part of their class. We're doing really well together – let's keep this positive momentum going!

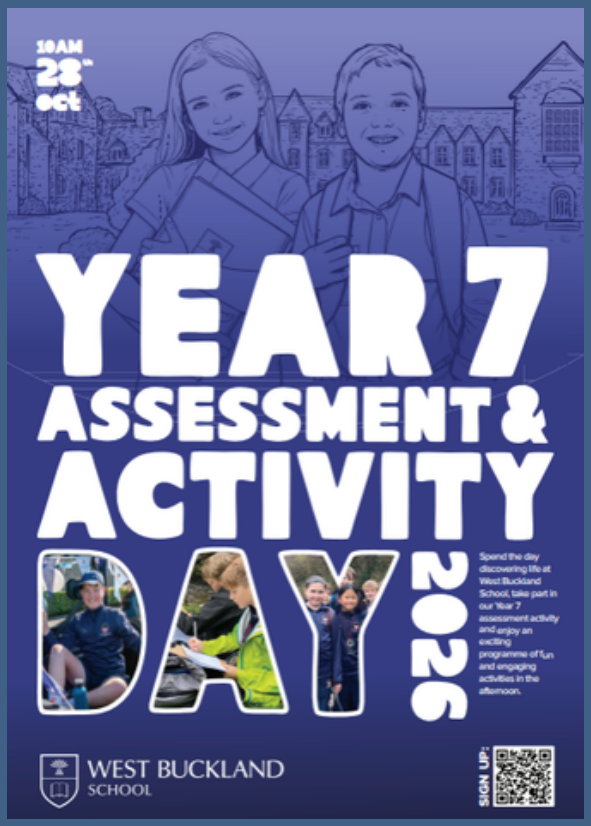












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