



11th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so lovely to see everyone so excited to be back at school. The children have settled in beautifully and are already slipping into their new routines with confidence and plenty of smiles. I've seen so many kind, helpful role models supporting our new children, which has made the start of term feel really welcoming. Just a reminder that the school gates close at 8:55am so everyone can be ready for phonics or spelling at 9am. Please make sure PE kits and coats are in school each day, and any annual consent forms are returned to Mrs Jarvis by Monday.

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss Aldridge



Value and Learners of the Week



Hound Tor

Learner – Reggie – For beautiful letter formation in phonics

Value - Ivara – For persevering with coming into school with a positive attitude towards learning.

Shilstone Tor

Learner - Dash - For giving his all in every lesson this week.

Value – Alex – For trusting all of the adults and children with in the school.

Row Tor

Learner – Celeste – For working really hard and demonstrating positive learning behaviour during all lessons.

Value – Emily L – For persevering every morning to come into school with a smile on her face.

Key Dates/Reminders:

Friday 25th September – 2:45pm – 3:30pm – Macmillan Coffee afternoon – All welcome to join us in the hall.

Friday 2nd October – 9:30am – Harvest Festival – Please come and join us in the Church where we will be celebrating Harvest.

Friday 9th October – 7:30pm – PTA AGM – Please note the change of date. It will still be held at The Cornwood Inn. All welcome to attend.

Thursday 15th October – 9am – EYFS and Year 1 – Come and watch our phonics lessons to learn a bit more about Little Wandle.

WB 14.09.26	Who?	What?	When?
Monday	Booked in Children	Lego Club	3.30-4.30pm
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday	Booked in Children Booked in children	Premier Sport Football yr. 2-6 Cross Stitch club – KS2 only	3.30-4.30pm
Friday			

From Mr Jolliffe



Welcome back to a new school year! After a summer holiday with amazing weather, it has been great to see all the children back at school and ready for another year of learning and growing, both physically and emotionally. Welcome too, to the four new Heads of School, Mrs Nichols at Brampford Speke, Miss Aldridge at Cornwood, Mr Brown at Silverton and Mr Wootton at Whimple.

Federation Development Plan

A summary of this year's Federation Development Plan has now been published on the federation website. This plan outlines our development priorities for this year under the five aims that are part of the federation's overall strategic plan. Please do take a few minutes to read through it so that you are aware of the development priorities for the federation. Each school also has a School Development Plan that reflects the development priorities that are specific to each member of the federation. The link to the Federation Development Plan is here [Exe Valley Federation - Strategic Plans](#)

Healthcare Plans

At the start of the year, we would like to remind parents about the importance of updating Individual Health Care Plans. Individual Health Care Plans are written by health practitioners and schools to make sure that everyone looking after a child with medical conditions knows what to look out for and what to do if intervention is required. This includes Asthma Care Plans, which are one type of IHCP and these have a tendency to go out of date, so now is a good time to review them and make sure all the medication held in school is in date and still relevant.

Where pupils develop medical conditions other than asthma, an IHCP should be written to cover all aspects of their healthcare. This is important as one condition may impact on another and the needs of the whole child should be considered by educational professionals.

New legislation about Adrenaline Auto-Injectors [Epipens] also means that all children who carry these devices need an IHCP. If your child may have an allergic reaction, please make sure that the plan is up to date and the device is in date. All staff will receive training on the use of Adrenaline Auto-Injectors next week.

If your child has an IHCP, please contact your school office to arrange to talk to the admin assistant or Head of School to make sure that your child's IHCP is up to date. Thank you for your help.

Changes To Family Circumstances

If your family circumstances have changed recently, it would help us to know about these changes so that we can update our communication system. Our School Comms can be set up to send email notifications to either one parent or both parents and you may want to change the current settings if your circumstances have changed in the last few months. We are very happy to send newsletters and other email communications to one or both parents, so please do let us know what you would prefer.

Attendance Reminder

Schools are required to send a letter about attendance from Devon County Council twice a year. This letter is attached to this week's newsletter. Overall, attendance levels at federation schools have been broadly in line with county attendance but we don't want this to slip. There is a Staff Development Day on Friday, 27th November which gives families an opportunity to have a long weekend away, so please take advantage of this rather than taking days out of school. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us in making sure every child is in school every day whenever possible, this is very much appreciated. The Head of each school is the lead for ensuring that attendance is as good as possible and that avoidable absences are picked up and addressed.

Hound Tor

It has been a wonderful start to the new school year, and we are so proud of how well the children in Hound Tor have settled into their new classes.

Our EYFS children have settled beautifully into school routines and are becoming increasingly confident in exploring the provision. It has been lovely to see them developing relationships, making new friends and enjoying all the exciting learning opportunities available to them. Our Year 1 children are learning the expectations that come with more formal lessons and are doing a fantastic job. They are showing great enthusiasm for their learning, listening carefully and beginning to develop their independence and resilience as learners. Well done to all of our children, we are incredibly proud of them!



Shilstone Tor

This week Shilstone Tor have been amazing adapting to their new classroom and routines. They have been very excited to start their digital photography topic in computing where this week they have been focusing on what makes a good photo. They used the iPad to take photos and then analyse what they could improve on.

Row Tor

This week Row Tor has done an excellent job settling into their new class routines. They have had reminder and introduction sessions about the resources around the classroom that they can use to help them across their learning in different subjects. They have written setting descriptions, begun their place value unit and practiced reading with intonation. They have got stuck in straight away, showing incredible focus and determination and starting the year in an incredible way - we are all looking forward to the great year ahead of us!



Blue Peter Badge

An impressive achievement from Lily over the summer holidays - she has earned herself a Blue Peter Badge. She has worked hard gathering evidence, including her performance in the school Rock Steady concert last year to earn her Blue Peter badge for music.