

TIMBERSCOMBE C OF E FIRST SCHOOL

Nurturing our unique acorns, for the infinite possibilities of the mighty oaks they shall become.

Inspired by John 10:10, Gideon 6:11 and Corinthians 13:4



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Head Teacher's Blog

With a new education secretary this week it will be interesting to see what comes next in the guidance and plans for schools. Rest assured what will remain for us will be the safety, wellbeing and educational focus for all our children. They need to be safe, happy and then they can make rapid progress in their learning. Regardless of change, and we do love innovation and creativity, we will continue to put the children at the heart of all our decision making.

In super good news this week our early years provision, Little Oaks, numbers have increased to a point where we are considering running a waiting list. The popularity of our pre school is a real credit to the staff and leadership of this setting. Congratulations to all our team and Mrs Sparks.

A busy week this week, our beach day activity saw the sun shine on class 2, Miss Sparks has more visits planned, with us working towards our award for coastal eco activities with Somerset Wildlife. Plus, we had our first collective worship on Tuesday back at our Church. Mrs Hall led us with a bible story supporting our discussion about aspiration and we took further inspiration from Emma Raducanu's success and from the Paralympic homecoming.

Please note, we have three/four vacancies at present you may be interested in: Two admin positions at both Dunster and Timberscombe First Schools. Two, or possibly one larger role, providing wrap around care at Dunster. We are also keen to support you if you are hoping to get back into work and have training volunteer programmes. Please contact the office for more information.

Finally, don't miss the safeguarding cascade training, if you wish to attend please let the office know.

Have a lovely weekend,

Have a great weekend, Mrs Naomi Philp

Our school is about kindness, caring for others, ourselves, and our world.

Our school values our faith, our location, our community and most of all each other.

We aim to instill a life long love of learning.



Little Oaks News

It's lovely to see all the children back in Little Oaks so happy and settled. They all seem to have grown and developed in different ways over the summer and are ready to make their next steps forward.

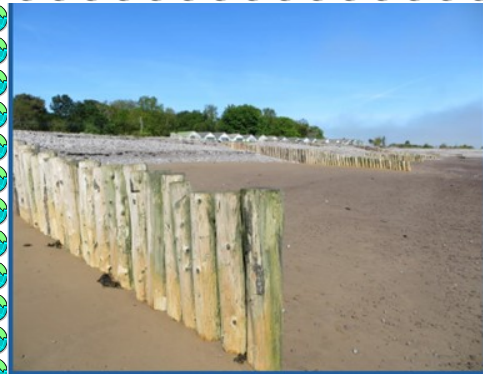
This half term we have a theme of Ourselves. We will be thinking about families, our body, growth, staying healthy, looking after our teeth and staying safe. We would appreciate it if the children could bring in photos of themselves as babies so we can see how they have changed!

We will be participating in our school outdoor learning on Monday afternoons so wellies and coats will be needed for this. Of course we go outside to access the adventure play equipment and our outdoor learning facilities at other times too, so wellies are always a good idea especially as the weather changes.



Safeguarding

See page 3 for Back to School Online Safety Tips for Children



DUNSTER BEACH CLEAN

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 26TH

11AM TO 1PM

MEET AT DUNSTER BEACH CAR PARK

FOR MORE INFO:
Email:
plasticfreeexmoor@gmail.com

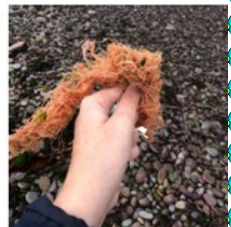
Website:
www.somersetwildlife.org/events

DUNSTER BEACH CLEAN

Sunday September 26th

Come along and help with a mass litter pick of Dunster Beach. This is part of the Marine Conservation Society's Great British Beach Clean week and the Severn Estuary Big Beach Clean.

This event is being run in conjunction with Dunster Beach Holidays and Plastic Free Communities in West Somerset.





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Key Dates

- 22.09.21—School Photo Day
- 21.10.21—Last day of half term
- 22.10.21—School Holiday for the Platinum Jubilee (in lieu of the extra bank holiday in June 2022)
- 01.11.21—Back to school



VACANCIES Timberscombe CoE and Dunster First Schools



Dunster First School and Timberscombe C of E First School are seeking to appoint 2 **Administration Assistants** to be based at either school:

Dunster: Mon to Fri 12.00 – 17.30 with 30 minutes unpaid break.

Timberscombe: Tues to Fri 9.00 – 15.00 with 1 hr unpaid break.

Both posts are term time only + 5 inset days

We are looking for:

- Enthusiasm and flexibility
- Experience in an administrative and financial setting
- Excellent written and oral communication
- Someone who enjoys all the wonderful unpredictability of being in a school environment with small children
- Honesty and reliability

We can offer:

- A caring and supportive school and local community
- A dedicated and hard-working team
- Enthusiastic and friendly children
- A team to work with who care about their school immensely
- A commitment to professional development

Closing date for applications: Monday 4th October Midday

Interviews taking place on: 7th and 8th of October

The schools have a commitment to safeguard children, and have a culture of vigilance to support this. The post holder will be required to undergo a disclosure check with the Disclosure and Barring Service before taking up employment.

Visits from prospective candidates are warmly welcomed. Please contact the school(s) for an application pack.

An Extract from Thought for the Week

*Ed Gregory
Director of Education, Diocese of Bath and Wells*

Have you ever thought of becoming a RAKtivist? A 'Random Act of Kindness' activist! St Paul wrote: 'Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.' Kindness is nothing new though now we are increasingly aware of the benefits to health as well as to community.

What could be better than trying out the benefits of kindness for yourself, with your colleagues, classes, groups and even randomly!

**Kind hearts are the garden
Kind thoughts are the roots
Kind words are the flowers
Kind deeds are the fruits**

**Dear God help me to be kind-hearted
In my thoughts, words and deeds
Amen**



Local units re-opening soon:

Minehead Rainbows for girls aged 5-7 years, Wednesdays 4.15-5.15pm

Minehead Brownies for girls aged 7-11 years, Wednesdays 5.30-7pm

Alcombe Guides & Rangers for girls aged 10-18 years, Thursdays 6.15-8.15pm

We also need adult volunteers to keep the fun going in all age ranges. For more information and to apply to Join Us - www.girlguiding.org.uk



DOUBLE AWARDS NEXT WEEK

watch this space

By Kelly Twiss

Benefits of Scented Playdough



When you get the children home after a day at school and you ask them what they did today? many say they can't remember? Have you ever thought, that they haven't really processed the day yet, many seem to remember their day just as you are tucking them into bed!



Playing with some scented playdough is a wonderful way to wind down after school and allows you as a family to connect and talk.

Whilst playing around with this wonderful dough we discussed what sort of things were in our minds at that moment, anything that was annoying us or worrying us, however small a problem it might seem to us, it can become a big worry to our little people.

We challenged ourselves to make our worries out of playdough, (removing these from our minds and into something separate and much easier to handle) I can't tell you how chilled these children were afterwards and I got to hear all about their day. They really opened up and benefited hugely from the calming properties of essential oils too.

Ingredients – 2 x cups plain flour
½ cup fine salt
2 x tablespoons veg or coconut oil
2 x tablespoons of Cream of tartar
½ cup of boiling water
Gel food colouring or natural dye
A few drops of essential oil



Let's make it –

Mix all the dry ingredients together, add the essential oil and stir
Add gel food colouring or natural dye to boiling water, add this to the dry ingredients
Mix well, leave to cool for a few minutes and then knead until soft and not sticky.

Only takes a few minutes!!!

You may like to add some
Dry lavender or herbs from
The garden, you may like to hide buttons, beads or gems in the
playdough for them to find. Enjoy!!!

BACK TO SCHOOL

Online Safety Tips for Children

Wow, it's September already! The month when autumn officially starts and ... oh yeah, the beginning of a new school year. Every cloud has a silver lining though! Another term means new friends to make, different stuff to learn, fresh online trends to jump on and exciting new games to play on your phone, computer or console. We've compiled a list of our top tips to ensure that - whether you're going online to chat, research things or just have fun - you can do it safely.

Be cautious with your profile

Be careful not to give out too much info on your social media or gaming profiles. Details like your full name, address or school's name could all help strangers to actually find you offline. A trusted adult can help you make your profiles private - so only your family and actual friends can contact you.

Lock your devices

Taking your phone or tablet to school? Turn password protection on. It keeps your private info safe and stops anyone accessing your device without permission. Passwords should be memorable to you - but difficult for anyone else to guess. Get a trusted adult to write it down in case you forget it!

Be smart with screen time

Too much screen time, especially just before bed, can affect your quality of sleep. Losing sleep, or not sleeping well enough, messes with your concentration and energy levels. Try muting notifications so you don't get pinged late at night: you'll feel fresher and more focused the next day.

Know how to deal with bullies

Sadly there are people online who enjoy picking on other users. If you ever feel like you're being bullied online - by anyone, not just someone from school - talk to a trusted adult about it. Together, you can discuss possible steps, such as blocking or reporting the person who's targeting you.

Manage online relationships wisely

Most people in a relationship chat to their partner online. Just be mindful that once you send a pic or message (even if it's private), you no longer control who else might see it. Messaging someone you've never actually met - and who might not be who they say - is definitely best avoided.

React well to inappropriate content

When you're researching something online, there's always a chance of finding content that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset. If this happens, you can report it as inappropriate and (hopefully) get it taken down. Tell a trusted adult what happened: they'll help you decide what to do next.

Report offensive in-game chat

If you game online with your mates, you'll know things can get competitive and heated on the in-game chat. Playing against people you don't know (especially if they're older) raises the risk of offensive comments and even threats. Our advice? Find out how to block or mute those bad losers.

Learn to spot fake news

If you're looking into a topic for homework or a project, be careful not to get taken in by fake news: content that's deliberately created to mislead people. Check the story with credible sources, like the BBC or Sky News. Trust your instincts, too - if it seems too unbelievable to be true, it's probably fake.

Keep it 'real' with online friends

Everyone enjoys adding friends and followers on social media. It's important, though, that the people you interact with online really are your friends. If they're just random people you've connected with to increase your contacts, you don't know if they could be trolls or bullies (or worse).

Somerset School Terms and Holidays – WSEP/ Moorland/ KT 2021/2022 Academic Year

WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



September 2021					October 2021					November 2021								
M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	M		1	8	15	22	29
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		2	9	16	23	30
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	W		3	10	17	24	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28	Th		4	11	18	25	
F	3	10	17	24	F	1	8	15	22	29	F		5	12	19	26		
Sa	4	11	18	25	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa		6	13	20	27		
Su	5	12	19	26	Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su		7	14	21	28		
December 2021					January 2022					February 2022								
M		6	13	20	27	M	3	10	17	24	31	M		7	14	21	28	
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		4	11	18	25	Tu		1	8	15	22	
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26	W		2	9	16	23	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		6	13	20	27	Th		3	10	17	24	
F	3	10	17	24	31	F		7	14	21	28	F		4	11	18	25	
Sa	4	11	18	25	Sa	1	8	15	22	29	Sa		5	12	19	26		
Su	5	12	19	26	Su	2	9	16	23	30	Su		6	13	20	27		
March 2022					April 2022					May 2022								
M		7	14	21	28	M		4	11	18	25	M	2	9	16	23	30	
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		3	10	17	24	31
W	2	9	16	23	30	W		6	13	20	27	W		4	11	18	25	
Th	3	10	17	24	31	Th		7	14	21	28	Th		5	12	19	26	
F	4	11	18	25	F	1	8	15	22	29	F		6	13	20	27		
Sa	5	12	19	26	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa		7	14	21	28		
Su	6	13	20	27	Su	3	10	17	24	Su	1	8	15	22	29			
June 2022					July 2022					August 2022								
M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	M	1	8	15	22	29	
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	2	9	16	23	30	
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	W	3	10	17	24	31	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28	Th	4	11	18	25		
F	3	10	17	24	F	1	8	15	22	29	F	5	12	19	26			
Sa	4	11	18	25	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	6	13	20	27			
Su	5	12	19	26	Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su	7	14	21	28			

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Day

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 06 September – 22 October 2021 (35 days)
 Term 2: 01 November – 17 December 2021 (35 days)
 Term 3: 04 January – 18 February 2022 (34 days)
 Term 4: 28 February – 08 April 2022 (30 days)
 Term 5: 25 April – 27 May 2022 (24 days)
 Term 6: 06 June – 26 July 2022 (37 days)

TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2021/22 – Revised to include the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	27 December 2021*	Easter Monday	18 April 2022
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	28 December 2021*	Early May Day Bank Holiday	02 May 2022
New Year’s Day Holiday	03 January 2022*	Spring Bank Holiday	02 June 2022
Good Friday	15 April 2022	Platinum Jubilee	03 June 2022
		Summer Bank Holiday	29 August 2022

*Replacement Bank Holiday day when the bank holiday falls on a weekend
 Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with individual schools for their term dates