

13TH MARCH 2026

EAST-THE-WATER PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Key Dates

Last day of school is
Thursday 2nd April

Please see your fridge
letter for other dates



Thank you to everyone who continues to support the PTA, your help makes a real difference to our school.

Planning is underway for the Summer Fair, and we're always grateful for extra hands. If you can help in any way, please email danieldalley@etwschool.com.

We're also in the playground every Friday fundraising, with a range of treats on offer. Please come and say hi!



DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

Across our school community, it is fantastic to see so many children taking real responsibility for the life of the school. Our Mental Health Ambassadors continue to support pupils each day at break and lunchtime, while the School Council are doing a wonderful job running the outdoor reading area for anyone who would like a quiet moment with a book. They are also leading the recruitment of our new Playground Leaders and are currently interviewing pupils for the role themselves. Those selected will then be trained by a coach to help organise games and activities at playtime and lunchtime. It is always impressive to see how confidently our children step into these roles and how seriously they take the responsibility of looking after one another.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Buckeridge'.

Adam Buckeridge
Headteacher

13TH MARCH 2026





FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Before the half term holiday, the whole school participated in a non-school uniform day to support the North Devon food bank. We were blown away with the amount of donations brought in on the day and want to say a massive thank you to everyone who brought something in. Your generosity has benefitted our local community and has helped lots of families- thank you!



YEAR 2 GREAT FIRE OF LONDON DANCE

Last half term the year 2 children choreographed a dance representing the events of the Great Fire of London. At the end of the unit, the children performed to the other class. Their dances were very imaginative and were performed with confidence. The children enjoyed performing to and cheering on their peers!





YEAR 6 GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

Year 6 recently went on their geography fieldwork trip to Bideford High Street, where they carried out a survey of the local shops. The children carefully categorised the different types of businesses they saw and recorded how many premises were in use and how many were vacant. This activity helped them develop their understanding of how land is used in a town centre and how high streets can change over time. The pupils represented the school wonderfully with their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour throughout the visit.



We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to the parent volunteers who kindly gave their time to support the trip—your help made this valuable learning experience possible.

Please make sure your child does not bring toys into school. Toys can easily be lost and can distract from learning. Thank you for helping us keep the focus on learning.



Please can we also remind you that bikes and scooters should not be ridden on school premises to make sure that we keep everyone safe.



YEAR 5 TAIKO DRUMS

Year 5 had the exciting opportunity to take part in a Taiko drum workshop. The children thoroughly enjoyed getting involved and learning how to play these impressive Japanese drums.

Taiko drumming is known for its thunderous sound and energetic style. The performances combine powerful rhythms with athletic, choreographed movements, making it both a musical and physical experience. As the children discovered, Taiko is also a strong cultural symbol that represents discipline, teamwork and energy.



Our Year 5 pupils rose brilliantly to the challenge. They listened carefully, practised the rhythms with determination and worked together to create powerful performances. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they mastered the techniques.

The workshop ended with a special performance where the children proudly demonstrated what they had learnt to their adults. They were incredibly excited to showcase their new skills.





YEAR 4 ROMAN HISTORY DAY

Year 4 had an exciting and immersive History Day to enrich their learning about the Roman Empire. The children took part in a dramatic re-enactment of the attempted invasion of Britain by Julius Caesar, followed by the successful invasion led by Emperor Claudius.

Our Coconut Crab classroom was transformed into a Roman museum, where the children became historians. They carefully examined a range of Roman artefacts, cataloguing them by sketching each item and recording the materials they were made from and what they might have been used for.



The children also had the opportunity to dress up in Roman clothing and armour, which helped bring their learning to life. In the afternoon, they showed their creativity by designing and making their own mosaics using colourful gemstones.

It was a fantastic day of hands-on learning, and the children had a wonderful time exploring life in Roman Britain.





YEAR 4 DENTIST VISIT

Year 4 have been very lucky to have a couple of exciting visitors this half term. At the beginning of the term, a dentist came to visit us and help us understand about tooth decay and how we can protect our teeth. The children took part in an activity where they chewed a disclosing tablet with identified which parts of their teeth they were missing when they brushed. The dentist was very impressed with the children's knowledge surrounding tooth decay and how they used their scientific experiment to explain it.



Another visitor we had was Asda Pete. He brought along a number of exciting new fruits for the children to try. Pete explained where the fruits came from which helped us with our geography topic 'where do we get our food from?'



SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE



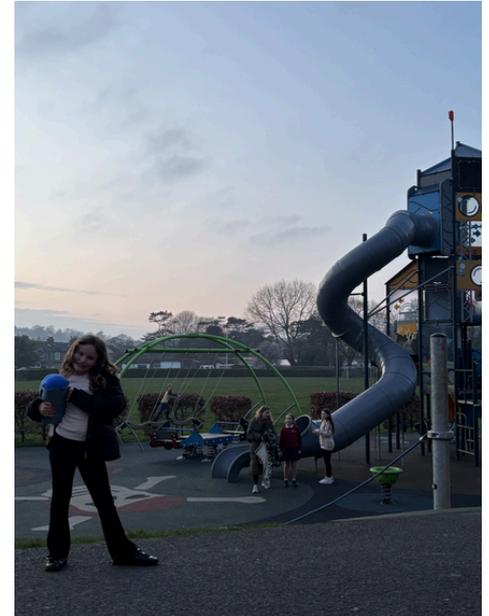
The School Council have decided to take a proactive role in our lunchtimes. They posed an option of forming a team of responsible 'Lunchtime Monitors' to help other children at lunch time, making the school hall a calmer and cleaner place that everyone can enjoy. For the past week, the school councillors have been extremely busy interviewing children in years 4, 5 and 6 and will soon be sharing which children have been successful! We know that these pupils, with help from their school council, will make our school even more amazing!



Mascot adventures

Thank you so much Elsie for your lovely photos of Pete (the parasitic louse). He looks like he had lots of fun at the park.

Remember if you're lucky enough to take a mascot home, please can you send in your photos. Thank you!



YEAR 1 SCIENCE



As part of our science topic 'plants and seasons', year 1 children have been busy identifying and labelling parts of plants. As part of our investigations, we have observed plants and identified that even though they may look different, they all have roots, stem, leaves and flowers. We're looking forward to our trip to the woodland clinic on the afternoon of March 23rd to observe signs of spring and see how many plants we can identify. If you'd like to come and join us, please speak to Miss Carpenter or Miss Hewitt.





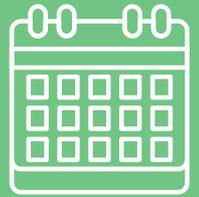
RECEPTION IN THE GARDEN

As part of our topic 'In the garden', Reception children have been learning all about how to take care of the natural world around us. We have been describing the basic features of plants and animals, exploring plants in surrounding natural environments and observing weather and seasonal changes. Particular highlights have been, going on a 'plant hunt' around the school grounds, drawing and labelling plants and engaging in imaginative play in our role play garden centre!





Why is attendance important?



Learning Is Like Building a Puzzle

Each school day adds another piece to the learning puzzle.

- Attend every day → the puzzle builds smoothly
- Occasional absences → missing pieces make the picture harder to see
- Frequent absences → children may struggle to complete the puzzle



YEAR 3 VIKING DAY

Year 3 have enjoyed an exciting Viking workshop this week! They stepped back in time to learn about life in the Viking Age. They became Viking craftspeople by making a decorative brooch, similar to those worn on special occasions to fasten clothing and display status. The workshop also introduced them to Viking mythology, including the legendary Midgard Serpent. They used their imaginations to create chalk artwork based on what they thought it would have looked like! To finish the day, they learned how Vikings used archery and discovered how a sling works as a hunting and battle tool - even practising the techniques themselves!

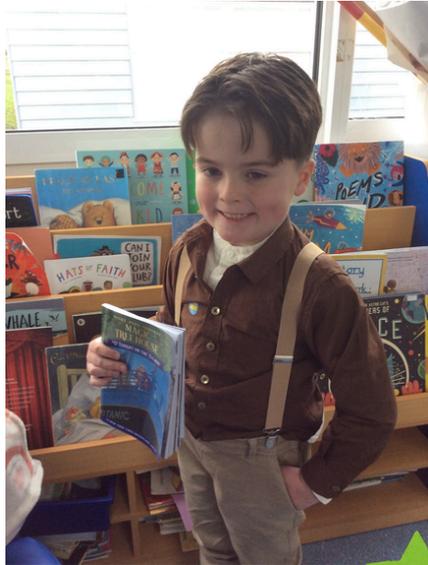
It was a fantastic experience that brought our history learning to life and gave the children a deeper understanding of Viking culture.





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WORLD BOOK DAY



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We love
world book
day!



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