

# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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Newsletter  
March 2026

# MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL



**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

As we come to the end of a busy and fruitful Spring term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on all that we have shared together as a school community over the past few weeks.

March has been a particularly special time in our Catholic school calendar as we journey through the season of Lent. This has been a time of prayer, promises and almsgiving, where our children have been encouraged to reflect on how they can grow closer to God and show kindness and compassion to others. It has been wonderful to see pupils engaging so thoughtfully.

As we now approach Holy Week and the joy of Easter, we remember the significance of Jesus' sacrifice and celebrate the hope of the Resurrection. Our collective worship and classroom reflections have helped the children to understand this important time in the Church year in meaningful and age-appropriate ways.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support, particularly during our recent Spring term parent consultations. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school, ensuring that every child is supported to thrive both academically and personally. Your engagement and collaboration make a real difference.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff team. Their commitment, care and hard work each day ensure that our children receive the very best education and pastoral support.

As we look ahead to the Easter break, I hope this will be a restful and joyful time for you and your families. May it be filled with peace, happiness and the blessings of the Easter season.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

**Best Wishes and God Bless Sarah Pascoe and the St. Joseph's Team**

# SUPPORTING HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT: SCREEN TIME GUIDANCE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

At St. Joseph's, we are always mindful of the wider wellbeing of our pupils, recognising that children's development extends far beyond the classroom.

Recent government guidance highlights the importance of limiting screen time for young children, particularly those under the age of five. Research shows that excessive use of electronic devices at an early age can impact sleep, attention, language development and social skills. As a result, families are encouraged to prioritise activities that promote interaction, movement and communication. As a school, we welcome this guidance and strongly support these recommendations. On a day-to-day basis, we are increasingly noticing the impact that excessive screen time can have on children's communication skills, attention, and readiness for learning, and we believe it is vital that we work together to address this.

## What the guidance recommends:

- Limiting exposure to screens, especially for children under five
- Encouraging active, play-based learning
- Promoting face-to-face interaction and conversation
- Supporting healthy sleep routines by reducing screen use before bedtime



## How we support this in school:

In our classrooms, we focus on providing rich, hands-on learning experiences. This includes:

- Practical, play-based activities that develop curiosity and creativity
- Opportunities for collaboration and social interaction
- Outdoor learning and physical activity to support health and wellbeing
- Language-rich environments that encourage speaking and listening



## supporting your child at home:

We encourage all families to consider how these guidelines can be applied at home. Small changes can make a big difference, such as:

- Setting clear and consistent limits on screen time
- Creating screen-free times during the day (e.g. mealtimes and before bed)
- Encouraging outdoor play, reading and imaginative activities
- Modelling balanced technology use as adults

By working together, we can help children develop healthy habits that support their learning, wellbeing and overall development.

Thank you for your continued support in promoting a balanced and nurturing environment for all our children.

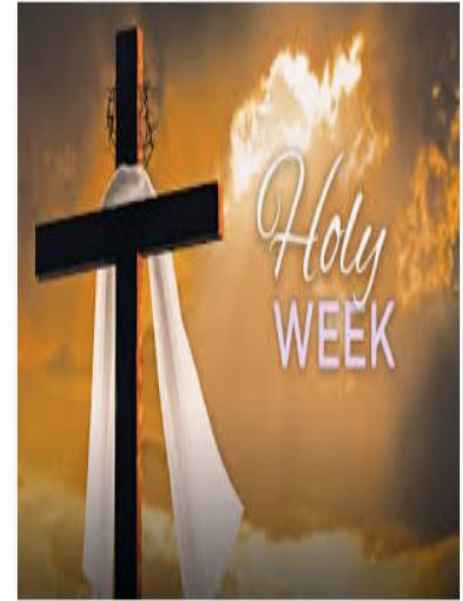
# THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL - ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

We celebrated St Joseph's Day, our patron saint, with a special day of reflection and joy. The whole school walked together to church where we celebrated Mass, taking time to give thanks and to reflect on the example of St Joseph. Our pupil chaplains delivered excellent readings and took their roles with great maturity and reverence, helping to lead the celebration beautifully. The children were a credit to the school throughout the day, showing outstanding behaviour and respect. In the afternoon, we continued the celebrations back in school with class parties



# THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL

The school's Holy Week service took place in our school hall and was a beautiful and reflective occasion. The children participated reverently through readings, prayers, and hymns, helping us to journey together through the events of Holy Week and to prepare our hearts for Easter. We were very grateful for the presence and support of Deacon Tim and Deborah, who led the service so thoughtfully. Holy Week is a very special time in the Church year, when we remember Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, and Easter is the joyful celebration of new life, hope, and the promise of God's love for us all.



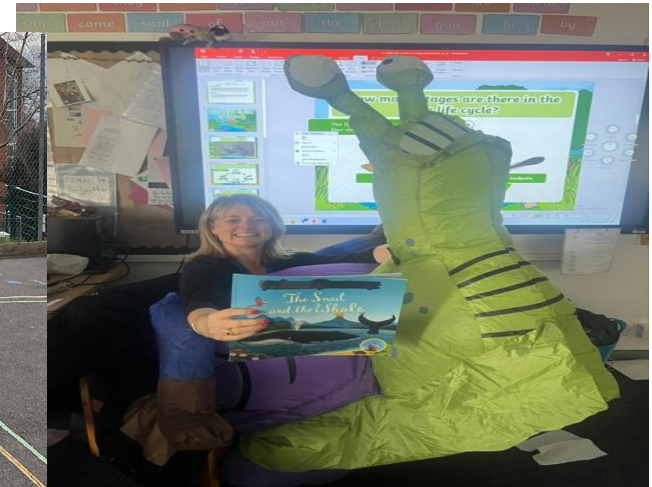
Deacon Tim and Deborah warmly invite families to attend a special Family Mass Event to be held at St Joseph's Catholic Church on **18th April at 10:00am.**

All are very welcome, and refreshments will be served following the Mass, offering a lovely opportunity for our school and parish community to come together.



# THE BRITISH VALUES OF OUR SCHOOL

World Book Day was a wonderful celebration across our school, providing an excellent opportunity to promote a love of reading while also linking closely to British Values. Through sharing stories, dressing up as favourite characters, and exploring a wide range of texts, pupils were encouraged to show respect for different viewpoints and cultures, reflecting the value of mutual respect and tolerance. Collaborative activities in classrooms also supported democracy, as children shared opinions about books and voted for their favourites. The day helped pupils to understand that everyone's voice matters and that we can learn from each other's ideas and experiences. Overall, it was a joyful event that celebrated diversity, encouraged individuality, and strengthened our sense of community within school.





# RED NOSE DAY



We also took part in Red Nose Day, where pupils came together to support Comic Relief and think about the importance of helping others both locally and globally. The children showed great compassion, reflecting the British Value of individual liberty through making choices about how they could contribute, and mutual respect through considering the needs of others. It was a fun and meaningful day that reminded us of the importance of kindness, empathy, and using our actions to make a positive difference in the wider world.



# STARS OF THE WEEK



# VALUE GUARDIANS

<p>Bentley ..... Brianna</p>		<p>Noah R Brianna Noah M</p>
<p>Shariza Amelia. James</p>		<p>Ellie Kaden Whole Class</p>

# STARS OF THE WEEK



# VALUE GUARDIANS

Jacob  
Arabella  
Oliver K  
Noah  
Leo  
Wilbur  
Freddie  
Archie



Oliver J  
Archie  
Gracie  
Matilda C  
Leo  
Harry  
Jayda

Bella  
Ebru  
Evie  
Tori

Andrii  
Amelia  
Michelle  
James



# CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



## March in St Francis

The children have been enjoying the spring sunshine. We have been developing our cutting skills in our mud kitchen using a range of fruits and vegetables. It's been wonderful seeing the children use their imaginations and develop their language with their food creations.

We have planted some runner beans and Tomatoes and have been watching how they are growing. We can't wait to plant them outside when they're ready!

We have had a cheeky little visitor in our classroom, who made a bit of a mess with porridge. The children have been so excited and I'm sure will tell you who it was!

## March in St Vincent

We had lots of fun celebrating World Book Day, dressing up, reading with older children, and even becoming authors by creating our own stories.

We have also been redesigning a planter, focusing on the sense of taste, and thinking about what we might grow.

The children enjoyed a Gymnastics Impact Day, developing their balance and coordination.

The children have loved learning a new song using the Jumbie Jams.

Our Year 1s have made the most of the sunny weather, enjoying their outdoor continuous provision.

We are very proud of all the children and look forward to another great month ahead!



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



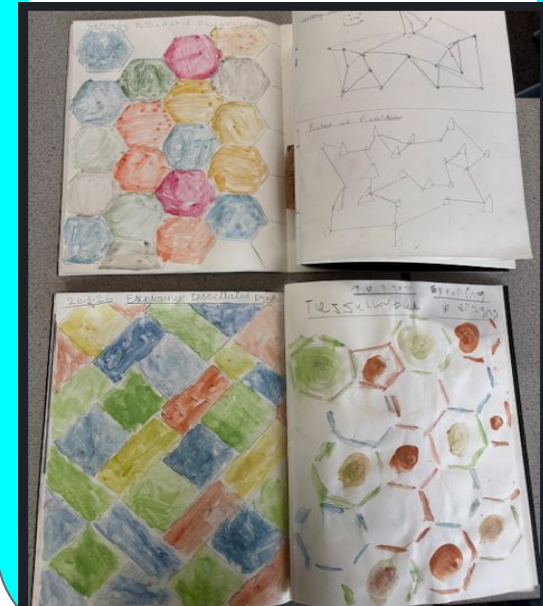
# CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

PE impact day was exciting doing Gymnastics and Dance, we showed resilience to work and design together in small groups. We explored different ways to travel and balance.



In Science we have been learning all about the Water cycle - in groups we practically worked together, showing our scientific understanding to make our own water cycle. We have been observing the results over time!

We have been thoroughly engaged as artists, exploring patterns. The children have developed their understanding of how patterns can be created, repeated and developed using a variety of techniques and materials.

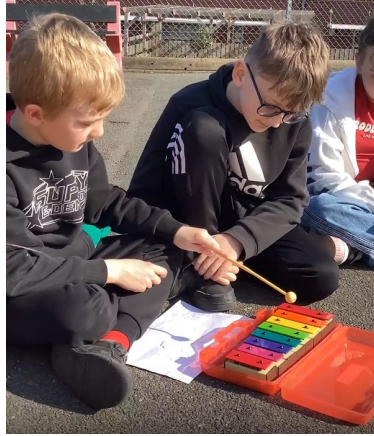




# CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



A brilliant impact day led by Ms Brown, had St Oscar creating a range of gymnastic positioning using static movements and different body parts.



As musicians, we had a lovely time composing our own arctic music, having been inspired by listening to Vivaldi.



We've continued with our science topic of 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind' and been creating our own blood samples. We identified the different parts of the blood and their function



## Breakfast Club

- Available **Monday – Friday** from **8:00 AM**
- Cost: **£4 per session**



## Booking Information:

All bookings should be made via **ParentPay** prior to the session. For any last-minute bookings, please call the **school office**.



## After School Club

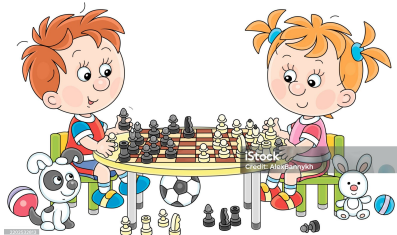
- Available **Monday – Friday**
- Until **5:00 PM** – **£6.75**
- Until **5:30 PM** – **£10.00**
- **Fridays close at 5:00 PM**



**\*\* Please inform the staff of any food allergies as food will be served \*\***

## Important Notice:

Any accounts with arrears of **£50 or more** will not be permitted to use the **Breakfast Club** or **After School Clubs** until the balance is cleared.



# BREAKFAST AND AFTERSCHOOL CLUB ACTIVITIES

## Weekly Schedule:

**Monday: Football**



**Tuesday: Netball**



**Wednesday: Art**



**Thursday: Forest  
School**



**Friday: Games**







**Snacks Provided**

# Attendance Matters



## Attendance January

	98.64%
	96.94%
	95.29%
	96.65%

## Important Notices & Reminders

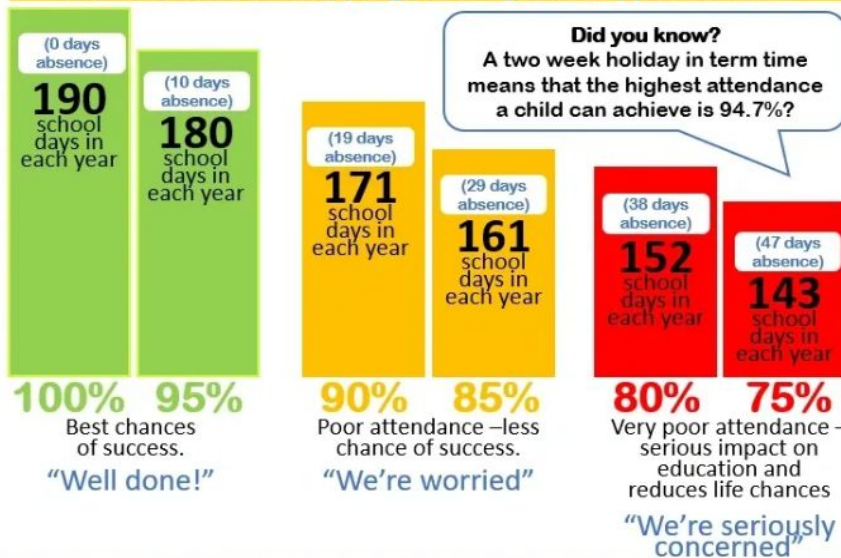
If your child is late for morning registration, arriving late at school after 9am, please ensure you or their accompanying adult reports to the school office to ensure that they are registered.

**Good attendance means...**  
being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days

## 175 days not at school!

All this time for shopping, holidays and appointments

365 days in a calendar year



**Did you know?**  
A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance a child can achieve is 94.7%?

# Attendance Roadmap

In line with the DfE Statutory Guidance (in force from 19th August 2024) we offer a supportive, stepped, attendance approach. We will offer a welcoming ethos with high expectations for all. We will assess data to identify absence trends & use preventative discussions/meetings with families to listen, understand & support to remove barriers. Where needed, we will formalise support to nurture improvement with Attendance Contracts & as a last resort we will consider intensifying support &/or enforce legal sanctions.



Did you know, arriving after the register has closed (30 mins from school starting) = an absence?



Did you know, 90% attendance = approx. 95 missed lessons/hours of learning?

## STEP 1 - Identify, Assess & Prevent

Our daily actions & processes aim to promote relationship building with children & families to prevent absence. This involves monitoring data trends & absence patterns to inform our conversations with you (& your child where age allows). The trigger for conversations is where absence is at risk of reaching the new National Threshold (**10 sessions (10 half days/5 days) within a 10 week rolling period**). Other daily actions involve promoting attendance positively, using praise & incentives, swift absence follow up, email &/or letter communication to raise your awareness of emerging concerns, processing requested or unrequested 'Term Time Exceptional Absence' & doing Home Visits to meet our safeguarding duties as required.

## STEP 2 - Early Absence Support

We move to this step if the National Threshold for absence is met (authorised or unauthorised) to prevent further absence occurring. Discussions & meetings will be offered to identify if early support or reasonable adjustments are needed. This will be done using discussions &/or meetings to create a supportive action plan. An Early Help Assessment (EHA) may be required for some support to be accessed along with a Team Around the Family (TAF) Meeting Process

Please talk to us about how we can support you &/or your child at any time.

## STEP 3 - Formalised Support

Where absence continues & initial support needs to be increased an Attendance Contract (AC) will be offered to formalise support. This is a 3-6 month nurturing plan of improvement to prevent further escalation. Achievable & individual targets will be set & reviewed regularly. Medical &/or other information will be actively sought at this point if required to work collaboratively with you & other agencies. An AC can run alongside other meetings e.g., TAF meeting.



Did you know, 90% attendance = 4 weeks of absence over a year?

## STEP 4 - Warnings - Concerns Remain

Where STEP 2 or STEP 3 support has been unsuccessful &/or declined, a 'Formal Warning' if AC has failed, or a 'Notice to Improve' Letter if no AC appropriate, will be issued to reinforce the need for immediate improvement. A Family Court Order such as an Education Supervision Order will also be considered as an alternative to prosecution.



Did you know, good attendance increases academic success?



## STEP 5 - Legal Action - No Improvement

Legal action (Penalty Notice or Prosecution) MAY be requested from the Local Authority (LA) if Unauthorised Term Time Absence is taken, or if overall absence continues to occur & reaches or exceeds the National Threshold for absence, despite STEPS 1-4 being attempted. Statutory Guidance States a Referral to Children's Social Care for children with 'Severe Absence' (less than 50%) should be considered to obtain 'Intense Support'.

### PENALTY NOTICES & LEGAL ACTION

**1st Offence** (after 19th August 2024) of **Term Time Leave** &/or **Irregular Attendance** (10 sessions of Unauthorised Absence or more) = Fine of £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. If paid within 21 days fine is reduced to £80 per parent, per child.  
**2nd Offence** within 3 years (from 19th August 2024) = Fine of £160 per parent, per child payable within 28 days, no reduction available.  
**3rd Offence** within 3 years (from 19th August 2024) NO PENALTY NOTICE considered. The case will be presented to **Magistrates' Court** under s444(1) or (1a) of the Education Act. If found guilty, a fine of up to £2500 per parent, per child can be issued. Convictions for s444(1a) offences will show on DBS record.

02.04.26	Break Up for Easter Holidays	11.05.26 - 14.05.26	Year 6 SATS Week
18.04.26	10am - Family Mass Event - St. Joseph's Church	14.05.26	1:30 - Ascension Day Mass - In the school hall - all are welcome
20.04.26	All return for Summer Term 1 Swimming Starts - Year 2	22.05.26	Break Up for Half Term
21.04.26	St Teresa Exeter Museum Trip	01.06.26 02.06.26	Non-Pupil Day Summer Term 2 Begins Year 4 Multiplication Table Check Week
22.04.26	Earth Day National Child Measurement Programme 2026 - Rec & YR6	05.06.26	World Environment Day
01.05.26	Year 5 - Festival of Sport (at NAC)	07.06.26	First Holy Communion at St. Joseph's Church - 11am
04.05.26	May Bank Holiday	08.06.26	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Week
05.05.26	Tempest - Class Photos	16.06.26	Yr5 Coombeshead - Performing Arts Workshop

18 - 19.06..26	Coombeshead Rising Stars Days	02.07.26 - 03.07.26	Year 6 Step Up Day - Transition Day Coombeshead
19.06.26	Yr5 Coombeshead - Intro to Food & Nutrition	02.07.26	NAC Transition Day
24.06.26 - 26.06.26	Year 5/6 Residential - Barton PGL	22.07.26	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly - 9:15  BREAK UP FOR SUMMER HOLIDAY
25.06.26	Inspire ICF World Cup School Festival Yr5 Coombeshead - Hands-on in the Science Lab		
01.07.26	SPORTS DAY & FAMILY Picnic		
01.07.26	NAC Intake Parent's Evening		

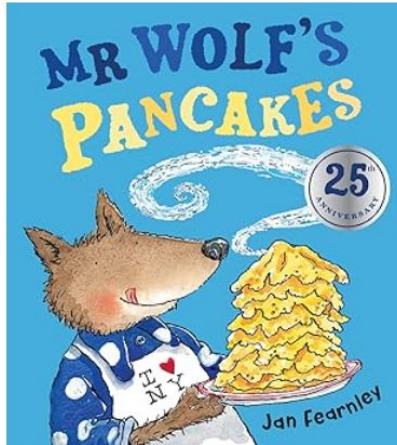
## Mr. Wolf's Pancakes

**THE FUNNIEST EASTER PICTURE BOOK YOU'LL READ!**

Mr Wolf is making pancakes – **YUM!** But he doesn't know how to make them and keeps getting stuck. And when he asks his neighbours for help, the mean and horrible lot all say no.

But when delicious smells eventually emerge, those nasty neighbours want to help Mr Wolf eat his delicious pancakes. Luckily, he's got an idea up his sleeve ...

Perfect for Pancake Day, Easter and all year round round



"Once you  
learn to read,  
you will be  
forever free."

Richard Douglass

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



### Jakub's Otter by Coral Rumble

Ten-year-old Jakub cares for his mother, who has multiple sclerosis. When family friends take him to Italy for a break, at first he can't stop worrying about his mum. But with the help of a wise woodsman, he discovers a new side of himself through storytelling and poetry. This distinctive and original story explores Jakub's growth beyond his struggles as a young carer, highlighting themes of self-discovery and the connection between humans and nature. Jakub's Otter is an accessible, thought-provoking and memorable read, perfect for discussing in Year 5.



## SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding at St. Joseph's is always a priority. Should you have any enquiries or concerns, please contact our Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection: Mrs Day or Mrs Pascoe on 01626 352559. Our named governor for child protection is Tim van Kroonenburg.

### WELFARE

Our Family Support Worker is Julie . Please let us know if you would like her to contact you for ANY support. Everyone needs a Julie in their lives!



### ATTENDANCE

*Hi, my name is Natalie, I'm the Attendance and Welfare Officer here at St Joseph's. I monitor attendance regularly to ensure that, where possible, every child is in school on time every day. If you have any concerns around your child's attendance, please leave a message with the office and I will contact you.*



### CPOMS and Operation encompass

At St. Joseph's we use CPOMs as our system for recording information that we consider to be safeguarding information. Further information about the programme can be found here -

**<https://www.cpoms.co.uk/privacy-statement/>**

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



## FREE PREMIER HAF CLUBS

more fun, more friendships, more smiles  
**DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS**



Book today  
[eequ.org/premiereducationexetermidandeastdevon](http://eequ.org/premiereducationexetermidandeastdevon)



### NEWTON ABBOT HAF VENUES

\* **What is a HAF Club?** A FREE HAF Club includes physical activity, sports, dance, arts and crafts, well-being activities, AND A NUTRITIOUS LUNCH for your child!

\* **Where is it held?**

Bradley Barton Primary School, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1PR  
Canada Hill Community Primary School, Newton Abbot, TQ12 6YS  
Haytor View Primary School, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4BD

\* **When is it?**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 8:30am-1pm  
Please check individual venues for exact running dates

\* **Who can attend?** Children aged 4-11 who receive Free School Meals

\* **How do I book?** Scan the QR code (above and below) and select your venue/dates

\* **When can I book?** NOW! Please use the QR codes attached

\* **Do you need help with booking?**

Contact us on...  
[dcrysell@premier-education.com](mailto:dcrysell@premier-education.com)  
or 01392 982809  
or Facebook Messenger



Our HAF Clubs keep children active, safe, and entertained throughout the school holidays.

Join us this holiday period as we offer a wide range of fun activities, including sports, performing arts, and games, all at great value. There's something for every child to enjoy this half-term!

**Book now** for a holiday full of excitement!



Book today

[eequ.org/premiereducationexetermidandeastdevon](http://eequ.org/premiereducationexetermidandeastdevon)



Message us to book @  
Premier Education Devon



# EASTER SPECIAL



## DAILY Football & Multi-Sport ACTIVITIES



**FREE to ALL Children**  
aged 5-14 eligible for  
**Benefit Related Free School Meals**  
[ £25 per day for pupils not eligible ]

**NUTRITION**  
Guides

**NUTRITIOUS**  
**COOKED MEAL**  
**EVERY DAY**

**ANIMAL**  
HQ Visit

**Magician & Entertainer**

**Certificates, Prizes ...and much more...**

**DAILY 10am to 3pm**

For locations, dates and bookings please visit

**SHEARSOCER.CO.UK**



for more information contact  
**ADAM SHEARER 07967 124844**



TORQUAY | PAIGNTON | TOTNES | NEWTON ABBOT | DARTMOUTH

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE



Every 2nd Wednesday  
of the month

January 14th  
February 11th  
March 11th  
April 8th



10:30am-  
12:30pm



The Courtenay  
Centre

Free help and advice for anyone struggling  
with:

- Cost of Living Crisis (money)
- Employment and Training
- Teignbridge Citizens Advice
- Health and Social Care
- Being an Unpaid Carer
- NHS App Access
- Mental Health
- Housing
- And More ...

Walk-in Sessions

Everyone Welcome

No appointment required!



Find us on  
Facebook

**CRICKETFIELD**  
surgery

DEVON  
SQUARE  
SURGERY

buckland Surgery

gingsteignton MEDICAL PRACTICE

# RIVERSCHOOL

Where nature is the teacher & the river is our guide



## HOLIDAY CLUB

**2026** Easter: April 13-15th  
Half-term: May 26-28th  
July 27-29th  
August 3-7th, 10-14th, 17-18th, 24-26th  
October 27-29th



£40/£45  
Tax Free Child Care  
-Free HAF-funded places-

- Travel by Canoe to our woodland basecamp
- Paddlesports
- Bushcraft
- Nature art and craft
- Raft building
- Wild swimming
- Fishing
- Campfire cooking
- Story telling
- Wildlife and river care
- Games + free play

Activities may include



Where are we? From the quayside Stoke Gabriel

### RIVERSCHOOL

Our provision is delivered by Canoe Adventures Ltd, operating since 1999 with a proven, accredited safety track record.

We are a registered child care provider with Ofsted (Reg. No. 2731749).

EMAIL: [hello@riverschool.org.uk](mailto:hello@riverschool.org.uk)

TEL: 07706 343744

[www.canoeadventures.co.uk](http://www.canoeadventures.co.uk)



SCAN HERE TO BOOK:  
or FIND US ON [EEQU.ORG](http://EEQU.ORG)



# EASTER RUGBY CAMP

Join us for our two-day Rugby Camp, open to primary school children up to Under 11. Packed with fun, skills, and plenty of rugby action!



Date  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April



Start At  
10:00 am - 03:00 pm



Newton Abbot Rugby Club  
Newton Rd, Kingsteignton



BOOK TODAY



<https://narfc.co.uk/events/>