

Always looking forward

This week the applications for September 2023 admissions to Primary schools close. It has been very pleasing to see the many applications for EYFS children to join us in September 2023. We have welcomed a number of families for school visits, and this is a great source of pride for me. To show off all the great learning, the children, the setting and strong staff team is a great reminder of how lucky we are at Bridestowe.

The strength of the school in its numbers continues to be its success – thank you to all families for your continued support for our wonderful setting.

Stars of the Week



Bella - showing *respect* to everyone and being a kind and caring friend

Jack – *flourishing* in sharing his prior knowledge of subjects with the class

Tommy - showing *ambition* in science learning and working hard to record his ideas

William - showing *ambition* in work, contributing to class learning and impressing with his Maths work

Team Points: Elm

Mental Health Assembly and Workshop

On Wednesday, KS2 children took part in an online assembly with mental health advocates.

This was followed by a workshop for Barn Owls on Friday, delivered by Jade Sutton of the Youth Mental Health Foundation, which the children found very beneficial, and they enjoyed finding out what kind of 'genius' they were!

The workshop encouraged children to think about things they enjoyed and to be aware of their own strengths.

Mental health is a very important aspect of children's wellbeing and has always been a priority, and events like this continue to support that.



Spring Term Swimming

KS2 children have started their swimming lessons at Aqua Stars and have thoroughly enjoyed their first two sessions. Please remember to check you have made your payment on School Gateway.

Forest School

Ranger Rob is in school next Wednesday to work with EYFS, Years 1, 2 and 3 – we look forward to more great sessions!

Ability Games

On Wednesday next week selected children will take part in the Ability Games, an event coordinated and run by OCRA, providing a great sporting opportunity for more of our pupils.



Board Games Club

Children enjoyed the first board games after-school session this week. It was great to see children from across classes engaging in games together. All children followed the rules of the game and respected each other's games. It was great fun!

Barn Owls

Barn Owls learned about variables in programming in Computing. They began designing and making their own project using variables in a programme called Scratch



Tawny Owls

The Tawny Owls began their ball skills work on Tuesday with a game of Junkyard Clear Up. The class were split into 2 teams with bean bags scattered across the playground. When the whistle sounded, each team had to tidy up their side of the playground by throwing the bean bags to the other side. The team with the least amount of 'junk' on their side at the end of the game were the winners. The children then went on to work in pairs to practise their throwing and catching skills.

It was great to see fantastic teamwork throughout!



Owlets

Owlets made a yummy mix of lard, seeds, bread and other goodies, to make bird feeders which were hung in the trees next to the Owlets classroom. Children learnt how these feeders would help the birds to live through the winter.



Whole School Attendance

95.3%

Let's Talk – not too late to book!

Tickets are going fast for the Safer Devon Let's Talk sessions starting on Tuesday, but there are still some tickets left.

Tickets are free and available at [Let's Talk Pre-Teens](#).

The topics covered are:

Tuesday 17th January 2023

- Biology
- Difficult emotions
- Substance misuse

Tuesday 24th January 2023

- Relationships
- Exploitation
- Pornography
- Societal Stereotypes

Tuesday 31st January 2023

- Physical risks
- Safety planning
- Mental health
- Self-care



LET'S TALK PRE-TEENS

Dates:

- Tuesday 17 January
- Tuesday 24 January
- Tuesday 31 January

Free support sessions for parents and carers

Have you got a 9-12 year old? Join us online for a chat about some of the challenges young people are facing today, find out what tools you can use to support them.

We'll be running twilight sessions throughout January covering topics such as:

- drugs and alcohol
- body image
- safety online
- mental health
- social risks
- peer pressure

Weekly 90 minute sessions starting at 7.00pm

Visit saferdevon.co.uk/lets-talk-teenagers to find out more about each session and book your free place.



Next Week

Monday	*RRR Club, Y6 only 3.15-4.15pm
Tuesday	*Film Club 3.15-4.00pm
Wednesday	*OCRA Club 3.15-4.15pm; *Board Games 3.15-4.00pm Forest School – EYFS, Tawny Owls and Year 3 Ability Games – selected children
Thursday	*Cheerleading Club 3.15-4.00pm; *Recorder Club 3.15-4.00pm Special Pizza Menu
Friday	Open the Book Assembly KS2 Swimming

*Your child must be booked into after-school clubs via School Gateway in order to take part

Diary Dates

January

24 th	Okehampton Swim Gala – selected children
25 th	Forest School – EYFS, Years 4-6
26 th	STEM Coding @ Okehampton Games – selected Year 6 children
27 th	KS2 Swimming

February

1st	KS2 Trip to Paignton Zoo Space Dome – Owlets and Tawny Owls NO BOARD GAMES CLUB
3rd	Open the Book Assembly KS2 Swimming Cross Country @ Simmons Park – selected children
8 th	Forest School – EYFS, Years 1-3 Homework Share – 3.00pm
10 th	Fire Service Workshop – Y2 and Y5 KS2 Swimming – final session Last Day of Term
13 th – 17 th	Half Term Break
22 nd	Forest School – EYFS, Years 4-6
24 th	Heart Heroes – non-uniform, wear red EYFS and KS1 Swimming – first session

March

2 nd	World Book Day
3 rd	EYFS and KS1 Swimming
8 th	Forest School – EYFS, Years 1-3
10 th	EYFS and KS1 Swimming
17 th	EYFS and KS1 Swimming
21 st	Forest School – EYFS, Years 4-6 Odd Socks Day
24 th	EYFS and KS1 Swimming
27 th	Parental Book Look – 09.00am
31 st	EYFS and KS1 Swimming – final session Last Day of Term



Festival of Hope

6th - 31st March 2023



The Festival of Hope will return for its 2nd year of celebrations in March 2023. The month long event will allow for even more festivities and events to be enjoyed! Expect to see:

- **Community reading programmes**
- **Travelling art exhibition**
- **Sporting events**
- **Poetry**
- **Trees of Hope**
- **and much more!**

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

OF WORLD WARCRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

World of Warcraft originally launched way back in 2004, and since then the game has blossomed into a major entertainment property. It's spawned spin-off novels, merchandise and even a Hollywood movie adaptation... but why are we still talking about it in 2023? World of Warcraft's most recent iteration, Dragonflight, launched last November and marks the game's ninth major expansion. This latest addition has attracted a whole host of lapsed players back to the game – as well as newcomers jumping into the realm of Azeroth for the first time.

ALWAYS ONLINE

World of Warcraft is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Players create a character and head off on mythical quests to earn rewards and become more powerful. The game's environment is absolutely vast, and it can only be played online on PC or Mac – so there's a high probability of young Warcraft fans wanting to monopolise the family computer.

REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As is common with many MMORPGs, World of Warcraft's developers, Blizzard, release regular expansions for the game (usually every 18 months to two years). So although there's still plenty of content for young players to experience right now, there will almost inevitably be a requirement to continue buying future expansion packs, which tend to cost around £50.

IN-GAME PURCHASES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just like its genre contemporary Final Fantasy XIV, World of Warcraft requires a monthly subscription fee to play. It's currently £9.99 per month (although you can get it cheaper by signing up to a longer subscription). There are also many items which can be purchased from the in-game store that don't affect gameplay, but instead offer cosmetic alterations to a player's character.

VOICE AND TEXT CHAT

Because World of Warcraft is played exclusively on PCs and Macs, it's easy for users to type out text messages if they aren't comfortable using voice chat. If you'll forgive the pun, that's a double-edged sword because – although there's less chance of them being harassed verbally – it puts young players at increased risk of being trolled or receiving spam through the in-game messaging function.

SIMULATED VIOLENCE

The fact that World of Warcraft is almost 20 years old means that even its most violent battles look slightly cartoonish compared with the level of authenticity in many more modern games. The exception tends to be Warcraft's in-game cutscenes: animated sections which move the plot onto the next stage. These offer more realistic visuals, but they still aren't overly gory or scary.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

World of Warcraft can trigger a powerful "just one more quest" mentality in players (especially young ones) as they rush to secure the next dopamine hit from levelling their character up or earning a new item or weapon. It's also a game that doesn't have a definite "end" – because as soon as a player finishes levelling up one character, they can start afresh with another one.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MANAGE PLAYTIME

World of Warcraft can be an extremely enjoyable game to play with friends, but it's important that your child doesn't let their adventures crowd out school work, socialising or anything else they also enjoy. You could, for example, consider imposing playtime limits – such as a set number of hours to play Warcraft per week, or restricting it to particular days or just weekends.

MAKE IT A REWARD

If your child is excited about getting the next World of Warcraft expansion, you could consider using it as a reward for completing their weekly tasks (you could even call them "quests") like tidying their room or doing their homework. This will demonstrate that you're happy for them to play the game but will also help them to build good, productive habits, reinforcing that hard work earns rewards.

SIGN UP FOR THE FREE TRIAL

Warcraft's monthly subscription effectively "pays" for the regular new content, but there's also a sizeable free trial that lets new players explore the world of Azeroth without paying a penny. Players can play up until Level 20 for free, which is easily several hours' worth of gameplay. If your child does take this option, we'd suggest minimising in-game spending by not linking a bank card to their account.

REMEMBER THE AGE RATING

Due to mild violence and the occasional use of offensive language, World of Warcraft has been rated as appropriate for players aged 12 and over by PEGI (the Pan-European Game Information system, which gives games their age certificate). It isn't really suitable for anyone below that age, so you may potentially have to explain this reasoning to your younger children if they want to play it.

ADVENTURE TOGETHER

Warcraft can certainly be addictive, but playing it together is also a great way to spend time with your child. The game's focus on cooperative questing and battling enemies can make it feel like you've accomplished something as a team, and you'll also be in a prime position to spot any early signs of addiction. Just remember to apply gaming time limits to yourself as well as your young ones!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dailymail and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2011/aug/29/world-of-warcraft-video-game-addict> | <https://worldofwarcraft.com/en-us/start>



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