



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for joining us this week at our carol concert; it was a lovely way to see in the festive period. A special thank you to Mrs Tucker for her hard work in organising and coordinating it all.

We are now closed for the break and staff return for training on the 6th January. The children return on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Have a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Exeter Football League

On Monday 2nd December, Team 2 played in their first tournament. Many children in the team are completely new to the squad and it was a privilege to watch them all work and play together. As a whole team, we have been working hard on our teamwork skills and Team 2 demonstrated fantastic passing and positioning skills. We came away with a 0-0 draw in the first game, with some great shots on target. Our second and third games required much more defensive tactics with some strong oppositions. After going two goals down, teamwork became even more important and there were many encouraging shouts and supportive comments from the team. We kept our heads high and played both games to the final whistle with smiles on our faces.

I would like to say a big well done and thank you to the team. Your behaviour, teamwork and football skills were a credit to the school. Well done.

Oscar F 5P
Freddie G 6BR
Elijah A 5T
Leo J 6W
Justas S 6W
Archie H 6W
Elliot M 5P

Dates for your calendar

Friday 20th December: Last day before the Christmas break

Tuesday 7th January: First day back in school for children (staff return on the 6th for training)

Christmas Holidays Information

Seeking help over Christmas

The school is closed for the Christmas holidays and e-mails will not be monitored.

If you would like support during the holidays, you can contact your local [Devon Family Hubs](#) | [Action For Children](#) and submit a request for support.

If you have a safeguarding concern you can contact:

For Social Care - Emergency Duty Team out of hours 0345 6000 388

Police non-emergency 101

For all LADO enquiries Exeter (01392) 384964

How can I access emergency mental health support over Christmas?

TALKWORKS is not a crisis or emergency service. If you need urgent mental health support, you can [get help from 111 online](#) or call 111 and select the 'mental health' option. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You can also contact the [Samaritans](#) by calling 116 123 or you can reach out to [Mental Health Matters Devon](#) by calling 0800 4700317.

Other Help ..

Churches - Churches often provide help over the Christmas period to families in need. Ring around some of your local ones to explain your situation and find out how they can help.

Salvation Army - The Salvation Army has a 'Toys and Tins' appeal every year that enables them to provide food hampers, brand new toys & gifts for children, teenagers and older people in need. You can be referred by an agency such as social services or you can refer yourself.

Citizens Advice - Give Citizens advice a call on 0808 2082138 (freephone) and they will help address your financial crises and provide you with support to maximise your income, help you to navigate the benefits system, and identify any additional grants you could be entitled to. Your local office will be privy to what local support is available as it differs greatly by area.

Free Activities

Whether it's driving/walking around your local area to see the lights, having a Christmas movie night or making homemade decorations, there are loads of ways to keep the kids entertained for free over the festive period.

Other ideas

Shake up your own snow globe. Got a jam jar and some biodegradable glitter? Then you can create a magical snow globe. You just need to glue a waterproof figure onto the inside of the lid. To help the glitter fall slowly, add two to three teaspoons of glycerine — you can find it in the baking aisle of supermarkets (it's just £1 at Ocado). BBC Good Food's [how to make a snow globe tutorial](#) has the handy hack of using baby oil if you don't have glycerine, and the top tip of using a jar with a rubber seal to help avoid leakage.

Get your wrapping paper all wrapped up with potato stamps. Making your own gift wrap is a great way for kids to while away a cold, rainy afternoon. And the result is you can wrap your gifts in affordable paper that's totally unique, and all you need is a potato, an ink pad or paint, and brown paper

Make simple paper snowflakes. All you need is white paper and scissors to create these striking yet simple Christmas decorations. Start out with a square shape (fold a corner of A4 paper to meet the other side, and cut off the strip at the bottom), then fold the square in half diagonally, in half again along the folded edge, and then fold the right side across (with the point at the top). Turn over and fold the other side across in the same way, so that the points at the bottom overlap. Cut off the two points that are sticking out at the bottom, and cut out your shapes from the edges (keeping the point intact).

Try ice painting. If you've got an ice cube tray, you can try ice painting. All you need to do is add some food colouring to water, and pour it into the tray (different colours in different segments). Add a stick to make it easier to hold the coloured ice cube once it's frozen in your freezer. Then it's time to have some ice painting fun, pushing the cold coloured cubes around. The beauty of doing this in the winter is the ice stays solid for longer.

Make a fairy house out of a stump. As the leaves fall and the forests become bare, it's easier to spot interesting logs and stumps when you go on your woodland walks. And those stumps can become magical portals with a bit of imagination and a few found objects. The kids can arrange fallen leaves, twigs, clumps of moss, feathers, stones and pine cones into clever shapes to represent paths, doors, windows and roofs.

Help the birds. Birds need a helping hand in the colder seasons, and the kids can get involved with homemade bird feeders and shop-bought options. The RSPB has lots of tips on [helping birds near you](#), from what to feed them (high-energy, high-fat foods in the winter) to how to choose a bird table or feeder.

Go on a winter scavenger hunt. The Wildlife Trust has an excellent [winter scavenger hunt free printable](#) that's full of fun nature things to spot on a wintry walk that can be done anytime, but is a particularly handy activity during [12 Days Wild](#) — their midwinter nature challenge that takes place from 25th December to 5th January each year and encourages everyone to do one wild thing a day.