

# Our School Newsletter

15th May 2026



Nursery & Discovery class  
enjoyed exploring the river at  
Horner



Discovery had a lovely time  
visiting the Minehead Lifeboat  
station. Thank you to  
volunteer Sue W for  
organising this for us.





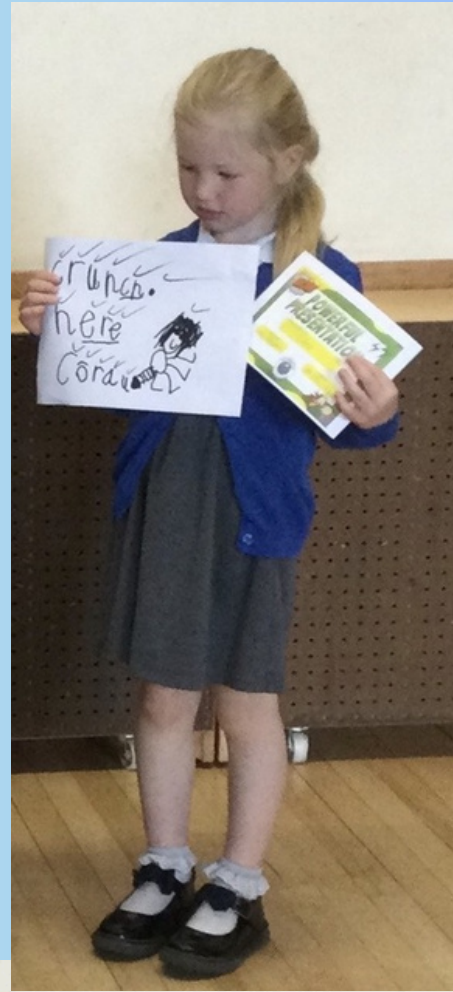
As part of Explorers Passion4Porlock, this week Explorers worked on working on mapping from a bird's eye view! We learnt what this meant and talked about how different things would look from above! . Super work, Explorers!

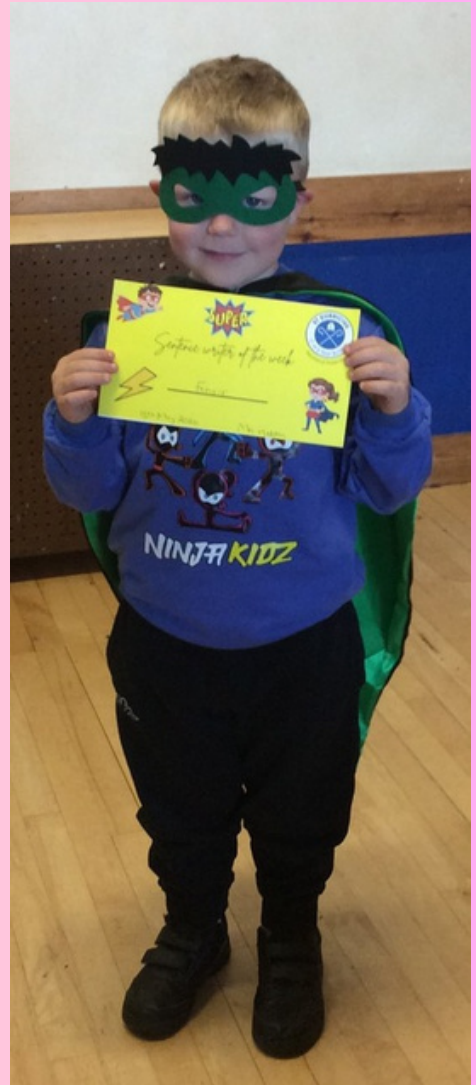
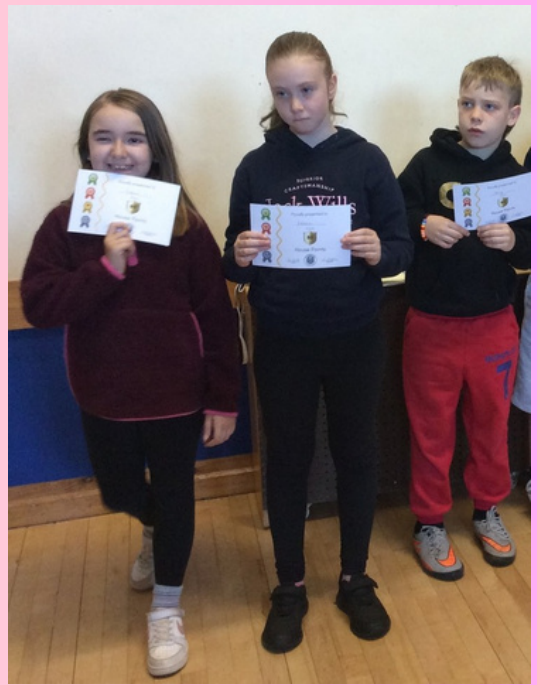


This week in Literacy, the children in Adventure class have been doing some amazing poetry writing linked to David Attenborough. They have thoroughly enjoyed exploring all the wonderful things there are to learn about him and the incredible impact he has had on our planet. The children have been inspired by his work and have used this to create thoughtful and imaginative poems filled with ambitious vocabulary and powerful imagery.



# Celebrating our Achievements





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# Community Earth Day



# Community Earth Day





## Child car seats: the law

Children must normally use a child car seat until they're 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first.

Children over 12 or more than 135cm tall must wear a seat belt.

You can choose a child car seat based on your child's height or weight.

for more information log on to the Gov UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules/print>

## Notices:

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Don't forget to order school lunches. If for any reason you are unable to access using the link, please pop in or call the office.

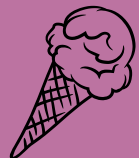


## Message from Mrs Walker-Blair

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Happy Friday, and a massive thank you to all who have supported our 'Community Earth Day' - inspired by the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sir David Attenborough. Forest School continues to evolve, if you want to see the grand plans, please pop into the office or take a peek at the noticeboard outside the hall.

In other news, ice cream Fridays are officially back! THANK YOU to Wilkie May & Tuckwood who have sponsored these for us again this year, so **every** child can choose an ice cream at the end of the day. This is the start of a new fundraising project - to purchase a bike shelter & racks for the (many!) cyclists we now have commuting to school on their wheels.



Have a wonderful weekend  
Mrs Walker-Blair

# Attendance:



We will be sharing our whole school attendance with you on each newsletter – our aim is for at least 95% by the end of the year! Let's work together and smash this target!

An attendance level of...	...means a pupil will miss this many days...	...and this many lessons
100%	0	0
95%	10	50
90%	19	95
80%	39	195
50%	95	475

This week:  
94.5%

## Information for Parents about Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Absence from School

Following the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notices issued for unauthorised absences recorded after 19 August 2024. This information refers to penalty notices that are considered for irregular attendance and unauthorised term-time leave.

All penalty notices are issued within the Somerset Penalty Notice Code of Conduct.

### Who can be fined?

Penalty Notices can be issued to each parent/carer of each child whose unauthorised absence meets the national threshold.

For example, in a family with two parents and three children taking unauthorised term-time leave, each parent could receive a penalty notice for each child absent from school, resulting in six penalty notices being issued.

### The National Threshold

Schools are required to consider whether a penalty notice is appropriate when a child has 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. 10 sessions would typically be the equivalent of five days.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be a combination of any unauthorised absence codes (G, O, N or U).

The rolling ten school week period can span terms, school years and schools.

### The First Offence

The first time a parent is issued with a penalty notice in relation to a child's absence, they will be able to pay the reduced amount of £80 if they pay within 21 days, otherwise the full amount of £160 is payable within 28 days.

### The Second Offence

If a parent is issued with a second penalty notice within three years the amount payable will be £160 within 28 days. The reduced amount will not be available.

### The Third Offence

If a parent becomes eligible for a third (or more) penalty notice within three years of the first being issued, a penalty notice can not be issued and the Local Authority will consider other measures to address attendance concerns. This may include prosecution, which could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and the parent having a criminal record. If convicted, the offence will also show on any future DBS checks.

### Not Paying a Penalty Notice

Penalty notices are only issued to parents when they have committed the offence of failing to ensure their child's regular attendance at school.

A penalty notice gives the parent the chance to write the offence off without needing to go to court.

It is not an offence not to pay a penalty notice, but the Local Authority may then prosecute the parent for the original offence.

### The Law

Penalty notices are issued in line with Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 when a parent has failed to ensure their child's regular attendance at school.

Penalty notices can only be issued when:

- ✓ A child's absence meets the national threshold
- ✓ Support has been attempted (if appropriate)
- ✓ Issuing a penalty notice is compliant with the Somerset Penalty Notice Code of Conduct

# PORLOCK DUCK RACE

Sunday 24th of May  
Starting from 12pm

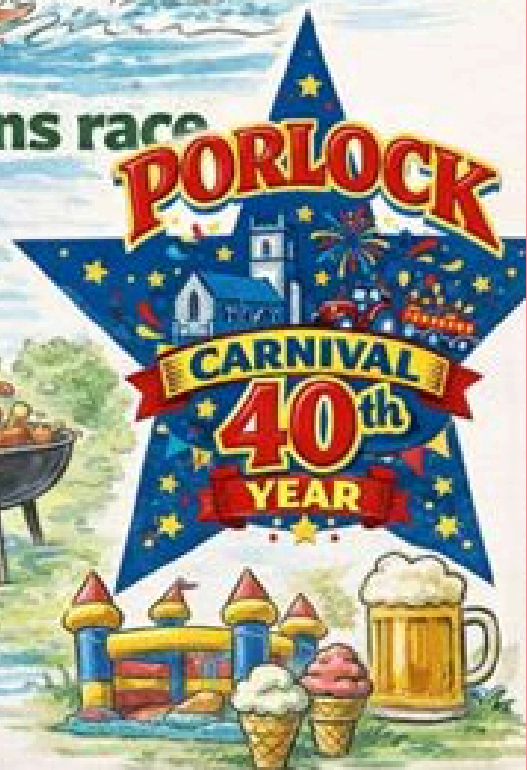


**11 races, 1 champions race**

Bouncy castle, BBQ,  
Ice Creams, beer  
and much more

Each duck  
costs **£3**

**Sparkhayes  
Campsite**



# Wellbeing Support

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- [Click here for Support for Families](#)



# Calendar Dates

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Dates for the next few weeks:

Weds 20<sup>th</sup> May

Y4 visit to MMS Science Day

Half Term Break

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> May

Return to School

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> June

Nursery sports day

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> June

Y3 & Y4 Cricket at Exford CC

View our Online Events Calendar

[Click here to find out what is happening in your school!](#)



# Website Information

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- What we are learning
- Term Dates
- Newsletters
- Events
- Online Safety
- Vision & Values



## Contact Details

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### SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS –

Our designated safeguarding lead is Mrs Walker-Blair.

Our deputy leads are Miss Jennings and Mrs Pravato

Click [here](#) for all Safeguarding details.

### GENERAL SCHOOL QUERIES –

Contact Mrs McLaren in the School Office:

01643 862249

[stdubricius@moorlandfed.co.uk](mailto:stdubricius@moorlandfed.co.uk)

Mrs Walker-Blair

[lucywalkerblair@moorlandfed.co.uk](mailto:lucywalkerblair@moorlandfed.co.uk)

Mrs Pravato

[lizpravato@moorlandfed.co.uk](mailto:lizpravato@moorlandfed.co.uk)

