



NEWSLETTER

RECEPTION: 01363 83292

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15 December 2025



Dear Parent(s)/ Carer(s)

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2025!

Nativity

This week has been full of Christmas fun which kicked off with the Robins' and Kingfishers' Nativity performances. This year, the children performed Hey Ewe which tells the traditional Christmas story from the perspective of a curious sheep who knows something special is happening and is trying to find out what all the fuss is about!

Oliver Leach made an excellent 'Curious Sheep' and sang a beautiful solo with such confidence. It was really wonderful seeing all the children dressed up in their costumes, performing their songs and delivering their lines so eloquently. I am incredibly proud of them all.

CMAC Christmas Concert

On Wednesday I was fortunate enough to be able to take two young musicians (Bonnie and Matilda) over to Chulmleigh College to perform as part of the CMAC orchestra in their Christmas concert. Being part of Chulmleigh Academy Trust means that our children are able to be included in CMAC and gives them a brilliant opportunity to be inspired by older musicians from the College. The girls were wowed by some of the solo performances given by children from Year 7 to Year 11 and it was lovely to see the familiar faces of some ex Lapford pupils who were performing



Pantomime

On Friday we were back at Chulmleigh College, but this time with all children from Reception to Year 6 from all three Trust Primary schools to watch a pantomime performance of Robin Hood.

The children were thoroughly entertained by the lively characters, plenty of jokes and humorous moments, and the chance to join in by singing, dancing and loudly booing the baddies. The colourful costumes, energetic performances and familiar pantomime traditions kept everyone engaged from start to finish, making it a fun and memorable experience for all.



Many thanks to FLS for this lovely Christmas treat.



Over 60s Christmas Lunch

After returning from the pantomime, we were back out again to sing at the annual Over 60s Christmas lunch in Lapford village. The children performed beautifully, singing with confidence and enthusiasm, and were warmly received by the audience.

It was a lovely opportunity for the children to give something back to the community and spread some festive cheer.

Staffing Update

At the end of this week we will be saying a sad farewell to Ms Atherton. Ms Atherton has been at Lapford since May, covering Mrs Burrow's maternity leave in Robins. She has been a huge asset to the EYFS team and has very much enjoyed getting to know the children and families at Lapford. She will be taking up a new position at a school in Wellington in the Spring Term and we wish her the best of luck with this.

Throughout January, the children in Robins will be taught by Mrs Ali Ahmad on a Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Ali Ahmad has worked at our school in the past and will be familiar to the children in Robins. Mrs Burrows will then return to us at the start of February.

Have a lovely week.
Mrs Wright



Date	Event	Details
w/b 1st December	Christmas Crafternoons!	We will be decorating the classrooms and creating Christmas craft to sell at the Christmas Fair this week. Our Christmas Postbox will be available for Christmas cards to be posted from today.
Tuesday 2nd & Thursday 4th December	Parent/Teacher meetings	Make an appointment to find out how your child is progressing this year and also find out about our new school uniform.
Wednesday 3rd December	Computing Open Afternoon	Join us between 2.20 and 3.20pm to find out what your children have been learning in computing this term.
Saturday 6th December	Christmas Fair	Open to all 2:00 – 4:00pm. A variety of stalls, games and refreshments as well as Santa’s grotto. Please send in Jazzy jars or cake raffle donations by Friday 5th December.
Wednesday 10th December	EYFS and KS1 Nativity – afternoon performance	Performance starts at 2.30pm. Please join us for refreshments afterwards. (Nursery children who do not normally attend on Tuesdays are invited to join us from 2:00pm)
Thursday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day	Wear your favourite Christmas jumper to school in exchange for £1 donation to Save the Children (payable through MyEd only - NO CASH)
Thursday 11th December	EYFS and KS1 Nativity – evening performance	Performance starts at 6:00pm. Children should arrive at school from 5:30pm. Refreshments available before the show.
Friday 12th December	Pantomime	All children from R – Y6 will travel to Chulmleigh College to watch a performance of Robin Hood with a party in school for our Nursery children.
Friday 12th December	Over 60s lunch	All children will walk to Lapford Victory hall to provide entertainment at the Over 60s Xmas Lunch.
Wednesday 17th December	KS2 Carol Concert at Lapford Congregational Church	2:30pm. Come and listen to our KS2 classes perform a variety of songs and music and retell the Christmas story.
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Parties	Look out for class specific details on Dojo.
Friday 19th December	End of term assembly Christmas Dinner End of term	All welcome from 9.00 – 9.30am. A chance to end the year with our final celebration assembly. Please order your Christmas Dinner on MyEd. Children are welcome to wear a festive jumper or headband/hat today. School’s out for Christmas!

What's on 15-19 December



Day	What's On	PE	Music Lessons	Clubs
Monday 15 December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robins & Kingfishers PE Hérons swimming 	Ms Bloch flute lessons	LAST SESSION 3:30 - 4:30pm Yrs 2-6 Netball Club with Mrs Perry
Tuesday 16 December		Hérons PE		
Wednesday 17 December	2:30pm KS2 Carol Concert - Lapford Congregational Church			
Thursday 18 December	Christmas parties in class - see Dojo for specifics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Craddock keyboard & violin lessons Mr White drum lessons 	
Friday 19 December	LAST DAY OF TERM CHRISTMAS LUNCH - CHILDREN CAN WEAR CHRISTMAS JUMPERS WITH UNIFORM			

Planning a holiday?

Term dates for 2025-26 and 2026-27 can be found [here](#)



What's on 5-9 January

Day	What's On	PE	Music Lessons	Clubs
Monday 5 January	NON PUPIL DAY			
Tuesday 6 January	CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL	Hérons PE		
Wednesday 7 January				
Thursday 8 January			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Craddock keyboard & violin lessons • Mr White drum lessons 	
Friday 9 January	Community Celebration of St Thomas of Canterbury C of E School			

Planning a holiday?

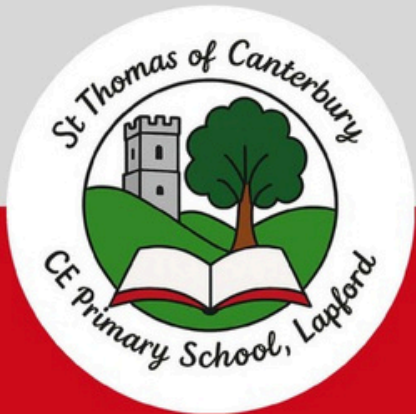
Term dates for 2025-26 and 2026-27 can be found [here](#)



New Uniform Proposal

'Let all that you do be done in love.' –
1 Corinthians 16:14

Curious minds, caring hearts,
courageous spirits



CURIOSITY LOVE BRAVERY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

New Uniform - From January 2026

Rationale:

To retain links from Lapford Community School, we decided to keep red sweatshirts/cardigans. To minimise cost going forward we are keeping white shirts and black trousers/shorts.

We want our school to stand out in the local area for its wonderful behaviour, teaching and standards. Given the excellent monitoring report recently, this is already happening.

The addition of the optional tartan skirts, pinafores and ties to the uniform look very smart and are different to all the other schools in the area. The pupils at our secondary school, Chulmleigh College, always look impeccable and we wanted our St Thomas' children to have that same pride in their appearance.

As promised during the consultation on the change of name, there will be no cost to parents for this changeover. All pupils will be given one new sweatshirt or cardigan, a tie (KS2 pupils) and one skirt or pinafore (if preferred over black trousers/shorts).

Going forward, parents will be offered the opportunity to have on loan a new uniform item at a cost of only £10.00 or buy a second-hand item for £5.00 (once we have built up a stock of second-hand items). Of course, parents are also able to buy additional new uniform items from Thomas Moore, Chulmleigh Academy Trust's uniform supplier.



CURIOSITY LOVE BRAVERY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Reception and KS1 (Years 1 & 2)

- White polo shirt with:
- Black trousers/shorts with branded sweatshirt or...
- Tartan pinafore with branded cardigan
- White socks or red/grey/black tights

KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

- White shirt (long or short sleeves) with:
- Black trousers/shorts with branded sweatshirt and tie or...
- Tartan skirt with branded sweatshirt and tie
- White socks or red/grey/black tights



CURIOSITY LOVE BRAVERY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



'Pupils demonstrate high levels of self-discipline and commitment to learning. They are consistently polite, well-mannered, and hardworking, contributing to a positive and respectful school culture.'

School monitoring visit November 2025



CURIOSITY LOVE BRAVERY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



What a fabulous half term we have had! From parties celebrating birthdays, wedding roleplay with fancy dress and a special Forest School Bonfire Night celebration to most recently getting into the Christmas spirit and having fun with all things Christmas, the children have enjoyed every step of the way!

In The Nest over the last couple of weeks, we have been busy making a carwash, a bus and then a big sleigh out of construction blocks, making a garage in our outdoor area, designing Christmas wrapping paper, making decorations and cards, writing letters to Father Christmas, drawing circles and triangles and exploring different texts which all had a celebration theme.





Nativities

Over the past few weeks, the children have been working SO hard to remember lines, stage directions and sing beautifully in their Nativity. They have all been so well-behaved and hard-working and we are so proud of them. Their performances were a hit and we all had so much fun! We hope it was as memorable for them as it was for us.

Pantomime and Nursery Christmas Party

The Reception children enjoyed their fantastic Pantomime (not to mention getting the bus which I think may have been a highlight for some!) all funded by our wonderful FLS.

Whilst the Reception children were having a blast watching their special show and eating ice cream, Nursery were treated to a Christmas party with party games, gifts and party food from FLS.

A huge thank you all round!



Admissions policy for 2027-28: Annual Consultation

Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2027-28. The Local Authority is also consulting on its arrangements – the admissions schemes through which you can apply. You are invited to look at the proposal new policies which are based on policies for this year and next year and to have your say on them.

Our proposed policy is on our admission page [here](#) and you can see all policies at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy>.

Further information is here: <http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements>

The consultation runs between 1 November and 16 January 2026.

Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March 2026 next year. You can comment at schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk or by emailing the school.

Apply for a primary school place

Was your child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022?



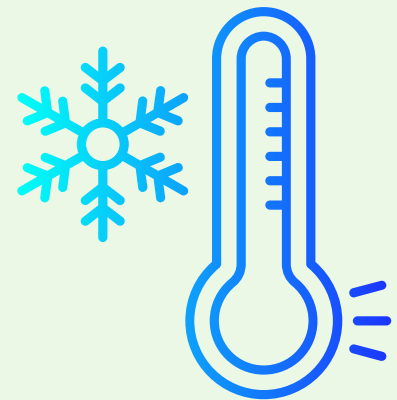
Apply online at:
devon.cc/admissionsonline

or scan the QR code. Applications open from
15 November 2025 to the **15 January 2026**

If you can't access the school admissions website you can get more information by emailing admissions@devon.gov.uk or call our Education Helpline on:
0345 155 1019



You must apply through the Admissions Team, even if you've already given details to a school. Applications made directly to schools or on their lists will not be accepted.



Please remember to send your child into school with a named coat, hat and gloves, now that the temperatures are dropping!





JOB ADVERTISEMENT
FOR THE PERMANENT POST OF
Catering Assistant
10 hours per week x 39 weeks per annum
Grade A: £12.65
AT LAPFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Required from January 2026

Applications are invited for the part time, permanent position of Catering Assistant to assist in the provision of catering facilities at Lapford Community Primary School. The post will be available from January 2026 but there is some flexibility for the right candidate.

We are pleased to offer a permanent post covering 10 hours per week x 39 weeks per annum (term time, including Non-Pupil Days). The working pattern is Monday to Friday, 11.30am to 13.30pm each day.

The role involves serving meals, washing up and cleaning the dining area. A qualification in food hygiene would be an advantage, but training can be given if a Food Hygiene Certificate is not held.

The ideal candidate will be an enthusiastic and reliable team player and will join a hardworking, friendly, and highly valued catering team who are committed to our ambition to offer the best provision to all our pupils across all areas of their education.

Employment benefits include eligibility to join the Local Government Pension Scheme. In addition, employees of the Trust are entitled to 50% off childcare fees at our out of school clubs for children of compulsory school age.

We are committed to promoting equality of opportunity and access for all, irrespective of age, background, race, gender, religion, ability, disability, or sexuality. We welcome applications for employment from the whole community.

Further details, including the job description can be found on our [website](https://www.lapford-primary.devon.sch.uk). Please download and complete the application form and email it to personnel@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk by 10 am Tuesday, 6th January 2026. All applications will be acknowledged. Alternatively, please call 01769 580215 to register your interest in the role and we will be pleased to contact you to discuss it further and support you with completing an application.

As employers, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment and in that regard, we have appropriate policies and procedures. All staff undertake a criminal record check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and interviews will include questions about safeguarding children.

In line with Government guidance, we may carry out online searches against shortlisted applicants' names as part of our due diligence checks

Closing date: Tuesday 6th January 2026
 Interview date: Wednesday 14th January



SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY TODAY

How it works...

It's simple—choose 6 numbers between 0-9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to Lapford Community Primary School

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online by direct debit or debit card.

It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to Lapford Community Primary School

Splitting the £1.00

- 40p goes to our school
- 36p goes to cash prizes
- 20p goes to admin costs
- 4p goes to VAT

The Maths... 100 tickets sold a week means
 = £30 weekly cash prize
 = £2,080 a year for our school

Buy A Ticket

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

SCAN ME

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minifec>.

School Lunches

MyEd + Pay £2.61

Please order by midnight the day before

*

If you miss this deadline please provide your child with a packed lunch

www.lapford-primary.devon.sch.uk

Lapford Breakfast Club Menu

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Beans on Toast	Bagels	Sausage Baps	Toasted Teacakes	Scrambled Eggs on Toast

- Toast
- Crumpets
- Selection of Jams & Spreads
- Fresh Fruit
- Yoghurt
- Cereals
- Milk
- Apple Juice
- Orange Juice
- Water

AVAILABLE EVERY DAY!

FREE Breakfast Club Reception to Year 6

ALL pupils from Reception to Year 6 can book into our **FREE 8:30am Breakfast Club.** Please go to MyEd to select your days!

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

FRESH FRUIT & YOGHURT SERVED DAILY

SPRING MENU

Week 1

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN	Breakfast Brunch with Bacon, Sausage, Hash Brown and Beans	Beef Lasagne with Wedges & garden Peas	Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes, Gravy, Carrots and Cabbage	Chicken Korma with Rice & Naan Bread	Fish Finger Sandwich with Iceberg Lettuce in a Bap with Roasted New Potatoes and Garden Peas
MEAT-FREE MAIN	Quorn Sausage with Hash Brown, Beans & Tomatoes	Vegetarian Lasagne with Wedges & Garden Peas	Broccoli & Cauliflower Gratin with Roast Potatoes, Carrots and Cabbage	Vegetarian Cauliflower, Chickpea & Sweet Potato Korma with Rice & Naan Bread	Veggie Finger Sandwich with Iceberg Lettuce in a Bap with Roasted New Potatoes and Garden Peas
JACKET POTATO	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans	Beans or Tuna	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans
SANDWICH	Cheese or Ham	Ham or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Ham or Cheese	Ham or Tuna Mayo
DESSERT	Fruit Platter Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Carrot and Courgette Chocolate Brownie Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Flapjack Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Banana Cake Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Coconut Cookie Yogurt Fresh Fruit

We are pleased to offer a variety of allergen free options on our food menu. Although all food is prepared in a kitchen that handles most allergens and therefore we cannot guarantee that cross contamination will never occur, we do take every possible precaution to prevent this from happening.

School Lunches

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

FRESH FRUIT & YOGHURT SERVED DAILY

SPRING MENU Week 2

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN	Battered Chicken Burger in a Bap with Wedges & Salad	Savoury Mince with Creamy Mash, Carrots and Peas	Roast Pork with Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Cabbage & Gravy	Kung Pao Chicken with Steamed Rice & Sweetcorn	Breaded Fish with Roasted New Potatoes and Beans
MEAT-FREE MAIN	Plant Based Burger in a Bap with Wedges & Salad	Vegetarian Spanish Bean Stew with Creamy Mash, Carrots & Peas	Vegetarian Homity Pie with Roast Potatoes, Carrots and Cabbage	Vegetarian Sweet & Sour Vegetables with Rice & Sweetcorn	Vegetable Fajita with Roasted New Potatoes And Beans
JACKET POTATO	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans	Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans
SANDWICH	Cheese or Ham	Tuna or Ham	Cheese or Tuna	Cheese or Ham	Tuna or Ham
DESSERT	Iced Sponge Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Sticky Toffee Cake with Toffee Sauce Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Banana Mousse Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Chocolate Krispie Cake Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Lemon Drizzle Yogurt Fresh Fruit

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Chulmleigh Academy Trust

FRESH FRUIT & YOGHURT SERVED DAILY

SPRING MENU Week 3

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN	Beef Meatballs in a Tomato Sauce with Spaghetti, Sweetcorn & Garlic Bread	Hoisin Chicken Stir Fry Noodles with Sweetcorn & Garden Peas	Roast Turkey with Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Cabbage & Gravy	Chipolata Sausage with Mash, Gravy, Carrots & Peas	Chicken Nuggets with Roasted New Potatoes & Baked Beans
MEAT-FREE MAIN	Vegetarian Tomato & Mozzarella Pasta with Sweetcorn & Garlic Bread	Vegetarian Singapore Noodles with Sweetcorn & Garden Peas	Vegetarian Leek & Mushroom Bake with Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Cabbage & Gravy	Vegetarian Sausage with Mash, Gravy, Carrots & Peas	Vegetarian 'No Chicken' Nuggets with Roasted New Potatoes & Baked Beans
JACKET POTATO	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans	Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Tuna mayo	Cheese or Beans
SANDWICH	Cheese or Ham	Tuna Mayo or Ham	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Ham	Tuna Mayo or Ham
DESSERT	Apple & Cinnamon Cake Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Jam & Coconut Sponge Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Fruit Jelly & Mandarins Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Custard Cookie Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Carrot Cake Yogurt Fresh Fruit

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