

NEWSLETTER



RECEPTION: 01363 83292

www.stc-primary.devon.sch.uk

EMAIL: admin@stc-primary.devon.sch.uk

30 March 2026

Dear Parent(s)/ Carer(s)

Multiskills Festival

Last week we were delighted to welcome children from East Worlington and Chulmleigh Primary EYFS and KS1 to St Thomas to take part in a Multiskills Festival.

Unfortunately, Mrs Perry was unwell; however, we are very grateful to Mrs Skinner who stepped in at the last minute to organise and lead the event – and what a success it was! The children had a fantastic time working in mixed teams, taking part in a range of activities including running, jumping, throwing, kicking and balancing.

It was wonderful to see the children demonstrating such enthusiasm, teamwork and encouragement for one another throughout the morning. Events like this are a great opportunity for our children to build confidence, develop key physical skills and make new friendships across our schools.



Writing Progress

Also on Tuesday, I had the pleasure of meeting with eight children from Reception to Year 6, alongside Mr Steve Baber, our Chair of Directors, to talk about our progress in writing. The children shared examples of their work and spoke confidently about the progress they have made since September. Indy, in Reception, explained how he can now use finger spaces and sit his letters neatly on the line, while Reece in Year 6 talked about how he uses vocabulary and grammatical features to create a particular effect on the reader.

It was a real treat to hear how enthusiastic the children were about their writing and how proud they felt of their achievements. Moments like these really highlight the positive impact of our focus on writing across the school.



Resource Futures

On Thursday, our Herons had a rather messy but incredibly valuable visit from Sally and Kyle from Resource Futures, who came in to carry out a waste audit of our school. This involved emptying and sorting through all of the rubbish from our school bins to find out exactly what we are throwing away. Although it was, at times, a fairly unpleasant task, the children approached it with great enthusiasm and curiosity – and were very quick to point out that we seem to be wasting a lot of blue roll!

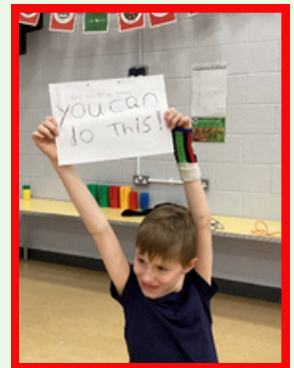
Sally and Kyle will be returning next week to help the children analyse their findings and create an action plan. The Herons will then be presenting their ideas in a whole school assembly, helping us all to think more carefully about how we can reduce waste and look after our environment.

Skipathon

Friday saw our whole-school Skip-a-thon, and what a fantastic event it was! Together, we completed an impressive 6.5 hours of continuous skipping, showing real determination and teamwork throughout the day. A huge well done to our Year 6 children for organising such a fun and successful fundraiser, and thank you to Amanda for coming in to support them.

All of the children took part brilliantly, and it was lovely to see such a strong sense of teamwork – with staff even stepping in to keep things going while Year 6 enjoyed a well-earned lunch break!

A reminder to please bring in any sponsor money by Thursday 2nd April.



Easter Holiday Challenge

During collective worship this term we have been thinking about our value of Bravery. Bravery isn't about having no fear – it's about choosing to do the right thing even when we're afraid. We can show courage by standing up, speaking up, trying new things, keeping going, and showing love.

Over Easter your challenge is to capture a photo of yourselves demonstrating 'Bravery'. Please could all photos can be emailed to the office admin@stc-primary.devon.sch.uk by 24th April. There will be a prize for the photo we feel best represents our value of bravery.



What's on 30 March -3 April

Day	What's On	PE	Music Lessons	Clubs
Monday 30 March		Robins & Kingfishers PE	Ms Bloch flute lessons	3:30 - 4:30pm Multisports Club with Mrs Perry. LAST SESSION
Tuesday 31 March		Hérons PE		
Wednesday 1 April	Key Stage 2 Girls to Chulmleigh College - Rugby event.			3:30 - 4:30pm Year 6 SATs Club
Thursday 2 April	LAST DAY OF TERM RESOURCE FUTURES ACTION DAY 3:15pm Yrs3-5 Residential Parent meeting in Hall 3:30pm FLS meeting at school		Mr White drum lessons	
Friday 3 April	GOOD FRIDAY			

Planning a holiday?

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



What's on 20-24 April

Day	What's On	PE	Music Lessons	Clubs
Monday 20 April	CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL Upper Herons to library	Robins & Kingfishers PE	Ms Bloch flute lessons	
Tuesday 21 April		Herons PE		
Wednesday 22 April	Years 3-5 Residential trip			3:30 - 4:30pm Year 6 SATs Club
Thursday 23 April	Years 3-5 Residential trip		Mr White drum lessons	
Friday 24 April	Years 3-5 Residential trip 3:00pm Scholar Award Assembly			

Planning a holiday?

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





What a busy few weeks in Herons! From World Book Day to Science week and with lots of visitors and workshops too it's been busy in the best way!

In English, Upper Herons have been creating their own Wolf fact files with stunning word choices and factual work while Lower Herons have been developing some twisted fairytales with superb character description and horrid endings.

Who knew such sweet looking children could produce such vile endings for the fairy tale characters!?



In Geography, we were thrilled to finish our unit on 'Our Local Settlement' with a visit from David and Susan who work with the local Lapford Archive team.

We were given a superb recount of Lapford's history from the original neolithic dwellers through to the importance of the Ambrosia factory and everything in between!

The children asked some superb questions and it was wonderful to see photos and maps of Lapford from the past and present to compare.

In Science, we loved our science week finding invertebrates across the school site and classifying them based on their characteristics. Did you know worms are annelids and have 5 hearts!?! Years 5 and 6 have then enjoyed their delicious science experiment into adaptation with different beaks (or pegs/tongs) and a variety of diets (or sweets!) to try and collect while Years 3 and 4 have set up an experiment into tooth decay by using eggs in different drinks. An egg's outer shell is similar to the enamel of our teeth so we are very interested to see which drink will erode the shell the most!

Finally, we can't wait to show you our felt phone cases from DT, learn more about how we can reduce waste in our school through our eco studies waste audit and begin to get ready for our upcoming residential and more!

Have a fantastic Easter when it arrives and well done Herons on a fantastic term!

Mr Skinner





Arthur and Oliver in Year 4 recently set up and launched a Tennis Club at St Thomas of Canterbury. We have been so proud of their dedication to helping children of all year groups learn how to play tennis - well done boys!



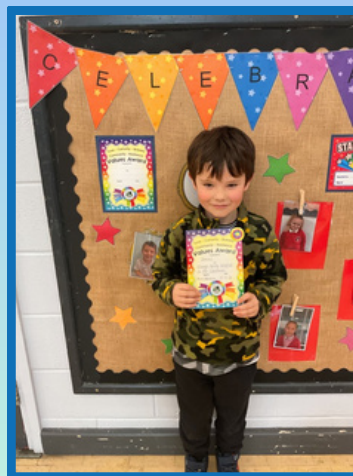
Stars of the Week 27th March 2026



Congratulations to Verity, Penny & India!

Values Award 27th March 2026

LOVE BRAVERY RESILIENCE CURIOSITY COMMUNITY



Congratulations to Poppy, Dominic & William!

Seeking School Governors

As part of the Trust's new governance structure, each school will now have a Local Governing Board to provide support, challenge and oversight, helping to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils and strong links with the local community. We are currently looking to recruit new governors and welcome interest from parents, carers and members of the community who would like to contribute their skills and experience. You do not need to be an education expert – just someone who is interested in supporting the school and helping shape its future. If you would like to find out more about becoming a governor, please do come and speak to Mrs Wright.

SHAPE THE FUTURE



BECOME A GOVERNOR!

- Help shape the future of education in our community
- Influence strategy • Support leadership • Champion our values
- Help ensure every child thrives
- Bring your skills and perspective
- Learn more by using the QR code or email clerk@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk



JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Permanent Nursery Manager

at St Thomas of Canterbury CE Primary School, Lapford

30 hours per week x 39 weeks per annum

Grade E (£15.82 to £17.47 depending on experience)

Required as soon as possible

Chulmleigh Academy Trust is excited to be expanding the Foundation Stage facility at St Thomas of Canterbury CE Primary School, Lapford. The NEST (Nurturing Excellence at St Thomas), opening on 5 May 2026, will include nursery provision for children from 9 months to 2 years. This will provide wrap around care from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm during term time. The working pattern will be Monday to Friday from 11:30 am to 6:00 pm (with a 30-minute unpaid break). Additional hours will be available once the Nursery provision is established. There are also plans to open a holiday provision. Therefore, flexibility is essential.

The Trust is looking to recruit an experienced and enthusiastic person to manage the day to day running of the Nursery, to include co-ordinating the provision of a caring, safe, secure and stimulating environment, in line with Ofsted requirements.

Candidates should be able to:

- Provide outstanding leadership and operational management of the Nursery, ensuring standards are met and children receive excellent quality care and education.
- Plan a range of activities based on an observation and assessment cycle for children in the Nursery.
- Manage a team of staff working with the Head of School to ensure policies and procedures are implemented.
- Engage parents and the community in the Nursery

Candidates will have experience of leadership and the ability to motivate staff and experience within an early years and childcare setting. Candidates will need experience working with other agencies and professionals. Excellent written and verbal communication skills, good organisational and record keeping and the ability to manage multiple tasks effectively is required, along with strong interpersonal skills. The successful candidate will have completed a full and relevant early years and childcare qualification at Level 3 or above and relevant Level 4 Management or Level 5 childcare qualification is desirable.

If you would like an informal conversation, please contact us on the email address below and we will be pleased to arrange a telephone call with our Head of School to discuss the role further.

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.

A full candidate pack has been published to support our recruitment which can be found on our [website](#).

Please download and complete the application form and email it to personnel@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk by 10 am on Friday, 24 April 2026. All applications will be acknowledged.

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: 10 am Friday, 24 April 2026

Interview date: Friday, 1 May 2026





JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Permanent Foundation Stage Practitioner & Out of School Club Assistant at St Thomas of Canterbury CE Primary School, Lapford

Foundation Stage Practitioner: 10 hours per week x 38 weeks per annum

Out of School Club Assistant: 12.5 hours per week x 38 weeks per annum

Grade C: £13.47 - £13.69 per hour, depending on experience

Required from May 2026

Chulmleigh Academy Trust is excited to be expanding the Foundation Stage facility at St Thomas of Canterbury CE School, Lapford. The NEST (Nurturing Excellence at St Thomas), opening on 5 May 2026, will include nursery provision for children from 9 months to 2 years. To support our expanded nursery provision, we are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, committed, patient and motivated Foundation Stage Practitioner, including the role of Out of School Club Assistant, to join our team. Additional hours are likely to be available once the Nursery provision is established. There are also plans to open a holiday provision. Therefore, flexibility is essential.

Foundation Stage Practitioner The successful candidates will work with the teacher and senior staff to ensure a creative learning environment within the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. The role will involve high quality practice through a range of interesting and stimulating activities and supervision of individuals and groups of children in the nursery or foundation stage unit. The working pattern will be Monday to Friday from 1:30 - 3:30 pm.

Candidates should demonstrate the following skills and attributes:

- Hold a recognised Level 3 Early Years qualification
- Hold suitable Level 2 Literacy and Numeracy qualifications
- Excellent communication skills
- Patience and positivity
- The ability to support colleagues, use positive behaviour management strategies and ensure the school continues its excellent provision for all pupils

Out of School Club Assistant We are pleased to be able to offer the successful FSP candidates an additional role as Out of School Club Assistant. The successful candidates will work with senior staff to support the day to day running of the Out of School Club. The role will provide an opportunity to engage children in a range of activities in a relaxed, safe environment. The working pattern will be Monday to Friday from 3:30 - 6:00 pm.

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.

The candidate pack (including job descriptions) and application form are available on our [website](#). Please download and complete the application form and email it to personnel@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk by 10 am on Friday, 24 April 2026. All applications will be acknowledged.

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: 10 am on Friday, 24 April 2026

Interview Date: Friday, 1 May 2026



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/minftec>.

SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY TODAY

£1 per week

Weekly cash prizes

£25,000 jackpot

Splitting the £1.00

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

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

The Maths...

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

Buy A Ticket

JOB ADVERTISEMENT
Permanent, Part time
Receptionist & Administrative Assistant
at Chulmleigh College
37 hours per week x 39 weeks per annum
Grade C: £13.47 to £13.69 per hour - depending on experience
pay award pending
Required as soon as possible

Following internal promotion, Chulmleigh Academy Trust is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, organised and friendly person to join our professional and welcoming Reception Team. The successful candidate will be based at Chulmleigh College and will work as part of our collaborative and supportive Academy Administration Team.

The successful candidates will need to be confident with excellent interpersonal, communication and IT skills, able to provide an efficient and effective service and act as the first point of contact for parents, pupils and visitors to the College.

Candidates should demonstrate the following skills and attributes:

- A high standard of English and Mathematics
- Competent computer skills
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Good knowledge and understanding of Administrative Procedures
- Maintain high levels of confidentiality and discretion
- Able to work under pressure

Experience of working in a school environment would be an advantage, however training will be available.

We are pleased to offer this permanent post for 37 hours per week x 39 weeks per annum (term time only). The working pattern will be Monday to Friday 08:50 to 16:50 – allowing for a 30-minute unpaid lunch break.

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.

The candidate pack (including job description) and application form are available on our [website](https://www.chulmleigh.academytrust.com). Completed application forms to be emailed to personnel@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk by 10am on Thursday, 2nd April 2026. All applications will be acknowledged.

As employers, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and in that regard 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: 10 am Thursday, 2nd April 2026
Interview Date: Monday, 20th April 2026

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

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 for Reception to Year 6 pupils

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

SUMMER TERM MENU NOW AVAILABLE TO BOOK ON PARENTMAIL!

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

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.