

NEWSLETTER



RECEPTION: 01363 83292

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14 September 2026



Dear Parent(s)/ Carer(s)

Welcome Back!

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school this week and to see the building busy and full of life again! A particularly warm welcome goes out to all of the new children and families who have joined our St Thomas community this September. The children have settled incredibly well into their new classes, quickly becoming familiar with new routines and getting stuck into their learning. It has been lovely to see friendships being renewed after the summer as well as lots of new ones beginning to form.

Our Robins also enjoyed their first Forest School session of the new school year. They spent time learning how to keep themselves and others safe around the fire, establishing some important routines ready for lots more outdoor adventures over the coming year.

Dojo

Throughout the year, class teachers will use ClassDojo to share information about what the children are learning, alongside class news, photographs and any important reminders. Do keep an eye on Dojo regularly so that you don't miss anything. Teachers can also be contacted through Dojo if you have a question or concern about your child. As always, we would much rather know about any worries so that we can work together to resolve them.

Parking

With several additional families joining us this year, our car park is understandably becoming increasingly busy at drop-off and collection times. Please help us to keep everyone safe by parking considerately and taking particular care when entering and leaving the school site. Please also remember that there is a section of road immediately outside school with no pavement, meaning children and families may be walking in the road. We ask everyone to drive slowly and be especially mindful of pedestrians at these busy times.

Friends of Lapford School

Our Friends of Lapford School (FLS) work tirelessly throughout the year to organise fun events for our children and families while raising valuable funds for the school. Their support makes a huge difference, and we would love as many families as possible to get involved in whatever way they can.

If you would like to find out more, please speak to Stacey Lumsdon, our FLS Chairperson, or come along to our next meeting at 3.45pm on 1st October. We are also holding a relaxed welcome gathering this Wednesday after school for anyone who is new to St Thomas, or simply interested in finding out a little more about FLS. Join us in the school hall at 3.00pm for coffee, cake and a chat – everyone is very welcome!

Wigs, Wacky Hair & Cake!

Our first fundraiser of the new school year takes place this Friday, when children are invited to come to school sporting a wig or wonderfully wacky hairstyle in exchange for a £1 **cash donation**. Children should still wear their normal school uniform, but the crazier the hair, the better!

At the end of the school day, our School Council will also be holding a cake sale. We would be very grateful for donations of cakes, which can be brought to the school office by Friday morning.

All money raised through our Wigs and Wacky Hair Day will be used to purchase prizes for the FLS Bingo Night, taking place at 7.00pm on 26th September in Lapford Village Hall. Money raised through FLS events will be reinvested into projects and improvements that benefit our children, so please do support these events where you can. We are looking forward to another fun and successful year of fundraising!

Have a great week.

Mrs Wright

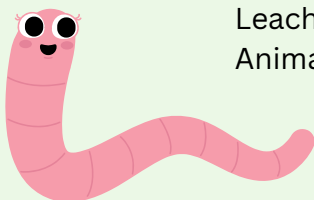


OPAL NEWS - Critters Crawl wildlife area



Last week, Matilda Wright was named the winner of our naming competition for our wildlife area. She suggested Critters Crawl, which we felt was a very suitable name!

Thank you for everyone who took part and our runners up Molly Taylor and Oliver Leach with Bug City, Dominic John with The Little Burrow and Oliver Gidley with The Animal Hive.





What's on 14-18 September

Day	What's On	PE	Music Lessons	Clubs
Monday 14 September	Herons swimming			
Tuesday 15 September				
Wednesday 16 September	- Herons Forest School Afternoon 3:00pm FLS Coffee Afternoon at school		Ms Bloch flute lessons resume	
Thursday 17 September	NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe workshops for years 2, 5 & 6		- Mrs Craddock violin and keyboard lessons resume - Mr White drum lessons resume	
Friday 18 September	FLS Wacky Hair & SHoes Day Herons to library			



What's on 21-25 September

Day	What's On	PE	Music Lessons	Clubs
Monday 21 September	Years 5&6 Bikeability Kingfishers swimming			
Tuesday 22 September	Years 5&6 Bikeability			
Wednesday 23 September	Years 5&6 Bikeability Kingfishers Forest School Afternoon		Ms Bloch flute lessons	
Thursday 24 September	Years 5&6 Bikeability		Mrs Craddock violin and keyboard lessons Mr White drum lessons resume	
Friday 25 September				

PLANNING A HOLIDAY?

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





A Wonderful First Week in Reception

What a fantastic first week we have had in Reception!

Our new children have settled into school life wonderfully and have already been demonstrating our school values and showing what an brilliant group they are.

There have been lots of new experiences, new friendships and plenty of happy smiles along the way. The children have been busy getting to know one another, exploring our classroom and learning the routines that help make our school day run smoothly.

We have seen **Love** in action as the children have cared for one another, shared resources and offered kind words and helping hands. We have also seen great **Bravery** as children have faced the excitement — and sometimes the nerves — of starting school, trying new activities and making new friends.



Our children have shown wonderful **Resilience** too. Learning new routines, becoming more independent and saying goodbye at the start of the day can sometimes feel tricky, but the children have kept trying and have been so proud of themselves when they have succeeded.

We have also seen lots of **Curiosity** as the children have explored their new environment, asked questions, investigated resources and discovered new things each day. Their enthusiasm for learning has been wonderful to see.



Most importantly, we are already beginning to build a strong sense of **Community** in our Reception classroom. The children have been learning that we are a team, that everyone matters and that we can learn and have fun together.

We are incredibly proud of each and every one of our Reception children. They have made such a positive start to their school journey, and we cannot wait to see how they continue to grow, learn and shine throughout the year.



Well done, Reception — what a brilliant first week!

Stars of the Week 11th September 2026



Congratulations to James, Leo & Evander!

Values Award 11th September 2026

LOVE BRAVERY RESILIENCE CURIOSITY COMMUNITY



Congratulations to Declan, Molly & Dakota!



GEORGE & WILLIAM'S
BIG FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST
FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2026 9-12

COME ALONG, ENJOY SOME YUMMY FOOD AND SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE!

ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO CHILDREN IN NEED

TO BOOK YOUR BREAKFAST CALL STACEY ON 07891 556884

LAPFORD VICTORY HALL EX17 6PZ

BOOKING ESSENTIAL THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

GOOD FOOD. GREAT COMPANY. BIG DIFFERENCE.

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Part time, temporary T1 Teaching Assistant
at East Worlington Primary School
27.5 hours per week x 39 weeks per annum
Grade C: £12.47 to £13.69 - depending on experience also

Part time, temporary T1 Mealtime Assistant
2.5 hours per week x 39 weeks per annum
Grade A - £12.85
Required from October 2026

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, committed, patient and motivated Teaching Assistant to join our support team at East Worlington Primary School.

The successful candidate will support the development of a pupil in the Reception Class with additional needs. You will be tenacious and committed to supporting the needs and development of the individual pupil whilst being an excellent team player and communicator. Previous experience of working with pupils with different abilities and knowledge of attachment based mentoring and relational practice would be an advantage.

The post is temporary and will be subject to the continued attendance of the pupil and/or the result of any special needs or funding review.

Candidates should demonstrate the following skills and attributes:

- A good standard of English and Mathematics
- Excellent communication skills
- Patience and positivity
- Support inclusion and be fully committed to ensuring the very best for all our pupils
- The ability to support colleagues, use positive behaviour management strategies and ensure the school continues its excellent provision for all pupils

We are pleased to be able to offer the successful candidate an additional role as a Mealtime Assistant. The post involves supervising and providing support for the pupil during the lunch break.

The working pattern within the roles will be:
Teaching Assistant Monday to Friday 9:00am - 12:30pm and 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Mealtime Assistant Monday to Friday 12:30pm - 1:00pm

The working pattern allows for a 30-minute unpaid lunch break. Ideally the successful candidate will be available to start in September, but we are committed to recruiting the best candidate for the role and have some flexibility.

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.

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@chulmleighdevon.sch.uk by 10 am on Tuesday 22nd September 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 Tuesday 22nd, September 2026
Interview date: Tuesday 29th, September 2026

 **disability confident**
EMPLOYER

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

JOB ADVERTISEMENT
East Worlington Primary School
Part time, fixed term
Foundation Stage Practitioner
24 Hours per week x 38 weeks per annum and
Out of School Club Assistant
7 Hours per week x 38 weeks per annum
Grade C: £13.47 - £13.69 per hour - depending on experience
Required from October 2026

To support our popular nursery provision, we are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, committed, patient and motivated Foundation Stage Practitioner to join our team at East Worlington Primary School.

The successful candidate 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 delivering high quality practice through a range of interesting and stimulating activities and supervising individuals and groups of children in the nursery or foundation stage unit. The work pattern will be four days per week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 09:00 to 15:30, which allows for a 30-minute unpaid break.

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

We are pleased to be able to offer the successful candidate an additional role as Out of School Club Assistant. The successful candidate will work with senior staff to support the day to day running of the Out of School Club covering Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings from 08:00 to 09:00 and Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 15:30 to 17:30. The role will provide an opportunity to engage children in a range of activities in a relaxed, safe environment.

The positions are fixed term to 31 August 2027 when the roles will be subject to a review.

The ideal candidate will have flexibility to work additional hours when required to support increased demand for the popular provision.

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. Please download and complete the application form and email it to personnel@chulmleighdevon.sch.uk by 10 am on Tuesday, 22nd September 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 Tuesday, 22nd September 2026
Interview date: Tuesday, 29th September 2026

 **disability confident**
EMPLOYER

Chulmleigh Academy Trust

JOB ADVERTISEMENT
Executive Assistant
Permanent, part time
Option of 30 or 37 hours per week x 39 weeks per year
Grade D: £14.36 to £15.31 per hour (depending on experience)
CHULMLEIGH COLLEGE
Required from October 2026

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, well-organised and effective Executive Assistant to provide administrative support to the Executive Senior Leadership Team in their responsibilities related to school leadership, administration and management.

This is a key administrative role, and the successful candidate will work closely with the Senior Leadership Team. This interesting and varied post will include duties such as attending meetings, taking minutes, preparing reports, assisting with diary management, events organisation, compiling the annual College Calendar of events, undertaking specific project work and providing comprehensive administrative support to the Senior Leaders of the Trust.

The successful candidate will need to have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, dealing with members of the public, staff and pupils in a discreet, friendly and professional manner.

Candidates should demonstrate the following skills and attributes:

- Ability to communicate effectively
- Experience as an effective administrator
- Maintaining high levels of confidentiality and discretion
- Able to work under pressure

The ideal working pattern is 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday, term time only (39 weeks per year), but will be fully discussed during interview.

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 full job description, application form and information about our dynamic and exciting school are available on our website. Please email the completed application form to personnel@chulmleighdevon.sch.uk by 10 am on Tuesday, 29th September 2026. Please indicate if you are interested in a 37 or 30 hours per week contract. 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 Tuesday, 29th September 2026
Interview Date: Thursday, 08th October 2026

 **disability confident**
COMMITTED




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

No

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

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




SCAN ME

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




Come and join us!

- Tuesdays term-time
- 9.00 – 10.30am
- Children aged 0 – 4 years, accompanied by an adult
- Fruit snack provided

Stay and Play

- Sessions led by our Senior Foundation Stage Nursery Practitioner
- Fun Activities
- An opportunity to get to explore our fantastic school grounds
- Make friends




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Chulmleigh College
Nothing but our best

At Chulmleigh College, whether your child dreams of university, a skilled profession or a hands-on career, they will find the opportunity to thrive.

Come and see our school in action and discover why families choose us.

**Book our
September Open Events here:**



Where every day is an Open Day!



***A small school in the heart of Devon...
Growing dreams. Growing ambition. Growing futures.***

admin@chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk

01769 580215

www.chulmleigh.devon.sch.uk

St Thomas of Canterbury CE Primary School,
Lapford

Wrap-around Care



Time Slots Available Between: 7.30 am - 9 am
3.30 pm - 6 pm

Charges: Registration Fee £10 (per family)
£6.00 per hour for 2 year olds
£5.50 per hour for 3-4 year olds
£4.50 per hour for Reception to Year 6
After 6pm Late Collection Charge - £15

Tax-free childcare!
Please follow this link:
[Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare)

For further information
please visit our website:
www.lapford-primary.devon.sch.uk



Now Open! Book Here





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!

Please click [HERE](#) for the lunch menu allergen information



AUTUMN MENU

WEEK ONE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN ONE	Beef and Pork Bolognese with Homemade Focaccia Bread and Vegetable Sticks	Devon Pork Sausages with Mashed Potato, Gravy, Peas and Sweetcorn	Roast Chicken and Gravy with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Fish Cakes with Potato Wedges and Sweetcorn and Red Pepper Salad	Chicken Chunks with Chips and Garden Peas
MAIN TWO	Vegetarian Bolognese with Homemade Focaccia Bread and Vegetable Sticks	Vegetarian Sausages with Mashed Potato, Gravy, Peas and Sweetcorn	Cheese and Leek Pie with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Cauliflower, Chickpea and Butternut Squash Curry with Steamed Rice and Sweetcorn and Red Pepper Salad	Vegetable Nuggets with Chips and Garden Peas
JACKET POTATO	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Ham or Tuna Mayo	Tuna Mayo or Cheese	Cheese or Beans	Cheese or Beans
SANDWICH	Cheese or Ham	Tuna Mayo or Ham	Tuna Mayo or Cheese	Cheese or Ham	Tuna Mayo or Ham
DESSERT	Custard Cookie	Chocolate Cake	Fresh Fruit Platter	Apple Toffee Cake	Flapjack

 **Educater**
The National Food Partnership

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.

 AUTUMN MENU WEEK TWO					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN ONE	Beef Chilli Con Carne with Steamed Rice and Salad Sticks	Middle Eastern Chicken and Salad Flatbread with Potato Wedges and Coleslaw	Roast Chicken and Gravy with Roast Potatoes and Medley of Green Vegetables	Crispy Katsu Chicken with Steamed Rice and Sweetcorn	Fish Fingers with Chips and Garden Peas
MAIN TWO	Vegetable Chilli with Steamed Rice and Salad Sticks	Roasted Middle Eastern Vegetable Flatbread with Potato Wedges, Chopped Salad and Coleslaw	Seasonal Vegetable Packed Yorkshire Pudding with Roast Potatoes and Medley of Green Vegetables	Katsu Quorn Fillet with Steamed Rice and Sweetcorn	Mozzarella and Tomato Pinwheel with Chips and Garden Peas
JACKET POTATO	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans	Tuna Mayo or Beans	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans
SANDWICH	Cheese or Ham	Tuna Mayo or Ham	Tuna Mayo or Cheese	Cheese or Ham	Tuna Mayo or Ham
DESSERT	Banana Marble Cake	Chocolate Cake	Summer Fruit Strudel	Chocolate Brownie	Raspberry Muffin

 **Educater**
The School Food Foundation

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 AUTUMN MENU WEEK THREE					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN ONE	Southern Fried Chicken with Potato Wedges, Baked Beans and Coleslaw	Devon Pork Sausage Plait with Potato Balls, Sweetcorn and Tomato Sauce	Roast Devon Pork and Gravy with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Devon Beef Lasagne with Garlic Focaccia and Chopped Salad	Ham Pizza with Chips and Coleslaw
MAIN TWO	Homemade Veggie Burger with Potato Wedges, Baked Beans and Coleslaw	Quorn Hotdog with Potato Balls, Sweetcorn and Tomato Sauce	Beetroot and Lentil Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Vegetable and Mixed Bean Lasagne with Garlic Focaccia and Chopped Salad	Margherita Pizza with Chips and Coleslaw
JACKET POTATO	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans	Tuna Mayo or Beans	Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cheese or Beans
SANDWICH	Cheese or Ham	Tuna Mayo or Ham	Tuna Mayo or Cheese	Cheese or Ham	Tuna Mayo or Ham
DESSERT	Orange Cookie	Strawberry Jelly	Chocolate Mousse	Blueberry Flapjack	Fresh Fruit Platter

 **Educater**
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