

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024



Whimple Primary School

Issue 10

15.03.24

Another colourful end to the week - a wide variety of super heroes, Mr Men and Little Miss and the most amazing hair styles/wigs we have ever seen. Well done to everyone who helped get costumes/hair ready. We had cash donations today of £65, online donations can still be made on the link below or to the school office.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=13946>

Staff Updates

Many of you will be aware that Miss Dunsford is expecting her second child. She will be going off on maternity leave at the end of this term. I am pleased to welcome Miss Easterbrook to our team to cover her absence. Miss Easterbrook has already spent some time with Miss Dunsford to help ensure a smooth transition and she will also be in school on the last Monday of term. She is hoping to be around at the end of the day so parents can come along and introduce themselves.

Mrs Mitchell, our lead administrator, will also be leaving us at the end of April and will be greatly missed by us all here. Mrs Rowe will take over her afternoon so will work Monday to Thursday and we are currently trying to recruit someone for the office on Fridays.

Reports

Children in Years 1 to 6 will receive their annual report next week. Some envelopes will include a letter inviting you to come and speak further with the class teachers. Please look out for this when you open your envelope. Dates are included below in order to ensure the availability of both teachers (in the case of job shares).

The dates for each class will be:

Monday 25th March Elm Class, Beech Class

Tuesday 26th March Ash Class, Oak Class, Willow Class

If you do not receive a letter in with the report, but would like to meet with your child's teacher, please email the school office to arrange an appointment.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



After several months of practice, the Year 5 and Year 6 children who have been preparing for the federation's Showdown event, are ready to share their dances with a wider audience. This is an excellent opportunity for children to perform on stage and to experience performing in front of an audience in a theatre. Showdown is taking place on Monday 18th March at 4.30pm and 6.30pm at the Barnfield Theatre in Exeter and all the schools in the federation will be taking part. Some parents may remember the event that used to take place with the Crediton Learning Community schools at the Great Hall, which was also a great opportunity to showcase our creative skills and talents. Sadly, this is no longer viable, but our own Showdown will be a great replacement and I am looking forward to seeing the dancers perform next Monday.

FEDERATION REVIEW

Every year we commission an independent review of the federation's work, which helps senior leaders and governors to triangulate their evaluation of the federation's strengths and areas for development. This year's review will be led by Lizzy Meadows, who is an Ofsted inspector and education adviser in Bristol. She will be joining senior leaders on Wednesday, 20th and Thursday, 21st March and will be visiting schools and meeting staff and children. She will be feeding back her initial findings to leaders and governors at the end of the second day and will write a full report for us to consider after the Easter break. This will then inform the federation's development plan for 2024/25, which will be shared with parents in the autumn.

PRAYER ROOM

Every half term, a group of parents meet to pray for the federation schools. The next prayer room will be on Friday, 22nd March at 9.15am at Silverton Evangelical Church [School Road, Silverton EX5 4JH]. Please contact Andy Mathers [apmathers@gmail.com] for more information.

YEAR 3 and 4 RESIDENTIAL VISIT

Information about the Year 3 and 4 residential visit to Okehampton YHA has been sent to all Year 3 and 4 parents and is available on the federation website under 'key information' and 'residential visits'. Newton St Cyres Class 3, Silverton Hawthorn and Thorverton Class 3 are going on Wednesday, 17th and Thursday, 18th April. Brampford Speke Skylarks, Cheriton Fitzpaine Oak, Sandford Tavy and Whimple Year 3 and 4 are going on Thursday, 18th April to Friday, 19th April. A reminder about times and what to bring will be sent home at the end of the Easter holidays.

School Meals

We have seen an increase in meal uptake and that is great. We have been asked to inform you that as part of their guidelines they have to provide children with all elements of a school. This is usually vegetables or beans and they will place it beside any other food so it is not touching. I have explained this to all the children in assembly today.

Dates for your diary

March

- 19th Reception Parent Consultations
21st Reception Parent Consultations
w/c 18th Reports go home to parents
25th Parent consultations Beech Class
26th Parent consultations Elm, Ash, Oak and Willow Class
28th Last day of term, 1.30pm finish.

April

- 18th - 19th Year 3 and 4 residential to Okehampton
29th Bags2School Collection

Key assessment dates for 2024

- Year 6 SATs w/c 13th May
Phonics Screening (Year 1) w/c 10th June
Times Tables Check (Year 4) w/c 3rd June

Term dates for pupils - 2023/24:

- SUMMER TERM 2024** 15th April to 25th July 2024
May Day holiday - 6th May 2024 Half term - 27th May to 31st May 2024
Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 3rd June and 28th June 2024

Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

- AUTUMN TERM 2024** 5th September to 18th December 2024
Half term - 28th to 1st November 2024
- SPRING TERM 2025** 7th January to 4th April 2025
Half term - 17th to 21st February 2025
- SUMMER TERM 2025** 22nd April to 25th July 2025
May Day holiday - 5th May 2025
Half term - May 26th to 30th May 2025

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 3rd and 4th September, 29th November 2024, 6th January, 27th June 2025

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