

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2023

Whimble Primary School

Issue 7

09.06.23

Hopefully you all had a lovely week - the weather was amazing.

Well done to the children in Year 4 who have completed their Times Table Check this week. They have been working exceptionally hard to fluently learn all their times tables facts and we appreciate all the parental support they have had with this. Table knowledge is an important skill to support mathematics learning moving on through their education.

Attendance News

I wanted to start this half-term with some really positive updates around attendance. Coming back after a half-term can be tricky, but when the weather has been fabulous, (it felt like it should be the summer break) wouldn't we all prefer to be elsewhere!



Children's attendance at school has become a national issue since the Covid pandemic, both absence and persistent absence becoming a real concern and impacting on children's attainment and outcomes. In order to try and address this the government has implemented a range of strategies to help improve this situation. Attendance data is now collected nationally from individual schools for monitoring and we have to ensure our records are up-to-date and accurate. Devon's attendance is one of the lowest in the country, hence the extra focus in our schools.

Whilst systems and expectations around attendance can be controversial, I think we can all agree that in order to access and achieve a well rounded education which promotes good achievement children need to be in school regularly.

Schools have been set attendance targets of 97% or above, this is equivalent to each child not missing more than 5 days (10 sessions) in one year. This can be quite a challenge. However, we do currently have around 60 children across the school who have attendance above 97% (we still have a few at 100%).

The whole school attendance is at just over 95%. (all data as of the end of May)

Looking at classes, Beech Class leads the way with 96.89%, closely followed by Oak Class with 96.05%. Ash, Elm and Willow are 95.66%, 94.89% and 93.33% respectively.

Looking at attendance in Year Groups Year 5 just lead the way with 96.86% and Year 3 closely following with 96.48%. Year 4 at 96.05% are just above Reception at 95.62% and Year 2 at 95.6%. Year 1 are just below them with 94.76% and Willow are at 92.21%.

I would like to thank all the parents who continue to support their children attending school despite the challenges - we know many of you have struggled at times, but if we work together we can help ensure children are in school when they are well enough to be here.

Holidays cannot be authorised, however, I appreciate parental honesty when completing forms
Absence below 92% is a cause for concern and equates to 19 days of lost schooling across the year.

Parent Governor Elections

Following the joint decision by governors to re-federate to include Whimple Primary School in the Exe Valley Federation, we have to hold elections for two parent governors. Being a parent governor is interesting and enables you to see more about how the federation works at a strategic level. The nomination form for parent governors is attached to this newsletter.

PE Kits and Sunhats

Please make sure your children are bringing their PE kit and sunhats to school. I think many may have these items, but are stating they don't. We will start to provide spare kits and sunhats to those children who continue to say they do not have their own - if you can support us by reiterating that it would really help us all.

Medication

We have lots of children suffering with Hayfever lately, if you have medications for this, for example eye drops, we are happy to give these, but a form needs to be completed. All medication/creams need forms and to be held by the school office.

Request for Packaging Items

For a couple of projects we are undertaking this half term we need the following items:

- Large milk cartons
- Egg boxes
- Newspaper
- Cardboard tubes and boxes
- Yogurt pots

A recycling box will be left in the reception area to place your items in. Any that are not used will be then placed out for recycling.



Easy Fundraising

Sign up [here](#) to start donating today!

[How Easy Fundraising works](#)

Bag2School

Thanks to everyone's clothing donations in March, the PTA has received £205 from Bag2School. It's almost time to start having another clear out as there will be another chance to drop off your unwanted good quality clothing on **Thursday 29th June**.

Dates for your diary

June

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|--------------------|---|
| Friday 9th June | Ash Forest School |
| Thursday 15th June | Ash and Elm Class Trip |
| Friday 16th June | Ash Forest School |
| Monday 19th June | Beech Class Trip |
| Tuesday 20th June | Year 6 Celebration Day Sandford Primary |
| Thursday 22nd June | Sports Day 10-12.30pm |
| Friday 23rd June | Willow Class Trip |
| Friday 23rd June | Elm Forest School |
| Friday 30th June | Non Pupil Day (staff training) |

July

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| Monday 3rd July | Oak Class Trip |
| Friday 7th July | Elm Forest School |
| Friday 14th July | Year 5 Sleepover |
| Saturday 15th July | Summer Fayre |

Assessment arrangements for summer 2023

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|---------------------------|---|
| Week commencing 12th June | Phonics Screening Check (Year 1/Year 2) |
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Term dates for pupils - 2023/24:

AUTUMN TERM 2023

6th September to 15th December 2023

Half term - 23rd to 27th October 2023

SPRING TERM 2024

4th January to 28th March 2024

Half term - 12th to 16th February 2024

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): 4th and 5th September, 3rd January, 3rd June and 28th June 2024

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