

# NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024



## Whimple Primary School

Issue 6

09.02.24

We have reached half-term and no doubt we are all hoping the next week is not going to be a wash out, fingers crossed! Hope you all have a pleasant week and can do something you enjoy.

### School Meals

Don't forget to order your child's school meal for the week after half-term by Wednesday 14th February and there is no requirement to order a dessert anymore.

### School Day

The school day is from 9am to 3.30pm and children are expected to be in school within this time. The only reason for time to be taken out of school is for medical appointments, where these cannot be altered for a more suitable time. Collection for any other reason, counts as being unauthorised. We are experiencing an increasing number of children being collected just after lunch on a Friday, this session will also be unauthorised for registration purposes.

### World Book Day

We always enjoy celebrating World Book Day here in school. We like to encourage costumes linked to particular stories as the real purpose of this day is to encourage the love of reading and understanding the long term benefits of this vital skill. Through the School Council, the children choose six authors to promote which hopefully suit all ages of children. We hold a special assembly to enable the children to see all the costumes and guess each other's characters. The costumes do not have to be spectacular, and we really love the home made ones.

The chosen authors are: (any book can be chosen these are just suggestions)

**Eric Carle:** The Hungry Caterpillar, Brown Bear, From Head to Toe, The Very Busy Spider

**Roald Dahl:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The BFG, Fantastic Mr Fox

**Michael Rosen:** We're Going on a Bear Hunt, Rabbit Foo Foo, lots of poems!

**Michael Morpurgo:** Kensuke's Kingdom, Born to Run, Running Wild

**Simon Mugford:** Messi, Renaldo, Kane, etc

**J K Rowling:** Harry Potter series





This week has been internet safety week in some of our schools and we have focused on keeping children safe in the virtual world. This is an increasingly challenging part of supporting children's personal development because of the way that the internet is used and sometimes misused. In schools, access to the internet is carefully controlled and we have robust filters in place to make sure that children cannot access unsuitable material online. The DfE produced new guidance on this in September last year and our internet providers have to demonstrate that their systems are compliant with this guidance. At home however, the challenges of keeping children safe from harm are greater and we all need to be vigilant about what our children access on phones, other mobile devices and computers. There is a lot of useful guidance on how to do this on the federation website, under 'key information' and then 'safeguarding'. Please do have a look at the information there to make sure you are doing everything you can to keep your child safe.

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S BEHAVIOUR

The Solihull Approach understanding your child's behaviour has been piloted extensively and has been run successfully several times in the Exe Valley Federation. It encourages parents and carers to identify the most important issues in their relationships with their child/children and to reflect on why sometimes things go well and sometimes they do not. It is then easier for parents and carers to identify how to work together with their child. The sessions also allow time for parents and carers to explore some of the pressures they themselves are under. This in turn will increase confidence and self-esteem in both the parents, carers and their children. It is not a therapy group, although parents and carers can be signposted to other groups and organisations that maybe helpful to them.

We are pleased to be running this course at Newton St Cyres Parish Hall for ten weeks from Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 from 9.30-11.30. If this sounds like something you could be interested in and would like to secure a place on the course, please email Lin Thresher at [lthresher@exevalleyfederation.org.uk](mailto:lthresher@exevalleyfederation.org.uk)

### GOVERNOR UPDATE

The governors met at Cheriton Fitzpaine Primary School on Tuesday evening (6th Feb 2024) for the first full governors meeting since the new year. Governors welcomed Emma Loosley Leeming to the board; Emma is linked to Silverton School as a Foundation Governor.

The meeting included a presentation about the RE curriculum across the federation, highlighting the importance of the subject which helps children understand different cultures and build the virtues of respect and empathy. The Executive Head Report generated varied questions from the governors, with answers presented by the Executive Head. A large part of the meeting was spent discussing the federation budget which is periodically monitored to ensure we use funding to provide the best education possible for students.

Finally, the lead governors for Safeguarding and for Attendance & Behaviour updated the board with any current or recent issues.

### SICKNESS BUGS

If your child is sick, they must stay at home for 48 hours from the last episode of vomiting. There are a lot of very virulent bugs around at the moment and sending a child back into school whilst there is still a significant risk of passing on an infection, puts other children and adults at risk. Please help to keep everyone healthy by keeping children at home for 48 hours after the last time they have vomited. Thank you for your help with this.

## **After-School Clubs**

### **Choir**

The choir has been running for half a term now and we are finding that are younger children are finding the session a little too long. After careful consideration, and to help accommodate all ages groups in our Choir, we have decided to alter the timings. All ages groups are still welcome to attend but the timings will be as follows:

Reception and Year 1: 3.30pm to 4.10pm      Cost £3 per session

Year 2 upwards: 3.30pm to 4.30pm      Cost £5 per session

Payments will be altered accordingly, refunds can be done if required.

### **Two new clubs starting next half term for children in Year 2 to Year 6:**

**Street Jazz** - Tuesdays 3.30pm to 4.15pm starting on Tuesday 27th February

This club will be run by a teacher from the Michaela Poulton School of Dance. Street jazz is a dynamic and expressive dance style that fuses elements of jazz, hip-hop, and other urban dance forms. It emerged from the vibrant street dance culture and is known for its high-energy movements, syncopated rhythms, and emphasis on individual style and improvisation. Street jazz often incorporates a mix of sharp isolations, fluid movements, and rhythmic footwork, making it a popular and captivating form of dance expression.

Cost: £30 for 5 sessions, payable in advance

[Sign up here](#) and then your contact details will be passed to the Dance School to sort out payment.

**Craft club** - Wednesdays 3.30pm to 4.30pm starting Wednesday 28th February

Various crafting activities will be available and the club will be run by Miss Attack and Miss Clarke.

Cost: £5 per session

[Booking form here.](#)

### **Unusual Request**

If you have any spare underwear (pants/knickers) that would fit our youngest children, please send them down to Elm Class. Occasionally, accidents happen and we have run out of spare underwear, particularly for our girls as our stock has not been returned.

### **Year 5 Dance Show at the Barnfield**

There will be tickets made available to parents to watch this great showpiece in the coming weeks. This information will be sent to you direct using the email address that was used to sign the consent form. If you have not done so yet, for whatever reason, please come and chat with me as soon as possible, so if required we can find a satisfactory solution for all involved.

# Dates for your diary

## February

21st-23rd Year 5 residential to Bristol/Bath

27th Street Jazz Club starts

28th Craft Club starts

## March

8th Whimble World Book Day

18th Year 5 Showdown at Barnfield Theatre

w/c 18th Reports go home to parents

w/c 25th Parent consultations if required

## April

18th - 19th Year 3 and 4 residential to Okehampton

## Term dates for pupils - 2023/24:

### SPRING TERM 2024

4<sup>th</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Half term - 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### SUMMER TERM 2024

15<sup>th</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024

May Day holiday - 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Half term - 27<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

*Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024*

## Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

### AUTUMN TERM 2024

5<sup>th</sup> September to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Half term - 28<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

### SPRING TERM 2025

7<sup>th</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Half term - 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

### SUMMER TERM 2025

22<sup>nd</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025

May Day holiday - 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Half term - May 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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

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