

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023



REFLECTION



REASONING



RESPONSIBILITY



RESOURCEFULNESS



RESPECT



RESILIENCE

Whimple Primary School

Issue 9

10.11.23

Another week has flown by and the children have been involved in a whole range of tasks and activities. I have even heard a few Christmas songs, as classes start preparing for events later this term.

Children in Need

After discussions with their class reps on the school council, it has been decided that to support this charity and to raise funds to support other children we will:

- ♦ Wear bright colours which can include spots
- ♦ Participate in some mini sporting challenges including 'Bearpees'

During these tough times, we appreciate that many people may not have anything to spare. All children can take part regardless of size of contribution.

Children may participate in other activities throughout the day to also help raise awareness of the charity.

For those who can afford to provide a donation to this great cause this can be done by:

- ♦ Using the App link below

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=11779>

- ♦ Or bring cash in on the day (either in a tub at drop off or hand it to class teachers when they get to class)

Timekeeping

Children should be in school by 9am; if you tend to be late regularly - try turning all your clocks on by 5 minutes (obviously don't tell the children!), believe me I do it all the time and it works really well. There are a number of repeat offenders.

The gates will be closed at 9am and entry will only be by pressing the intercom on the gate.



Sickness

Just a reminder as we head into winter that if your child has had either diarrhoea or vomiting, they must be kept at home and not return to school until 48 hours have passed since the last diarrhoea and/or vomiting episode.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

Part of my strategic role is to attend Devon School Leaders' briefings, which take place once a term. The most recent briefing took place on Thursday this week and included updates from the Regional Director of Ofsted and the DfE Regional Director for the south west, Hannah Woodhouse. For some time, Devon has had significant difficulties with providing good social care and support for children and young people with SEND. The situation within social care remains very fragile and a lot of agency staff are still being used to support families. The new Head of Children's Social Care spoke about the importance of providing better out of hours support, and improving Early Help so that families can access support quickly when they need it. Devon also has a very high level of SEND support plans for children, particularly those facing communication and social and emotional challenges. The local authority is working with Essex County Council to share good practice and the speakers from Essex shared their improvement journey with school leaders from across Devon. Although there are clearly many challenges ahead for Devon schools, there are also some really positive signs about action being taken to tackle some of these challenges.

Reception Children's Attendance

EVF Heads meet monthly for an 'attendance clinic', led by Mr Jolliffe. At the November meeting, Heads discussed the number of children in Reception who are taking holidays in term time. Although many Reception children are under statutory school age, every day really does count in school. Our phonics programme relies on children building their reading skills incrementally and missing a week of teaching means that children have gaps in their learning. Alongside this, children's friendship groups often re-form if a child is away and it can be hard for returning children to re-integrate into their friendship groups after a period of absence. Whilst absence due to illness and hospital appointments cannot be avoided, holidays in term time do have an adverse effect on children's learning and well-being. Please do everything you can to avoid taking Reception children on holiday during term time.

Dates for your diary

November

Friday 17th	Children in Need
Tuesday 21st	Individual photographs
Tuesday 28th	PTA AGM 7pm

December

Tuesday 5th	KS2 Carol Service, 6pm
Monday 11th	Rock Steady Concert (morning - invited parents only)
Monday 11th	Federation Carol Service (Credton)
Wednesday 13th	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 13th	KS1 Nativity 4.15pm
Friday 15th December	Last day of term, 1.30pm finish

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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