

CONTACT

The Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

Number 215

1.12.17

Christmas is coming....

Christmas Hat Competition

On Wednesday 6th December it is Christmas dinner day. Children are encouraged to wear their Christmas jumpers and make their own festive hats.

I apologise for the lack of notice for this, but Christmas has crept up on me without me realising but after chatting to the children many are still keen to make hats (don't feel you have to make one). Hats will be judged and team points given as prizes.



Christmas fair

Parents are welcome to accompany their children during their class slot which are as follows:

1.00pm Willow Class - Mr Brown

1.30pm Elm Class - Mrs Terrett

2.00pm Beech Class - Mrs Boyd/Miss Clarke

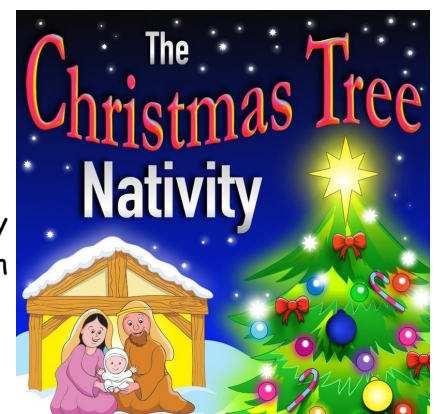
2.30pm Oak Class Miss Dunsford

3.00pm Ash Class Miss Norton



'The Christmas Tree Nativity'

Watch out for the tickets for our Christmas nativity on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th. Due to limitations on hall capacity each family will be given two tickets for each night.



Christmas Post Box

The school Christmas post-box is sat in the reception area ready for use. Please encourage your children to post their cards and then wait for the 'posties' deliveries each day.

Scottish Dancing

Strictly Come Dancing came to Whimble for 10 minutes on Tuesday afternoon. Children in Ash demonstrated their dancing skills to their parents - as Craig would say 'they were fabulous.'



The children made Scottish shortbread and a traditional Scottish desert called 'cranachan' made with toasted oats, honey with cream and topped with crushed raspberries. The children enjoyed the biscuits very much but there were mixed views on the cranachan!



On Thursday Ash class celebrated St Andrew's Day following their topic about the United Kingdom. They all looked the part in their tartan or blue and white outfits. We spent the day learning about St Andrew and Scotland, tartan paper weaving and painting tartan patterns to create a kilt!



Great fun was had by all and the day was rounded off brilliantly with some Scottish tunes played on the bagpipes, courtesy of Lucie Best's Uncle Edward. The children loved it and couldn't believe how loud it was!

Thank you to Mrs Carter and Mrs Palmer for playing the accompaniment to the Scottish dancing.



Spooky Movie Filming

On Tuesday morning, Willow Class took a trip to Killerton House to use a real life setting for their spooky movie trailers. The children spent time in class preparing their scenes and their props and were ready to film on location on the day.

These are available for you to view on the class blog which is

www.mrbrownwhimple.wordpress.com



Multi-skills at Clyst Vale

On Wednesday, Year 2 went to Clyst Vale for an afternoon of fun sports activities led by the older children of the school. There was a range of activities to try such as bat and ball, bean bag throw into hoops, target practise and working as a team to pass the ball. They worked with other year 2s from Rockbeare School and it was a pleasure to see the team work and co-operation between all the children.



Children In Need

We have just sent off £223.50 for Children In Need - congratulations to the 53 children who achieved maximum marks in their spellings who indirectly contributed to the total. Thank you.

School Improvement Plan.

Every year the school produces a school improvement plan in the autumn term based on their knowledge of the children and the curriculum it needs to provide. The plan involves all staff in the process and is monitored by school governors. Our actions for the year are detailed below.

Action 1: To increase the percentage of pupils in all year groups achieving greater depth standard in reading, especially those achieving exceeding in Early Years Foundation Stage.

Action 2: To increase the percentage of pupils in Year 6 achieving expected standard in maths.

Action 3: To re-evaluate and update the rolling programme for the wider curriculum to ensure it accommodates the needs of all our pupils regardless of class mix.

Action 4: To re-evaluate and update our curriculum provision for Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E.) taking into consideration the schools Early Help for Mental Health Plan (EH4MH) and the new requirements regarding Sex and Relationships Education (SRE).

Action 5: To ensure children make at least expected progress in reading, writing and maths throughout Key Stage 2.

In the next few issues of CONTACT we will unpick them in more detail for you.

Action 1: To increase the percentage of pupils in all year groups achieving greater depth standard in reading, especially those achieving exceeding in EYFS.

What does it mean?

We want to ensure that children that achieve higher than the expected in Reception (exceeding) in reading, maintain this throughout their time at primary school. (Greater depth means children are working beyond what is expected for their age. Key points of measure after Reception are Year 2, 4 and 6).

How we will support you and your children:

Bookmarks are being given to every child in year 2 and above with the types of questions to ask in order to support inference. Parent information sessions on reading, to include guided and reciprocal reading will be run in the new year. We will be opening the library after school to enable parents to select books with their child in 2018. Suggested reading lists for children will be produced in 2018 to help encourage children to broaden their reading choices. We are also going to hold a 'Book People' book fair at the end of January.

How can you help:



Continue to hear your child read regularly, whatever their age or ability. Together with parent support we produce great fluent readers but as books get more complicated we need to work on the meaning of the words/text. This is known as inference. Think about the classics you read yourself as a child—it is also important to read/share more complicated texts with children that they would not necessarily be able to access on their own.



Adam Stansfield Foundation

The Adam Stansfield Foundation is a charity that has been created in response to the death of Adam in 2010. The Foundations aim is to help give young people the unique opportunity to develop life skills through the power of football and to assist them in their goals of living the dream.

The Foundation through its website also hopes to highlight and raise awareness of illnesses caused by bowel cancer. For more information visit: <http://www.adamstansfieldfoundation.com/>

We have been very lucky to have received a donation of footballs from this great charity. Thank you very much.



Elf Request

Miss Norton and Mrs Terrett are looking for four elf costumes, (an idea of one is in the photo), for the Christmas nativity. If you have one you can lend please let one of the class teachers know.

Thank you.

School Photos taken by Sue Draycott

If your child/children had their photograph taken by Sue last week you will receive an order form with proofs attached on Monday via your child. Please ask them for it. The proofs are of a basic print quality on photocopy paper due to wanting to send them out quickly.

Orders need to be sent back to the school office by Friday 8th December. Photos will then be available by the last few days of term.



It's now a week to go until the Christmas Fair. For those new to the school, the Christmas Fair is run for the children by the parents. The children get chance to buy books and toys, play Christmas themed games, visit Father Christmas, buy presents for parents and biscuits and cakes. Thank you to all those who have donated so far. However, we would be really grateful for more donations especially for the children's toy and book stall (clean, safe second hand toys for school age only please), gifts the children can buy for parents and grandparents and lucky dip prizes (party bag type toys). Donations can be left in the school office.

On the day we'd also be grateful for any donations of cakes and biscuits.

The kids LOVE this event so thank you so much for all your support. We'll stay open at the end of school so please do come and have a look after pick up.

Things to see and do:

Papercrafting Workshop

Saturday 16 December

Drop in anytime between 11am and 3pm.

Join artist Kathy Norris to create Christmas decorations out of paper. Create your own festive mobiles, garlands inspired by the simplicity of Scandinavian design. There will be something for all ages.

Materials provided, just bring your festive spirit!

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Suggested donation £2/child.

<http://www.thelmahulbert.com/?q=whats-on/events/christmas-family-workshop>

Some useful advice: **9 Tips for staying safe online at Christmas**

[https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/staying-safe-online-at-christmas//?](https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/staying-safe-online-at-christmas//?utm_source=Nov+2017+Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter)

[utm_source=Nov+2017+Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter](https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/staying-safe-online-at-christmas//?utm_source=Nov+2017+Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter)

Cotley Farm

The farm, run by myself and my husband, Lester, has been open for over 14 years and, following the foot and mouth crisis, we began selling Christmas trees. We now have 25 acres of rolling fields dedicated to our growing business, with each tree taking between 6 - 10 years to be fully grown.

At the farm we have a really lovely log cabin packed full of festive delights, decorations and tempting West Country produce. We are also proud to host a number of gorgeous reindeer including new arrival, Willow, who recently celebrated her first birthday.

For those who can't make it down to the farm, we are also selling trees from our site at Parr's Farm County Store, which is next to the Devon Hotel and only 10 minutes from the centre of Exeter, so in the ideal location for parents and little ones on their way home from school.

We would love to welcome you to the farm this season and help support your school. Simply show your voucher when paying for a tree.

Helen Bowker, Cotley House, Woodhayes Lane, Whimble, Exeter EX5 2QR

COTLEY FARM CHRISTMAS VOUCHER

Bring this voucher with you, and with every tree purchased £1 will be donated to your chosen school or preschool.

School name: _____

Name: _____

Email address: _____



Don't Forget

- * Look out for photo proofs and order by next Friday.
- * Look out for your nativity tickets next week.

Dates for your diary

Friday 1st December	Music assembly 2.45pm
Monday 4th December	Choir singing at Ottery Hospital
Wednesday 6th December	Christmas dinner
Friday 8th December	Christmas Fair
Monday December 11th	Carol Service at the church by Key Stage 2 6pm start (including choir/recorders)
Wednesday December 13th	Nativity by Ash and Elm class 6pm start
Thursday December 14th	Nativity by Ash and Elm class 6pm start

Friday 15th December – School finishes at 1.30 pm

Start of Spring term Thursday 4th January 2018

More dates will be added. Whilst we try and give as much notice as possible we occasionally get last minute opportunities which are too good to miss!

Acting Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk

Website: www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk