

# NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024



## Whimble Primary School

Issue 2

12.01.24

It has been lovely to see some sunshine this week, along with the sprinkling of snow which excited the children. The Year 6 walk in Silverton was challenging, however, we were rewarded with some fantastic views.

This may feel like a nagging newsletter, but a few small changes can make a huge difference to wellbeing and workload - please help us to help you and your children.

### Timekeeping

New year, new resolutions. There are an increasing number of children arriving at school after 9am. Sometimes this may only be a minute or two, however, this still impacts on how they start their school day whilst also disrupting others.

Children can be dropped off in the top playground from 8.50 am. Children should ideally arrive at school by 8.55 am to be in good time for a prompt start at 9.00 am. There is a legal obligation for the school to record all instances of late arrival.

If children arrive after 9am this will be recorded as late in the register. If children are brought to school after the registers have closed, you will be asked to sign them in at the office and this will be recorded as an unauthorised attendance.

### Queries

Over the past few days we have been talking to children about their anxieties around a range of things, including involvement in events coming up. We will continue to support children with this. Life is hard for everyone and there are many societal pressures on us all. Although we understand parents may also have their own anxieties, it is vital that we also try to manage them and prioritise things that are important. I do understand that sometimes it is challenging to know what is important (particularly when linked to school).

If a child has forgotten something and we believe it is essential to have we will contact you direct. For example, a swimming kit is essential for those going on Monday, whereas having wellies to go to the Orchard Wassail today was not, as the ground was firm and fairly dry.

The office is receiving an unprecedented number of parental emails asking about minor things and we want to ensure we do not miss anything critical.



## School Dinners

There continue to be a few parents that are expecting dinners to be provided when they have not been ordered. This is no longer possible. Since the return from Christmas, office staff have been very accommodating, and because a number of children have been off due to illness, they have been able to do some rejigging. However, this will not be possible from Monday 15th. Office staff will phone parents requesting a packed lunch is brought in.

## Admissions

A reminder that the deadline for applying for a Reception school place for September 2024 is Monday 15th January.



## Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

There is currently a vacancy for a Foundation Governor on the Exe Valley Federation (EVF) Governing Board. If you are interested in becoming a Governor or think you know someone who would be then this is a perfect opportunity to do so. Our Governors are absolutely vital to providing the level of scrutiny and lived experiences that EVF needs to be the successful, thriving federation that it is.

As a Governor you are responsible for the strategic direction of the schools that make up the EVF as well as promoting the high standards of educational achievement we all wish to see. In particular this Governor post will have a responsibility to support the principles underlying the Trust Deeds of the three Church of England schools in accordance with the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. They will be responsible for the preservation and development of the distinctive Christian character of the schools altogether with monitoring Religious Education and Collective worship.

Life as a Governor is always interesting and offers a genuine chance to improve the educational achievements of our children. Foundation governors need to have a strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children, the inquisitiveness to question and analyse and the willingness to learn.

If you would like to stand for election please contact our clerk to governors, Mrs Last by email [hlst@exevalleyfederation.org.uk].

## YEAR 5 RESIDENTIAL VISIT

Parents of Year 5 children should have been sent information about the residential visit to Bath and Bristol last term. Please let your child's school office know if you have not received this information; and if you have not returned the reply slip, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss, please contact Mr Jolliffe on the afternoon of Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> January at Cheriton Fitzpaine School on 01363 866456 between 1.00 and 6.00pm [return calls will be made in the following 48 hours if needed].

# Dates for your diary

## January

- 15th Beech and Oak Year 4 swimming starts  
18th Year 5 and 6 BSO visit Great Hall, Exeter

## February

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

## March

18th Year 5 Showdown at Barnfield Theatre

## 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): 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September, 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024*

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