

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023

Whimble Primary School

Issue 8

03.03.23

Whimble does World Book Day

What a wonderful way to end the week! You are all amazing - I am not sure sometimes that children believe me when I say, 'home made costumes are the best', but they really are. Often it is the amount of thought rather than how complicated the costume is (although not always!). We had a huge range of characters in school today and it was a great start to the day to see them all and then try and guess who they were. Some pictures will be put in the next curriculum newsletter.

Thank you all for your support and continue to encourage your children to read widely, it really does open up the world for them.

Information Session for Parents - Tuesday 7th March at 3pm

There is still time to sign up for this meeting - [click here](#)

This meeting will be an opportunity to find out more about our new phonics/reading scheme - Little Wandle and Number Sense (maths scheme) that are taught daily with children in Ash and Elm Class. It will provide lots of information along with some great ideas in how to support your child at home to help ensure they become fluent readers and efficient mathematicians.

PE Kits

Just a quick reminder that ALL children should have a PE kit in school to change into throughout the week.



Comic Relief - Friday 17th March

After our unique way of making everyone laugh last year, Comic Relief have borrowed our idea and have linked in with the Mr Men. So again this year our theme will be Mr Men and Little Miss characters. Pick out some coloured clothes and accessorise! I am sure there will be lots of great ones. If finances permit, please make a small donation to this great charity by either sending in some money or using the link below.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=10022>

Weekly Support and Suggestions

Skills Builder

This half term our focus skills are Staying Positive (resilience) and Speaking.

Speaking

Think of a story where something exciting happens. Think about how you speak when you are talking about something exciting.

What happens to your voice?

Do you use your hands?

Does anything happen to your face or expression?

Tell this story to your family, try to make sure you emphasise the exciting parts.

Ask your family to give you feedback on how you spoke about the exciting parts of the story. Tell the story again and try a different way of expressing the exciting parts.

Reflection Questions

Getting Started: How do we know if we are speaking clearly?

Intermediate: As you speak how can you put your points into a logical order so you can be easily understood?

Advanced: How can you use tone, expression and gesture to make your speaking engaging?

For more information please go to their website:

<https://www.skillsbuilder.org/homezone/speaking-positive-getting-started>

Online Safety - OMEGLE

Launched in March 2009, Omegle has recently become popular again. Omegle is a free online chat website that allows users to socialise with others without the need to register. The service randomly pairs users in one-on-one chat sessions where they chat anonymously using the names "You" and "Stranger" or "Stranger 1" and "Stranger 2" in the case of Spy mode

Omegle is not online safe. It pairs strangers randomly to chat with each other. A lot of things can go wrong from that harmless act. The user gets exposed to explicit content, violence, hackers, and strangers with all forms of inappropriate characters.

Technically, **individuals younger than 13 years of age are not supposed to use Omegle.** However, the 18 and over section of Omegle is for people who want to discuss adult content which is often sexual. This part of the social platform allows people to share videos that are not appropriate for children.

For more detailed information and support:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/>

More support and guidance is also available on the school website:

https://www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk/website/online_safety/378283



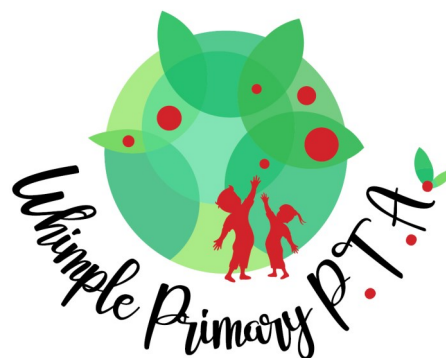
Easy Fundraising

It's great to see that more people are starting to use Easy Fundraising - we now have 39 supporters who have raised an amazing £1,125 over the last two years. This amount has enabled the school to purchase a reading spine across all the year groups.

More supporters on Easy Fundraising means more ways to enhance the school experience for the children. £60 would cover the village hall hire for a school disco, £250 would help subsidise the cost of a school trip or an after school club, and £350 would cover the cost of the year 6 leavers' party.

Easy Fundraising costs nothing to use, and has partnered up with a over 7,400 brands so you're more than likely to find the brand you want to shop online with. The app is so simple to use and tracks your own donations so you can see how much you've raised for the school.

Find out more here: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works>



Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter egg hunt is happening this year on Saturday 25th March, at the usual place on Woodhayes Lane (follow the arrows). £2 entry per child, wellies essential! Bring your homemade egg baskets - there will be prizes on the day for the best ones!

Bag2School

The next date for Bag2School is Wednesday 29th March. Just in time for a spring clear out! Drop-off point to be confirmed.

Dates for your diary

March

Tuesday 7th March	Parents Information Session 3pm
Friday 10th March	Forest School - Ash Class
Friday 17th March	Comic Relief - details to follow
Week commencing 20th March	Annual reports home for Year 1 to Year 6
Saturday 25th March	Easter Egg Hunt (Woodhayes Lane)
Week commencing 27th March	Parent consultations
Wednesday 29th March	Bag2School (drop-off point to be confirmed)
Friday 31st March	Last day of term 1.30pm finish

Assessment arrangements for summer 2023

Month of May	Key Stage 1 SATs (Year 2)
Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May	Key Stage 2 SATs
Week commencing 5th June	Multiplication tables check (Year 4)
Week commencing 12th June	Phonics Screening Check (Year 1/Year 2)

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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