

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024



Whimple Primary School

Issue 12

28.03.24

Another busy week (and term) is coming to a close. This week we have had Rock Steady Concerts, Achievement Assembly and Open the Book assemblies all together in the hall. As well as this newsletter, there is the half-termly curriculum newsletter and a special events one as there were too many things to fit into one! We hope you all have a good Easter and we will see you all on Monday 15th April.

School Meals

The school dinners are now live on the School Gateway.

Please would you book your school lunches for the first week back after Easter. The deadline will be midnight on Wednesday 10th April.

Unfortunately the cost of our meals will be increasing after Easter, this means that where your child pays for a meal, it will cost £2.85 from the start of next term. (This does not impact Children in Reception, Year 1 & 2, or children who qualify for Free School Meals)

Craft Club

Craft Club will start again next term. The club is available for all year groups. The cost is £5 per session with a minimum sign up of half a term. Places will be organised and payments set up at the start of term, but sign up now if you are interested as places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. [Sign up here.](#)

Water Bottles

Following conversations in school over the past half term, we have decided that from the summer term onwards, we will not be providing school water bottles for children. We have found that they are very difficult to keep clean and are conscious of maintaining good hygiene standards. **After the Easter holidays, please send your child to school with a named bottle each day** (it will not stay in school and will come home at the end of each day, much like a snack pot or lunch box). If you have any issues in sourcing a bottle, please let school staff know and we will support you in providing one for your child. Provision will be made for children to have a cup of water to drink during lesson time where necessary.

Thanks for your cooperation.





Achievement Assembly

It is the highlight of the term presenting at our Achievement Assembly. Celebrating effort and success for progress in key curriculum areas.

The Governor Cup was presented to the school by an ex-chair of Governors to be presented to a child, who has actively demonstrated our 6Rs throughout the school day.

The cup is given out on a termly basis and, this term it has been presented to Oscar, in Year 3.

Alongside our 6Rs, which are closely linked to the skills identified in the Skills Builder programme, we have always acknowledged and celebrated children's progress and effort, not just attainment.

The following children have been presented with a small trophy, (to keep for a term - please look after them and keep them safe) and a certificate. Trophies can be kept for the term so keep them on show somewhere in your home and then return them in July.

Elm Class

Most improved reader	Walter	Most improved writer	Harry
	Most improved mathematician		Islay H

Ash Class

Most improved reader	Lennox	Most improved writer	Isla CT
	Most improved mathematician		Alec

Oak Class

Most improved reader	Alfie	Most improved writer	Ellie
	Most improved mathematician		Keira

Beech Class

Most improved reader	Oliver	Most improved writer	Isla
	Most improved mathematician		Henry

Willow Class

Most improved reader	Croyde	Most improved writer	Rosie
	Most improved mathematician		Freddie

We continue to present our learning certificates on a weekly basis, linked to our half-termly skills focus. These are displayed in the board by the double doors of the main building for a week before children can then bring them home.

Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



Despite the weather today, this is the last day of the spring term! The school holidays are a great opportunity for families and children to relax and spend time together but this can also be a stressful time for adults and children alike. The Devon County Council multi-agency safeguarding hub has now been re-named 'Front Door' but the contact number is still the same. There is also quite a lot of useful information on the federation website under 'safeguarding' that may be of help. Contact information for the Front Door are in the section below.

I hope that this has been a good term for your child and that they have grown in confidence and learning over the last three months. I look forward to seeing everyone back at school for the start of the summer term on Monday, 15th April.

GOVERNOR REPORT

Governors met at Sandford school on 26th March to review a full agenda of items. Following the usual declaration of interest and the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, Governors met with the Head Teachers from their linked school. This is a valuable experience for all Governors who have previously been sent a report by the Heads of Service and now have the opportunity to raise questions with the Head and discuss any other items that may arise.

After this Governors discussed monitoring progress in small groups. Issues like safeguarding and attendance were reviewed. Deeper discussions explored how these were dealt with and how the involvement of senior teachers showed that their involvement was able to make a real difference in these areas.

There then followed a review of the future of the governance structure and an alternative model of delivery was explored. The Federation has expanded significantly in recent years and the current structure needs amending. Governors discussed budgets and how these have been impacted by inflationary pressures and recent pay increases.

The meeting ended with some individual Governor updates and future implementation of a new behaviour policy which is now published on the federation website. A long session was concluded by a summary of how the meeting had impacted our children, bringing the focus nicely back to the reasons why many Governors give up their spare time to carry out the role.

Finally, a special thank you must go out to all the teachers, support staff and administrators who work so hard across the Federation to ensure that the children get the very best education we can deliver.

Happy Easter all!

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

If you are concerned about the safety of a child in Devon or want to speak to someone, or if you are a child worried about your own safety, you can contact Front Door (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub or MASH) by calling

on 0345 155 1071. If a child is in immediate danger please call 999.

If you suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused, or you are being abused yourself and live within Devon Local Authority boundaries, please contact us by calling Adult Social Care on 0345 1551 007 (Monday to Thursday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm and Saturday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm).

Outside of the hours above or on bank holidays call the Emergency Duty Service on 0345 6000 388.

Alternatively, you can email: safeguardingadultseast-mailbox@devon.gov.uk (Exeter, East and Mid Devon).

TERM DATES

The spring term ends on Thursday, 28th March 2024 and the summer term starts on Monday, 15th April. Half term is from Monday, 27th May to Friday, 31st May and the final Staff Development Day for this year is on Friday, 28th June. The summer term ends on Thursday, 25th July.

Term dates until summer 2026 can be found on the federation website under 'key information'.

KS2 Drama Club

Community Theatre 4 All is a local theatre group for adults and children, who rehearse in Talaton Village Hall and is made up of members from the surrounding villages. Many of these members live in Whimble and several attend this school.

Our next production will be the humorous classic 'Toad of Toad Hall', which will be performed in the grounds of Rull House in Whimble on 17th, 18th & 19th May.

Rehearsals will take place on Tuesdays 4.30-6pm, with occasional Saturday afternoons 2-4.30pm

The first rehearsal will be on Tuesday 16th April, and attendance on Saturday 20th April would be helpful although not essential.

If your Key Stage 2 child would like to be part of this, please contact Tom Samson on 07979 876211 or communitytheatre4all@yahoo.co.uk. The children are welcome to chat to Mrs Earnshaw in school about it too.

Also, if you would like to be involved we would love to hear from you. There are many ways of being part of this production without the need to go on stage!

Dates for your diary

April

18th - 19th

Year 3 and 4 residential to Okehampton

29th

Bags2School Collection

Key assessment dates for 2024

Year 6 SATs

w/c 13th May

Phonics Screening (Year 1)

w/c 10th June

Times Tables Check (Year 4)

w/c 3rd June

Term dates for pupils - 2023/24:

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): 3rd June and 28th June 2024

Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

AUTUMN TERM 2024

5th September to 18th December 2024

Half term - 28th to 1st November 2024

SPRING TERM 2025

7th January to 4th April 2025

Half term - 17th to 21st February 2025

SUMMER TERM 2025

22nd April to 25th July 2025

May Day holiday - 5th May 2025

Half term - May 26th to 30th May 2025

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

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