

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023



REFLECTION



REASONING



RESPONSIBILITY



RESOURCEFULNESS



RESPECT



RESILIENCE

Whimple Primary School

Issue 4

29.09.23

How have we already got to the end of September..... Today has felt very autumnal with a chilly and dewy morning followed by some glorious sunshine.

Flu Immunisations

Final reminder for the flu immunisations which take place on Thursday - only children who have consent by Wednesday will be permitted to have it. The link would have been sent via a specific email from the admin email.

Willow Class Swimming

Swimming starts on Monday 2nd October for all children in Willow Class. An email has been sent out with all the relevant forms/permissions - please complete these as soon as possible. Children will be unable to go without them.

Exe Valley Residential

When joining new organisations there are always adjustments and adaptations to be made. Following on from last weeks newsletter, I understand there has been some anxiety around the detail of the residential. We will continue to work with our families to help them to navigate new situations both emotionally and financially.

Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

You may have heard in the news that the Department of Education is focusing on improving attendance in schools. This has been triggered by significant increase in absence levels since the pandemic and more children not attending school regularly. As a group of schools, we have already done a lot of work on ensuring every child is in school every day unless they are ill and are now fining families who choose to take holidays in term time. Governors also pay close attention to attendance levels and the Lead Governor for Attendance, Olivia Burrow and I meet to review what we are doing to maximise attendance. I am very pleased to say that attendance levels so far this year have been very good indeed at nearly all the federation schools and one school is currently running at 99% attendance! Of course, it is early in the year still but I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their contribution to getting children to school as much as possible and avoiding unnecessary absences. It really is important that children are in school every day that they can attend and I am very grateful for your support in keeping our attendance rates so high.





Other Important Updates:

Road Closure

On Saturday 7th October Network Rail are undertaking a detailed bridge inspection of the bridge at the bottom of School Hill. This means there will be no access underneath and the road will be closed between 7am and 5pm.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please visit www.networkrail.co.uk or telephone their 24-hour National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41 and quote Information request "School Hill bridge inspection, Whimble".

Job Vacancy at Whimble Primary

We have a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant position. Application deadline is Sunday 29th October. For more details and application form, please visit our website in the [vacancy tab](#). Please refer to [Exe Valley Federation Website](#).

Parental Support:

Skills Builder:

Our focus for this half-term is Teamwork - Respect.

Think of a time when someone has helped you complete a task.

Write a 'thank you' card to express your appreciation.

You could include:

- what they helped you with
- why it was useful
- how it made completing the task easier or more fun.

Extension: could you suggest a new project to work on together in the future?



Reflection Questions

Getting Started: When do you find it easier (or more difficult) to work with others in a positive way?

Intermediate: Have you helped make decisions with others?

Advanced: How can you encourage others to help out too?

Mastery: What is an 'unhelpful conflict'? How can you avoid this when working with others?

Online Safety

Our Year 3 children will be bringing home copy of the KS2 Acceptable Use Policy for both you and them to sign. We will discuss the content with the children but would appreciate if you could also talk through the main points. Together we can help to support our children to make good choices when online.

Dates for your diary

September

Friday 29th Year 2 children Forest School

October

Monday 2nd Willow Class swimming starts

Thursday 5th Flu Immunisations

Friday 6th Year 2 children Forest School

Monday 16th Willow Class Parent consultations

Tuesday 17th Elm, Ash, Oak, Beech Class Parent consultations

Wednesday 18th Oak Class Parent consultations

Thursday 19th Elm Class Parent consultations

Monday 30th Vision Screening - Reception only

November

Tuesday 21st Individual photographs

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

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

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