

# NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024



## Whimple Primary School

Issue 9

08.03.24

What an amazing display of book characters we had in school today. From the Hungry Caterpillar to George's Marvellous Medicine and everything in between. Many of the costumes were home produced so thank you to all for supporting your children with this fabulous event. The key message is to encourage children to read as much as possible, as well as choosing a wide variety of authors. Parents also play an important part in reading regularly to their children too. Through reading, learners are exposed to new words in their rightful context of use, which contributes to vocabulary learning. This has been proven to enhance not only academic prospects but also wider job opportunities. Finally, recent studies have shown that just 6 minutes of reading a day reduces stress. Who doesn't love to listen to a story!

There will be more photos in our half-termly newsletter.



### Toys from Home

Children should not be bringing in toys from home, including cuddly toys. We are having an increasing number of issues involving lost and broken items that should not be in school. Personal items and toys should be kept at home. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

### Comic Relief - next Friday

Next Friday we get to dress up all over again (I promise that will be the last time this term). Costumes can be a character from the Mr Men or Little Miss books, a superhero, anything that will make another person laugh or smile, which could include crazy hair or anything red.

Donations can be made on the link below or to the school office.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=13946>

Yesterday and today, we celebrated World Book Day and it is always a pleasure to see so many children taking part in this event in their own way. World Book Day was created by UNESCO in 1995 as a worldwide celebration to promote the enjoyment of books and reading and over 100 countries have taken part in WBS since then. The first World Book Day took place in the UK in 1997 and has taken place almost every year on the first Thursday in March ever since. The message of World Book Day is the same today as it was then, that reading is fun, accessible, exciting and has the power to transform lives. Children are more likely to enjoy reading when they have greater control over what they read and when there is an emphasis on fun and in school, children have lots of opportunities to do this. I really enjoyed sharing the Picture News assembly with children at Silverton School on Monday and hearing about all the children's favourite books and their plans for costumes or badges for Thursday. Although I wasn't working in the federation schools on Thursday, I did hear about what each school was doing and saw some pictures of children dressed up, as well as seeing lots of children walking to school in costumes at an Exeter school. I know that finding a costume or theme can be a challenge for parents as well, so thank you for sharing in this opportunity to celebrate books and the opportunities that they give children to explore our world, experience the wonders of imaginative worlds and learn about other cultures and begin to understand that life is not the same for everyone.

### Which walking and cycling routes do you think should be the priority?

We're asking residents to give their views on two plans that set out our ambitions to improve walking and cycling facilities in the Clyst Valley and parts of Mid Devon over the next 10 to 20 years.

The plans have been developed to show which routes we think should be prioritised when funding becomes available, for instance from the Government or from housing developers.

One [plan focuses on Cullompton and Tiverton](#) and has been developed in partnership with Mid Devon District Council. The second plan includes a 50km [route covering the Clyst Valley](#) and has been developed in partnership with East Devon District Council.

To hear more about the proposals, please attend one of our online events next week or the in-person consultation events later this month. [Find details in the full story on the news page of our website.](#)



## Mothering Sunday

*You are warmly invited  
For a 'family' gathering*

**On Sunday 10th  
March at 4pm Whimple Church.**  
*As we remember and celebrate all those who  
have loved us, cared for us and nurtured us  
like mothers during our lives.*

There will be tea, coffee, scones, jam and cream, a reflection on motherhood, some music, three guest 'Mum's in conversation' on the joys and challenges of motherhood, a children's activity, and posies of flowers.

Everyone is welcome.

# Dates for your diary

## March

18th Year 5 Showdown at Barnfield Theatre  
w/c 18th Reception Parent Consultations  
w/c 18th Reports go home to parents  
w/c 25th Parent consultations Year 1 to Year 6 if required  
28th Last day of term, 1.30pm finish.

## 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:

**SPRING TERM 2024** 4<sup>th</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> March 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): 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

**AUTUMN TERM 2024** 5<sup>th</sup> September to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Half term - 28<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

**SPRING TERM 2025** 7<sup>th</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Half term - 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

**SUMMER TERM 2025** 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025

May Day holiday - 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Half term - May 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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

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