

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024



Whimple Primary School

Issue 1

19.04.24

Some sunshine at last - let's hope it continues for a while! The weather has been ideal for our Year 3 and 4 children who have been away on residential.

Next Friday, will be Mrs Mitchells last day in the office - she will be in on Monday, Wednesday and Friday next week if you would like to pop in and wish her well. We are very sad that she is leaving us but wish her all the best for the future.

Choir Club

Choir restarts on Thursday 25th April—if your child has already been attending we will assume they are going to continue unless told otherwise. They are still spaces if your child would like to join: Reception and Year 1 stay until 4.10pm and are then collected (£3 per session) and Year 2 upwards stay until 4.30pm (£5 per session). If your child would like to start please email the office and we will assign them a place and get back to you about payment.

Outdoor Learning

Further developing outdoor learning is something the Exe Valley Federation has been keen to do for a number of years, building on the existing provision and opportunities the pupils currently experience. This year we have launched our new outdoor learning programme which will allow children to develop a wide range of skills incrementally over their time. This will build on the outdoor learning opportunities already provided at Whimple School.

Each class will take part in a whole day session this half-term as part of this provision.

These sessions will run outdoors so it is important that your child comes suitably dressed for the season and expected weather. Children should wear old clothes and **not** school uniform.

Children should bring: a small rucksack, water bottle, snack, sun hat, jumper, trousers, long sleeved t-shirt and waterproof jacket (and trousers if they have them).

Children will return to school for lunch so they can still have their school dinner as usual.

Next **Thursday, 25th** April, the pupils from Ash Class will be participating in their full day of outdoor learning activities and letters explaining this along with a consent form have been sent home with the children today.

Other class dates are:

Friday 3rd May Beech Class

Friday 17th May Willow Class

Thursday 9th May Oak Class

Friday 24th May Elm Class

Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



This week, the Year 3s and 4s from all seven Exe Valley Federation schools have been to the YHA at Okehampton for their residential visit. The Year 4 children went on a walk on Dartmoor yesterday in the lovely spring sunshine and today they are grass sledging at Brackentor. The Year 3s climbed the abseil tower, did archery and low ropes yesterday and then went on a walk on Dartmoor today. Both walks were led by Mr Nichols, who is a qualified moorland leader. It has been a real pleasure to spend this time with the younger children from all our schools and their staff and the children have been extremely well behaved and sensible throughout the visits. Several members of the public commented on the children's excellent behaviour on the train to Okehampton; they are a real credit to their schools and families. Residential visits are a great way to give children the opportunity for personal development as they grow in independence and stamina over their time away. I know that the timings of drop off and pick up can be challenging for working parents so I am very grateful for your support in making these events work. Huge thanks too, to the staff from all the schools who have given up their time and a night's sleep to look after the children whilst they are away.

CAN YOU HELP US PREPARE YEAR 5 and 6 FOR THE FUTURE?

We would like to give our Year 5 and 6 children the opportunity to about a wide range of careers and be better prepared for their future. At this stage, we would like to put together a list of parents who would be willing to talk to the Year 5 and 6 classes on line about their work and answer questions for about 20 minutes each. If you would be willing to help with this, whatever your job or career, please could you let Mr Jolliffe know via your child's school office and he will be in contact with you with more information about how this will work. Thank you for your help.

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

Schools are required to send a letter about attendance from Devon County Council twice a year. This letter is attached to this week's newsletter. Overall, attendance levels at federation schools have been broadly in line with county attendance but we don't want this to slip as we come into the summer term. There is a Staff Development Day on Friday, 28th June which gives families an opportunity to have a long weekend away, so please take advantage of this rather than taking days out of school. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us in making sure every child is in school every day whenever possible, this is very much appreciated. The Head of each school is the lead for ensuring that attendance is as good as possible and that avoidable absences are picked up and addressed.

Dates for your diary

April

25th Ash Class Outdoor Learning Day

29th Bags2School Collection

May

3rd Beech Class Outdoor Learning Day

9th Oak Class Outdoor Learning Day

17th Willow Class Outdoor Learning Day

24th Elm Class Outdoor Learning Day

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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