

CONTACT

The Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

Issue 5-20

09.10.20

Contacting Class Teachers

Due to the new drop off and collecting arrangements at the start and end of the school day, we appreciate that contact with school staff is limited. If you have any immediate concerns or issues, please speak to one of the adults coordinating the children in the morning. (I am usually there most of the time). If it is not of immediate importance please send an email to the school office admin@whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk. Teachers will endeavour to sort any issues as soon as they can, although it is important to remember this may not be immediate as they have to prioritise their time to teaching in class. Teachers are not expected to reply to parents in the evening or at weekends. Parents should not be using any other email addresses to contact teachers and should also be mindful of how emails can be misinterpreted if not worded appropriately.

I would also like to say that we do appreciate the thank you or well done messages we receive amongst the many others—it does help to keep us going through particularly challenging times.

Use of Social Media

There are many positives with using or having social media; there are also a number of associated negatives. Please be mindful that what you share on these platforms cannot be subsequently forgotten or removed.

The office staff and I spent most of Thursday morning sorting out queries both by phone and email brought about by comments/posts made on various platforms in the previous twenty four hours. I appreciate that people may think they are trying to help, but often it doesn't help and just evolves into something a lot bigger than it needs to be. This makes a lot of extra work for those involved but, more importantly, increases people's anxiety unnecessarily.



Forgotten Jumpers, Books, etc

It is a common request in the morning from many parents - "Can you please make sure my child brings their jumper home?"

Like you, we are trying really hard to develop children's independence. We regularly remind and encourage all children to look after and collect their belongings and then we still find them on tables and chairs. If you realise they have forgotten something when you collect your child at the end of the day, you can ask them to return to their class to collect their forgotten belongings.

Parent Consultations Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd October

All consultations are to be booked online via ESchools. If you have any booking issues, please email the office. Children with parents who are either new to the school or have not logged into ESchools for a long while were sent home with an introductory letter yesterday to explain where and how to access the site. Appointments are available to view today and then book from tomorrow to allow our new users time to log onto the system.

All consultations will be held following Covid guidelines. Masks can be worn if parents wish to.

The afternoon appointments will be held in the village hall until 3.15pm. Please wait outside the main doors and wait for your child's class teacher to come and collect you. You will be asked to sanitise your hands on entry. If your allocated time is after 3pm please be mindful of other parents coming to collect their children from school whilst waiting in the car park to enter the hall.

Meeting times after the end of the school day will be held in school, rooms as detailed below. We ask that you arrive just before your allotted time and sanitise your hands. Please wait in the playground in the area where you collect your children - you are welcome to sit on the benches whilst you wait. The teacher you are meeting will come and collect you.

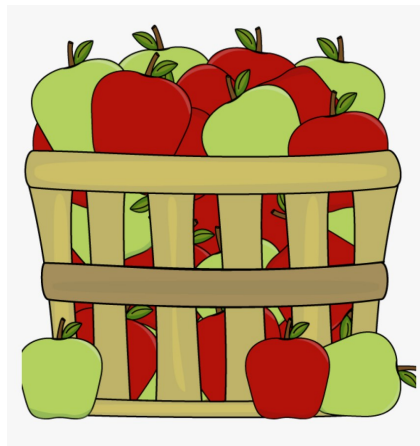
Appointment slots are for 10 minutes. If a longer discussion is required, you may be asked to make another appointment at a mutually agreeable time.

Class	Date	Time	Location
Elm Class	Tuesday 20th	2.10pm to 3.10pm	Village Hall
Elm Class	Tuesday 20th	3.40pm to 5pm	Apple Room
Elm Class	Wednesday 21st	2.10pm to 3.10pm	Village Hall
Elm Class	Wednesday 21st	3.40pm to 5.30pm	Apple Room
Ash Class	Monday 19th	1.15pm to 3.10pm	Village Hall
Ash Class	Monday 19th	3.30pm to 5.30pm	Apple Room
Ash Class	Thursday 22nd	1.15pm to 3.10pm	Village Hall
Oak Class	Monday 19th	2.20pm to 3.20pm	Village Hall
Oak Class	Monday 19th	3.45pm to 5.30pm	Library
Oak Class	Wednesday 21st	1.15pm to 3.15pm	Village Hall
Oak Class	Wednesday 21st	3.45pm to 4.30pm	Willow Class
Beech Class	Tuesday 20th	1.15pm to 3.20pm	Village Hall
Beech Class	Tuesday 20th	3.40pm to 6.20pm	Beech Class
Willow Class	Monday 19th	3.40pm to 4.40pm	Willow Class
Willow Class	Tuesday 20th	1.15pm to 3pm	Village Hall
Willow Class	Tuesday 20th	4pm to 5.15pm	Willow Class
Willow Class	Wednesday 21st	1.15pm to 2.15pm	Village Hall

Annual Apple Picking

Usually we hold a whole school event at our orchard to collect our apples linked to harvest and invite parents to join us. Like many other things this year, this has had to change. This year each class will get a chance to help pick our lovely apples in our orchard area in Slewtown Crescent to maintain their class bubbles.

Children can come to school on their apple pick day in their own clothes but must wear long trousers and a long sleeved top so their arms and legs are covered. Wellies or suitable sturdy footwear to be worn or brought in. Gloves would also be useful along with a small bag or bucket for collecting the apples. Please make sure your child knows what is theirs (or even better label them) so we do not end up with lots of mislaid property.



Tuesday 13th October	Willow (those not participating in Bikeability)
Wednesday 14th October	Willow (those not participating in Bikeability) Ash Class
Thursday 15th October	Oak Class and Elm Class

Beech Class are including their pick within their forest school sessions.

Our new PTFA committee are organising family apple pick sessions for the weekend of 17th/18th October and from 24th October through half-term week. These will be on a booked rota basis ensuring Covid guidelines are followed. More details to follow.

Return of Star Badges

We started the year with double the number of badges we usually have in order to quarantine them each week. Some children are already not being able to be given their well-earned badge as others have not returned them. The idea behind the star badges is to promote positive behaviours and role models across the school whilst recognising some may find this more challenging than others. The badges are given out in the Thursday assembly so the children can wear them with pride for a week before returning them. The return of the badges is made a lot easier if the child is wearing them as they then cannot be forgotten. Please help us to continue with this system by asking your child to wear and return their badges.

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation in this matter.

Don't Forget

- Monday is photograph day - smart and smiley children please!
- To check your information on SIMS Parent to check all your details and give your consent for a range of things including taking children off-site to the MUGA.
- To send your child in appropriate clothing for their apple picking day.

Dates for your diary



October

Monday 12th October

School photographs

Week commencing 12th October

Bikeability (Year 6 only)

Week commencing 19th October

Parent consultations

Friday 23rd October

Non-pupil day (staff only)

Week commencing Monday 26th October

Half term holiday

Sidmouth Science Week

9th -18th October 2020

Online at home - see website for more details

www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org



Whimble after school club

at Whimble primary school

We have spaces on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

If you need after school care please contact Sarah

Tel 07854017113

whimbleafterschoolclub@gmail.com

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk

Website: www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk