

# NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025



## Whimple Primary School

Issue 2

17.1.25

This time of year is always a challenging one - cold, inclement weather, and dark mornings don't always encourage us to get going first thing in the day. We appreciate for some others there are other challenges too, but getting into school on time is really important. This provides children with the opportunity to sort themselves out and get themselves ready for their learning.

Late attendees not only often find it harder to settle themselves, they also disrupt the learning of others. It is often the same children everyday.

Children can be dropped off in the top playground from 8.50 am. Children should ideally arrive at school by 8.55 am to be in good time for a prompt start at 9.00 am. There is a legal obligation for the school to record all instances of late arrival.



If children arrive after 9am this will be recorded as late in the register. If children are brought to school after the registers have closed, you will be asked to sign them in at the office and this will be recorded as an unauthorised attendance.

### Curriculum Newsletters

Please find each class spring term curriculum newsletters attached with this one. They include all areas of learning being taught this term and are also available on the class pages of the school website.

### Family Skills Builder Workshop - You're invited!

Come and join us on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February from 4.00-5.00pm in the village hall**, to learn more about the essential skills and how they unlock learning in the classroom, boosting academic outcomes, perseverance and self belief.

The session will involve a brief introduction followed by some fun activities to complete alongside your child/children. Come along and have a go! Light refreshments will be available.

Please click on this [link to register your interest](#).



**SkillsBuilder**  
PARTNERSHIP



## **Federation News from Mr Jolliffe**

### **FROM MR JOLLIFFE**

Residential visits are an important part of the personal development programme for children in the Exe Valley Federation schools as they give children the opportunity to gain independence and resilience by being away from home and trying out new activities for the first time. Last week's newsletter contained information about the two visits for this year, for Year 3 and 4 in late April and then Year 5 and 6 in June and I am in the process of making a presentation for parents for both visits with more information about what is going to be happening whilst the children are away. I do want to emphasise though that we appreciate that the cost of these visits can be significant for some families and that there is financial support available if you need this. Some villages have charitable trusts [such as the Richards Trust in Silverton or the Leonard Trust in Thorverton] who will consider requests from individuals for help with residential visits but there is also some funding that I can access as well. Please do talk to your child's Head of School or contact me via Silverton school office if you would like to explore this further; all discussions will be held in confidence. We really want every child to take part in the visits and I don't want cost to be a barrier to participation, so please do let one of the senior leaders know if we can help.

### **YEAR 3 and 4 RESIDENTIAL VISIT**

The Year 3 and 4 residential visit to Okehampton YHA will be taking place at the start of the summer term. Children in Year 3 and 4 at Silverton, Whimble and Thorverton will be leaving on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April and arriving back the following afternoon [Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> May]. The cost of the visit will be £95, which includes travel, accommodation, meals and activities for the two days. A payment plan has been set up for parents on School Gateway to enable you to pay over four months.

### **YEAR 5 AND 6 RESIDENTIAL VISIT**

Year 5 and 6's residential visit this year will be taking place from Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> June. Again, a payment plan has been set up for parents on School Gateway to enable you to pay over four months.

### **Kitchen Assistant – Newton St Cyres Primary School and Sandford School (Exe Valley Federation)**

The Executive Headteacher and Governors of the Exe Valley Federation wish to appoint a Kitchen Assistant to support the Kitchen Manager at Newton St Cyres Primary School and then transport and serve meals daily at Sandford School.

For more details, go to the following link:

[https://www.devonjobs.gov.uk/job/Kitchen%20Assistant%20-%20Newton%20St%20Cyres%20Primary%20School%20and%20Sandford%20School%20\(Exe%20Valley%20Federation\)/](https://www.devonjobs.gov.uk/job/Kitchen%20Assistant%20-%20Newton%20St%20Cyres%20Primary%20School%20and%20Sandford%20School%20(Exe%20Valley%20Federation)/)

## Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

The children in Year 5 and 6 will be going to a performance by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in the afternoon of Friday 31st January. Children will leave after lunch and return by the end of the school day. The theme this year is Sea Stories and children have started to learn some body percussion and Makaton to be able to participate in two of the songs played.



Please complete a SOE3 form with any relevant medical information and return them to the school office by Friday 24th January. This form will also cover the upcoming Year 5 and 6 Map Reading and Walking Day on February 7th (more details to follow).

## Code Club - starts Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January

There are still a few spaces left in our Code Club starting next week. This is for Key Stage 2 , for 4 weeks, cost £20. [Please sign up here.](#)

# Hedgelaying Volunteer Day Saturday 25th January 10am to 4pm

Learn the traditional craft of hedgelaying with an East Devon District Council Countryside Team Ranger at Whimble Primary School Orchard.



All tools provided - for more information and to sign up please email: [pollyluscombe@gmail.com](mailto:pollyluscombe@gmail.com)



# Dates for your diary

## January

- Monday 20th Beech and Oak Year 4 swimming lessons (5 weeks, last session 10th Feb)  
Saturday 25th Hedge laying Volunteer Day 10am to 4pm - School orchard  
Thursday 30th Oak Forest School (am); Ash Forest School (pm)  
Friday 31st Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Great Hall, Exeter - Year 5 and 6

## February

- Tuesday 4th Skills Builder Parent/Child Workshop  
Friday 7th Year 5 and 6 Map Reading and Walking Day

## March

- Monday 31st EVF Dance Showdown at the Barnfield Theatre (Year 5 and 6)

## April

- Wednesday 30th to Thursday 1st May Year 3/4 Residential

## June

- Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th Year 5/6 Residential

## Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

### 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): 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025*

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