

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023

Whimble Primary School

Issue 7

24.02.23

The beginning of this half-term has started well and the children have returned with smiles on their faces despite finding the first week tiring.

Strike Action Update

The school will be **fully open** on Thursday 2nd March, we will **not** be closing due to strike action.

World Book Day

Children have brought home the World Book Day tokens this week. These can be spent up until 26th March in many book stores.

For more information click the link: [World Book Day tokens](#)



Many of you have started on your costumes for our World Book Day on Friday 4th March. We like to encourage costumes linked to particular stories as the real purpose of this day is to encourage the love of reading and understanding the long term benefits of this vital skill. Remember the costumes do not have to be spectacular, and we really love the home made ones.

The chosen authors are:

Julia Donaldson, Roald Dahl, Terry Deary, Tom Fletcher, David Walliams, J K Rowling

Information Session for Parents - Tuesday 7th March at 3pm

This meeting will be an opportunity to find out more about our new phonics/reading scheme - Little Wandle and Number Sense (maths scheme) that are taught daily with children in Ash and Elm Class. It will provide lots of information along with some great ideas in how to support your child at home to help ensure they become fluent readers and efficient mathematicians.

Weekly Support and Suggestions



Skills Builder

This half term our focus skills are Staying Positive (resilience) and Speaking.

Staying Positive

Think of an activity, task or situation that you find challenging.

What would success look like for you in this situation?

Draw how your success would look (or write it down).

What steps could you take to make this success real?



Reflection Questions

Getting Started: How does this activity make you feel?

Intermediate: How could you use this activity to feel more positive when something goes wrong?

Advanced: How could this help you to look on the bright side of something?

For more information please go to their website:

<https://www.skillsbuilder.org/homezone/staying-positive-getting-started>

Online Safety

Online gaming is hugely popular with children and young people.

Research conducted by OFCOM shows that gaming is still one of the top activities enjoyed by 5-16 year olds online, with many of them gaming via mobile devices and going online using their games console.

Online safety advice applies to online gaming as risks can be present in the game's content and chat features.

Age Ratings: Regulated by [PEGI](#), these show how old you need to be in order to legally buy a game in the UK. PEGI have also created a set of content descriptors which show at a glance what content will be seen in the game and give an indication as to why it received its rating.

Top tips

Read reviews and be aware of the risks

Before a young person buys or downloads a new game, check its rating first to be aware of any potential risks. You can read guidance on [Common Sense Media](#). You can also find out more about PEGI age ratings and content descriptors by visiting [Ask About Games](#).

We are hearing lots of details about a range of games from our children and many of them are not age appropriate for primary aged children. Please take the time to check what your children are playing, or being exposed to from older siblings or friends.

More support and guidance is available on the school website:

https://www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk/website/online_safety/378283

Dates for your diary

February

Monday 27th

Big Emotions Interactive Reading - KS1

March

Friday 3rd March

Whimble World Book Day

Friday 3rd March

Forest School - Ash Class

Tuesday 7th March

Parents Information Session 3pm

Friday 10th March

Forest School - Ash Class

Friday 17th March

Comic Relief - details to follow

Week commencing 20th March

Annual reports home for Year 1 to Year 6

Week commencing 27th March

Parent consultations

Friday 31st March

Last day of term 1.30pm finish

Assessment arrangements for summer 2023

Month of May

Key Stage 1 SATs (Year 2)

Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May

Key Stage 2 SATs

Week commencing 5th June

Multiplication tables check (Year 4)

Week commencing 12th June

Phonics Screening Check (Year 1/Year 2)

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

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