

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2024



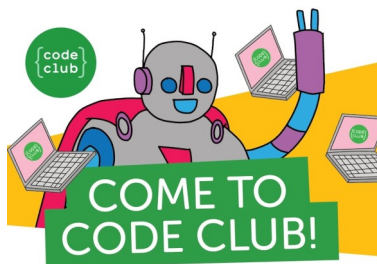
Whimple Primary School

Issue 1

10.1.25

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Hopefully, you all managed to do something pleasurable over the Christmas break, as well as not over indulge.

The children have quickly settled back into school and we are encouraging them to be as independent as possible. Please remind them to have their PE kits in school along with the relevant reading books.



Code Club - starts Thursday 21st January

Miss Easterbrook is going to run a Code Club later this month. Code Club is a fun and supportive space where children learn coding at their own pace. Young creators gain confidence and build their skills in problem solving and teamwork. This is for Key Stage 2, for 4 weeks, cost £20. [Please sign up here.](#)

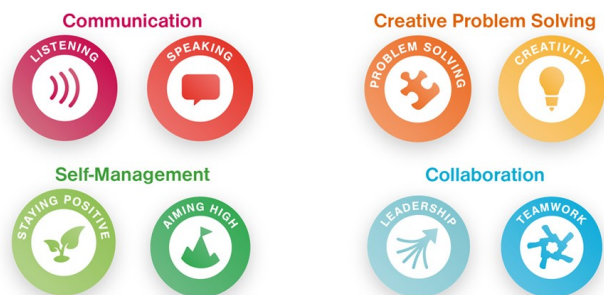
Family Skills Builder Workshop - You're invited!

As you know, we work closely with Skills Builder to support our pupils develop their learning behaviours as they move through the school.

Essential skills unlock learning in the classroom, boosting academic outcomes, perseverance and self belief. They halve the likelihood of being out of work, and increase earnings across a lifetime. They even boost wellbeing and life satisfaction.

We would like to share this with you, and on **Tuesday 4th February from 4.00-5.00pm**, are inviting you to the Victory Hall to take part in a hands-on workshop. All families are welcome from across the school, and we would like parents to attend **with their children** to have a go at some of the activities we have planned.

Next week, look out for a Google Form to register your interest, but for now, please save the date!



Skills Builder
PARTNERSHIP



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family had a very good Christmas break and were able to spend some time together away from the routines of term time. As we start a new year, the new Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation has begun, with ten schools now making up the partnership across mid and south Devon. This is an exciting time for us as we adapt and change to meet the challenges of giving each and every child the best start in life that we can and the opportunity to develop a lifelong love of learning. There are undoubtedly going to be challenges along the way as we explore the ever changing educational landscape but as senior leaders and governors, we are sure that we are better off working together to achieve our shared aims.

Part of the re-federation process includes electing two new parent governors and there is more information about the three candidates who have put their names forward in the section below. Please do take a minute to read their pen portraits and to vote online for your two preferred candidates. The election closes on Friday, 17th January and the new board will meet for the first time during the following week to confirm the election outcomes and appoint new governors to key positions.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

Information about the three candidates for parent governor for Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation is included in the document that is attached to the newsletter email this week. The instructions for voting and the supporting information is included in the document and voting closes at 12.00pm on Friday, 17th January 2025.

RECEPTION PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

If your child was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 they are due to start primary school in September 2025. Your child must be in full-time education at the beginning of the term following his or her fifth birthday. More information about the application process and how to apply for a place can be found at [Apply for a reception or year 3 place at a primary school](#). Devon County Council Admissions will email your child's offer of a school place on Wednesday, 16 April 2025. Please make sure your email address is kept up to date.

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 and more information will be coming home in the next few weeks; a short slideshow will also be uploaded to the website with more information. The Year 4 children will be taking part in different and more challenging activities, which will be led by the YHA staff at the centre.

Children in Year 3 and 4 at Silverton, Whimble and Thorverton will be leaving on Wednesday, 30th April from Crediton station and arriving back the following afternoon [Thursday, 1st May]. We are arranging coach travel for children at Whimble to get to and from school to the station.

Children in Year 3 and 4 at Brampford Speke, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Newton St Cyres and Sandford will be leaving on Thursday, 1st May from Crediton station and arriving back the following afternoon [Friday, 2nd 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. However, we appreciate that this is a significant cost for many families and if you would like help in covering the cost of the visit, please email your child's Head of School. All requests will be treated in confidence; we want every child who wants to come to Okehampton to be able to take part and cost should not be a barrier.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

YEAR 5 AND 6 RESIDENTIAL VISIT

Year 5 and 6's residential visit this year will be taking place from Wednesday, 18th to Friday, 20th June. Please note that this has changed from some earlier date sheets and online calendars. We will be going to the Ultimate Adventure Centre in North Devon for three days and taking part in lots of exciting outdoor and water activities. The Year 5s and 6s will be in different accommodation blocks and will have separate activity programmes. We are planning to leave early on 18th June and get back late on Friday 20th June to make the most of the visit. Coaches will be leaving from Silverton and Newton St Cyres to make travelling easier for busy families. The centre is still confirming the cost of the visit but it is likely to be around £240 for the three days, including travel, accommodation, food and all the activities. Again, a payment plan has been set up for parents on School Gateway to enable you to pay over four months. However, we appreciate that this is a significant cost for many families and if you would like help in covering the cost of the visit, please email your child's Head of School. All requests will be treated in confidence; we want every child who wants to come to Ultimate Adventure to be able to take part and cost should not be a barrier.



Whimple School Library

The school library is open on Wednesdays after school for parents to bring their children along. Our new librarians are also going to open the library up to children during part of lunchtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Children are allowed to borrow two books at a time.



Rock Steady

This is an opportunity for your child to learn an instrument whilst playing or singing as part of a band. For more details, please see the attached flyer or use the link [here](#).

Dates for your diary

January

- Monday 13th Beech and Oak Year 4 swimming lessons (5 weeks, last session 10th Feb)
Thursday 16th Oak Forest School (am); Ash Forest School (pm)
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

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

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): 27th June 2025

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

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