



Welcome
to
Whimble
Primary
School

Prospectus
2019-2020

Dear Parents

A warm welcome to our school. We are always pleased to meet parents of existing or prospective pupils and are sure that you will find us friendly and approachable. We are a small community school with motivated, happy and caring children and an excellent team of staff. We aim to work in partnership with parents to give our pupils the best education they can receive, and to enable parents to support their child's learning and development.

Everything we do at Whimble is underpinned by values which develop physically and mentally healthy children who are then able to succeed in our broad and balanced curriculum.

We endeavour to have a strong family feel to our school and we work closely with the local community. We have many volunteers who work with the children and we are always looking for more!

This booklet will tell you about our school, our staff and governors, our philosophy and our curriculum. Information is also available on the school's website at:

<http://www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk>.

If, after reading the prospectus, you still have unanswered questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Shilston - Headteacher

Mrs Linden Best - Chair of Governors

The school address is:

Whimble Primary School

School Hill

Whimble

Exeter

Devon

EX5 2TS

Tel 01404 822584



Apple Picking at 'The Orchard'

e-mail: admin@whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk

History of Whimble Primary School



The first reference to schooling in Whimble appears in 1798 when there were apparently, three or four Dame schools. In 1818, there was a school of 48 children.

The present day school started life in 1848 under the name of "Whimble National School" and was built at the cost of £475. It comprised of a teacher's house and a single schoolroom. In 1870, the schoolroom was enlarged and an infant classroom added. By 1910, the school had been enlarged again with a further room being added.

In 1979, two modern Devon Lady mobile classrooms were placed quite separate from the main school buildings.

In 2000, another single Elliott classroom was craned in over the main building in four pieces. This classroom was refurbished a few years ago.

Further building alterations were made in 2004 where an extra floor was inserted above the original school hall and the spiral staircase was removed and a new staircase constructed. 'The Orchard' or Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) site was purchased by Devon County Council for use by the school. In recent years two compostable toilets and a wooden shelter have been erected to increase use of the site. Over the past year or so, part of the site has been developed for use to implement Forest Schools as part of our Fantastic Friday curriculum.

Whimble Primary School in 2019

Whimble is a small village on the outskirts of Exeter. The school is situated in the centre of the village. In September 2019, Whimble Primary School has 142 pupils based in five classes:

Elm Class - Reception and Year 1

Ash Class - Year 1 and Year 2

Oak Class - Year 3 and Year 4

Beech Class - Year 4 and Year 5

Willow Class - Year 5 and Year 6

The building consists of a Victorian main building and three mobile classrooms. The Village Hall situated next to the school, is used for lunches, assemblies, P.E. lessons and after school clubs. The 'Orchard' site, in Slewton Crescent, is used for outdoor P.E. lessons and other outdoor activities, including Forest Schools. The school was inspected by Ofsted in October 2017 and continues to be a good school.

Welcome to Whimble Primary School



Our Ethos and Values

At Whimble Primary School, we believe that children should receive an education which enables them the freedom to choose and make decisions about their own future.

Through a curriculum which supports both academic and wider learning, children become confident and independent in the classroom while exploring and understanding their role in the local community.

All of what we do at Whimble relates closely to the five British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of the different faiths and beliefs.

This is evident through our 6Rs which are celebrated through a weekly certificate assembly.

Responsibility

- Children are encouraged to deal with things and make good choices.
- They are held accountable for their actions.
- They understand the importance of learning and by knowing their strengths and weaknesses learn what they need to do to improve.
- They are encouraged to plan ahead, help others and work well in a team so becoming reliable and mature citizens.

Reflection

- Children think about a task before starting and consider what is required to tackle it successfully.
- They look at options, listen to and questions others and use prior learning in order to move their learning forward.
- They are able to evaluate what went well and what could be improved next time.

Resilience

- Children are taught the importance of being prepared to have a go and keep going when things get hard.
- They understand to improve they will make mistakes and that they should use these as a positive learning experience.
- Children develop the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties and demonstrate a flexibility in approaches to learning.

Resourcefulness

- Children are encouraged to use their imagination and to apply their learning in various ways.
- They appreciate that practising regularly is important in any subject and think about how they can do things differently to improve.
- They are taught to transfer key skills and can make connections between different subjects through topic based learning.
- They are flexible in their approaches and are prepared to take risks in order to find an appropriate solution.

Respect

- Children are expected to have due regard for the feelings, wishes and rights of others.
- They are encouraged to respect themselves and have a positive attitude.
- They are polite and show good manners by being considerate and helpful towards other people.
- They appreciate and value other people's opinions and beliefs as they realise they are able to learn from other cultures and that it is important to celebrate our differences.

Reasoning

- Children learn to think about things in a logical and sensible way so that they can use what they know to help with new learning.
- They make connections and use common sense to consider the best way to approach a problem.
- They use inference skills to deduce information and answer questions accordingly.

School Organisation - Who's who?

Teaching:

Headteacher:	Mrs Carole Shilston
Class Teacher:	Miss Zoe Norton
Class Teacher:	Miss Hannah Clarke
Class Teacher:	Mr Matt Brown
Class Teacher:	Mrs Sally Terrett
Class Teacher:	Mrs Hannah Boyd
Class Teacher:	Miss Bethany Dunsford
Class Teacher:	Ms Juliet Corwood

Non Teaching:

School Administrator:	Mrs Helen Mitchell
Administrator support:	Mrs Caroline Rowe
Higher Level Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Caroline Wall
Higher Level Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Lindsey Clapp
Higher Level Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Dawn Vanstone
Intervention Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Marianne Major
Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Heather Triggs
Teaching Assistant:	Miss Debbie Passmore
Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Trina Cornish
Teaching Assistant:	Mrs Mandy Cosslett
Mealtime Assistants:	Mrs Trina Cornish Mrs Christy Stone
Mealtime Assistants:	Miss Chantell Vicary Mrs Lucy Earnshaw
Mealtime Assistant:	Mrs Terianne Davey Ms Stacey Cowley
Mealtime Assistants:	Ms Vikki Godden
Kitchen Manager:	Mrs Sue Thorne
Kitchen Assistant	Mrs Karen Delves
Caretaker Cleaner:	Mr Billy Bloomfield

School Governors

The School's Governing Body is a team drawn from the School and local community (including some elected by parents) who are appointed to oversee the School. The Governors work with the Headteacher to set the School's aims and objectives, prepare its forward plans, and determine its policies, targets and priorities. They work alongside the Headteacher to achieve and maintain high standards across the School. The Governors and teaching staff are held to account on behalf of the local community in general, and parents in particular, for:

- the performance of the School
- the delivery of the curriculum
- the school finances
- a fair and caring regime for pupils

Responsibilities

The Governing Body is responsible for how the school uses its money, for the character of its individual curriculum and organisation and the choice of its staff. Even if it chooses to delegate some tasks which can legally be delegated, to the Headteacher or its own members, the Governing Body as a whole remains responsible. It is also responsible for ensuring that the school gives parents the information they are entitled to by law, and for ensuring fairness to individual pupils and staff in certain kinds of dispute.

Governing Body

The Chair of the School Governors is Mrs Linden Best and The Clerk to the Governors is Mrs Cathy Culshaw. Both can be contacted through the School Office.

A full list of current governors follows and any one of them may be contacted at any time, via the School Office.

Name	Governor's Category
Mrs Maria Wallis Mrs Helena Hastie	Co-opted
Mrs Julia Green	Local Authority
Mrs Gail Martin-Davies Mrs Caroline Ward-Reece	Community
Mrs Kate Needs Mrs Linden Best (Chair) Mr James Terrett	Parent
Mrs Carole Shilston	Headteacher
Mr Matt Brown	Staff
Mrs Cathy Culshaw	(Clerk)

Admissions Policy

Parents considering applying for a place for their child at Whimble School are invited to telephone the school (01404 822584) and arrange a visit to meet the Headteacher who will show them around and be happy to answer questions.

All children of school age are welcome in our school. However, in line with all schools, we have a planned admission number which reflects the capacity of the school. If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the County criteria will apply.

For more information: (website, About Us tab)

<https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/safeguarding/186139>

Whimble Safeguarding Officers

Whimble Primary School is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of all our pupils in school. Our safeguarding officers are **Mrs Shilston**, **Miss Clarke** and **Miss Norton**.



We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

If you have any concerns and wish to speak with one of them please make an appointment at the school office, ring on **01404 822584**

or email

admin@whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk

Year 4 Arts Project



Starting at Whimble School

Beginning school is one of the most significant times in a child's life (and for mums and dads!). We try to make your child's entry to school as happy and smooth as possible. We do this in several ways.

When the admissions form has been completed and it is confirmed that there is a place for your child at Whimble School, the "getting to know us" process will have begun. If your child already attends the local Pre-school then he or she will know a great deal about the school already. We offer a choice of a home or school visit to discuss your child prior to entry.

During the first two weeks of school your child will spend half days only in school. This is to help encourage a smooth transition from home to school.

The School Day

Hours	Morning session	9.00 - 12 noon
	Break	10.40 - 10.55 am
	Lunch	12.00 - 1.15 pm
	Afternoon session	1.15 - 3.30 pm



Apple Pressing

The teaching week (excluding assemblies, breaks and registration) totals 22.5 hours.

No responsibility can be taken for children arriving at school before 8.50 am and children must not be left unaccompanied in the playground before this time.

Children should 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.

School finishes at 3.30 pm. We want to ensure that your children should leave the premises safely, and therefore, all parents are requested to meet their children in the school playground (assigned areas for each class). **Younger children are told that they should never leave the playground until the person who has come to collect them has arrived.**

Children are not supervised after school unless attending school clubs. If your child has been in school but is not attending an after school club for which they are registered then you must let the club organisers know. This is your responsibility not the school's.

When collecting your child please be as prompt as possible. If you are going to be late then please ring and let us know and your child will be taken to wait in the ICT room. You must ring the bell at reception when you arrive and a member of staff will fetch your child. If you are going to be late and want another parent to collect your child then you must let us know.

Absence

No child may be released during school hours unless a request has been made to the Headteacher. If your child is absent due to illness please inform the school as soon as possible by telephone. Registers are checked and if we have not heard why a child is absent by 9.30a.m. we will ring to check for confirmation. If required, we will ring other contact numbers to ensure a child is safe. If your child is absent through illness for more than five days the school may ask for proof of absence e.g. an appointment card, prescription or Doctor's note. It is a legal requirement that the school records the reason for your child's absence. The school attendance policy is available on the school's website and in the school office.

Please make sure that we have at least two emergency telephone numbers where you can be contacted in case your child is taken ill at school.

Holidays other than school holidays

Parents/carers wishing to take their child out of school during term time should obtain permission from the Headteacher by filling in an absence request form which is available from the School Office. Holiday requests during term time can only be granted in **exceptional** circumstances. Reduced cost and relatives visiting are not exceptional circumstances and requests will not be authorised for these reasons.

For more information: Attendance Policy (website, Policies tab)

<https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/policies/93239>

Medicines

If a child is deemed well enough to attend school, but continues to need medication then a parent should come to school to administer it. If this is not possible, parents must complete the appropriate forms available from the school office. It must be clearly understood that without this authorisation **no medicines** can be given to children. Only medicines in their original packaging and clearly labelled will be accepted.

Aspirin and similar painkillers are not permitted.

For more information: Policy for Supporting Children with Medical Conditions and for the Administration of Medicines. (website, Policies tab)

<https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/policies/93239>



Local Learning Community Arts Project with Killerton

School Uniform

Girls: Grey or Black skirt, trousers or pinafore (winter)
Blue & White checked dress (summer)
White shirt or polo shirt
Blue jumper or cardigan with school logo
White socks
Sensible outdoor shoes (winter) or sandals (summer)

Boys: Grey or Black trousers (winter) or shorts (summer)
White shirt or polo shirt
Blue sweatshirt or jumper with school logo
Grey or black socks
Sensible outdoor shoes

PE Girls & Boys: Plain blue or black shorts
(in a named PE bag) Yellow T-Shirt (with school logo optional)
Trainers
Plain Blue or Black track suit

For Swimming you will need a swimsuit and a swimming cap, a towel and a bag to keep them in.

School T-shirts and sweatshirts are available, together with back-packs, from the School Office.

All items of clothing should be clearly named for easy identification if mislaid.

Jewellery, make-up, temporary tattoos and nail varnish are not permitted with the exception of a watch and small stud ear-rings which must be removed or covered for P.E.. Long hair must also be tied up.

School back-packs are available from the School Office. We request that the front pocket is used for books only.



Sports Day at the cricket field.

Good Behaviour and Discipline

At Whimble we take a proactive approach to pupil behaviour management. Good behaviour is an expectation. Classes agree codes of conduct for classroom behaviour at the beginning of each school year. Behaviour is modelled by staff who are polite and considerate to children and other adults, and praise is given to children when their behaviour is good, both to acknowledge the individual child and as a model to other children.

Friday's 'star' assembly allows both teachers and mealtime assistants to nominate children who have been exceptionally kind, polite, considerate or helpful. Children receive their badges in assembly and keep them for the week, before passing them onto the next group of children. Our family teams and team points are also used to further promote good behaviour.



Visit to Whimble Church to see the bells

Children who do not conduct themselves in accordance with the agreed class, playground, or school rules are reminded of acceptable behaviour. Children who behave in a way that disrupts learning or endangers other children are removed from the class or playground and are spoken to about their behaviour by the class teacher. Children who need further support are spoken to by the Headteacher.

If appropriate, a child will be given a behaviour report card and will negotiate, with the head teacher, behaviour targets for the following week. Parents will be informed to enable the school and parents to work in partnership. The child then reports daily to the Headteacher or, if required, at the end of each teaching or playtime session to allow behaviour to be monitored. Strategies for managing and improving behaviour will be discussed with the child by both the class teacher and Headteacher.

On starting school children are put into one of our family teams: Badgers, Hedgehogs, Rabbits or Squirrels. Siblings are put into the same team. Team points can be earned for a range of things, including promoting positive behaviours and attitudes to school and learning.

Banners made by Year 5 and 6 for a Community Art Project



School Dinners

Hot meals are available at school, and are served in the Victory Hall. All the food on the 'Fresh Start' menu is freshly prepared daily, using fresh ingredients from local suppliers, wherever possible, to provide quality home-cooked meals.

Children are supervised throughout the meal time. The Key Stage 2 Play Leaders are currently working with the Mealtime Assistants to offer a range of activities during lunch time play.

Parents order and pay for school meals through our online School Gateway App. Information regarding the school gateway will be available on admission.

Your child will receive the first option on each daily menu unless an alternative is requested.

Universal Infant Free School Meals are available for all children in Key Stage 1. Pupil Premium Free School Meals are provided for some children, where families are on a low income. Please do not hesitate to ask for an application form if you think your child could qualify.

It is in the school's interest for you to claim your pupil premium free school meal entitlement, whether or not your child actually has school meals, as this puts additional money into the school budget.

For more information: Pupil premium (website, About Us tab)

https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/pupil_premium/372954

A packed lunch may be brought if preferred, but please **do not include nuts** as some children have a nut allergy. Children are allowed home for lunch, with parental consent.

Some children need a snack at mid-morning break. The school discourages sweets and chocolate; and chewing gum is not allowed. Healthy snacks can be bought from the School tuck shop.

As part of our Health Education programme Whimble School operates a total no smoking policy on the school premises. The Governors of the school have passed a resolution to this effect.



Cookery (part of 'Fantastic Friday')

Curriculum Statement

At Whimble School we believe that an effective curriculum should be balanced, wide-ranging and have clearly defined progression. The curriculum includes all the subjects of the National Curriculum and the relationships between them.

Core subjects: English, Maths, Science and Religious Education

Foundation subjects: History, Computing, Geography, Design and Technology, Art, Music, PE, PSHE, Modern Foreign Language (Yr3+)

We recognise that the National Curriculum, although providing the progression necessary for a child's academic development, does not provide the balance and range necessary for a complete education. Therefore, we endeavour to enhance the National Curriculum with such cross-curricular themes as Health and Environmental Education and extra curriculum activities such as musical events, activity weeks and joint projects with community organisations.

Children have differing learning needs and capacities and therefore we try to match the curriculum to those individual needs, at the same time ensuring that no child is denied access to any part of that curriculum.

'Fantastic Friday'

Our Friday afternoon curriculum was introduced to help promote good physical and mental well-being. It promotes and develops the school's values. Activities may include Forest School, Relax Kids, cookery, art and craft, sport, playing board games, first aid and music and drama.

Our common philosophy here at Whimble School is to encourage pupils to develop lively and enquiring minds within an atmosphere of respect and tolerance for others. We want children to become self reliant and adaptable, capable of actively involving themselves in their own learning.

In order to achieve these aims we recognise and plan for the different demands of each curricular area in terms of flexibility of teaching methods and forms of organisation.

Curriculum newsletters which outline what children will be learning are sent home each term and are available on the website along with our Home Learning Guides. Homework plans are also on the class pages. The teaching staff are happy to discuss the planned curriculum and, from time to time, we hold curriculum-based evenings which we hope you will attend.



For more information: Curriculum (website, Classes and Curriculum tab)

https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/classes_and_curriculum/93204

Before and after school care

The Whimble Wake Up Club has been running since September 2014. This is independently run in the Victory Hall, next door to the school. It starts at 7.50 am and runs until 8.50 am when all the children are taken from the hall to the school playground. There is a charge which includes breakfast.

After school care is available locally and transport is available (again, there is a cost attributed).

See the website for up-to-date information and charges.

Clubs

We offer a variety of club activities at different times of the year, e.g. Choir, Guitar, Recorders, Football, Gymnastics, Drama, Gardening and Cricket Club. We occasionally play matches against other local schools.

Accidents and First Aid

Unfortunately, accidents do happen from time to time. If your child has a minor accident in school, he/she will be given first aid and you will be given an accident form at the end of the day, if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2. Children in Year 3 to 6 will be given the accident form to hand over to their parents.

If the accident involves a head injury or is more serious and requires professional treatment, a member of staff will contact you by phone to discuss if you need to collect your child. Please make sure that we have at least two emergency telephone numbers where you can be contacted.

Parking Around the School

We encourage parents who have to bring their children to school by car to park either at The Thirsty Farmer or the village car park (which is free). The village hall car park is for other users, including the doctor's surgery. We want to get along with everyone living in the community, so please park considerately. The safety of our children is key.

Security on site

All visitors to school must report to the main office and register with the reception. Any parent bringing a child late or collecting early from school must sign their child/ren in or out at the main office. No child will be allowed to leave during the school day without the permission of the Headteacher, following a request from their parent/s, and without being accompanied by a known adult. Children in Elm and Ash class are collected from the lower playground at the end of the school day.

Friends of Whimble School (FoWS)

Our PTFA organisation is known as FoWS or Friends of Whimble School. All parents of children at the school are automatically members of FOWS as are all school staff . We also invite members from the local community to help us build on the school's excellent relationship with the villagers and village organisations. We meet once or twice a term to plan events and discuss ideas.

Our charity raises funds for the school. We are passionate about the school, all its children, and about the community of Whimble. We fund extra curricular activities and help fund school trips for the children. In the past couple of years we have also helped to buy a new Clevertouch screen, benches for the playground, visiting theatre groups, coach costs for school trips, library and reading books and various maths resources.

We like to share the responsibility for organising events over as wide a number of members as possible and at the beginning of the year we allocate events to working parties. If everyone helps a little, everyone can enjoy being involved and attend different events as either organisers, helpers or occasionally with no responsibility, to enable them to enjoy the event with their children. Past events have included, fashion shows, Easter bingo, Easter egg hunt, Barn dances and many more and every year we have a Christmas fayre and are involved with Village Week.

We aim for a balance of fundraising and family fun events and all money raised goes towards improving the children's experiences in school.

Insurance

The Local Authority is insured against legal liability for any injury, loss or damage caused to pupils/students as a result of negligence on its part or that of its employees, servants or agents.

Pupils/students attending the Local Authority's Schools and Colleges are not insured for personal accident benefits whilst on education premises or taking part in recognised activities outside the school or college.

Devon County Council expects all employees, pupils and students to accept full responsibility for their personal possessions, including money and to consider taking out insurance to cover any risks.