

# NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2025



## Whimple Primary School

Issue 14

12.12.25

What a week!

The weather was really kind to us on Wednesday, with the sun shining. This made it a lot easier to undertake our three-legged challenge. A minimum of four pairs of children walked around a circuit in the lower playground from 9.15am until 3.15pm. Every class was allocated a slot and there were often more than four pairs making their way around the circuit - some even managed to run together! A total of 3503 circuits were completed which is equivalent to 140km - the same distance as Whimple to Stonehenge! We are really proud of the children and all that they have achieved.

The cake sale run by children in Beech Class was also a great success—with over £90 raised. Sponsor money is coming in, if you haven't sent yours in yet, please can this be done by Wednesday so we can arrange for the funds to be transferred to the two charities - Children in Need and Exeter Leukaemia Fund. So far we have raised over £600 which is incredible—you are all amazing!

**A huge thank you** to all those adults who helped either today, or with the preparations beforehand, to make the Christmas fair for the children such a great success today. We could not have done it without you.

As we head into the final week of this term (and for 2025) just a few things to remember:

### **Christmas Dinner - Wednesday 17th**

Children will be eating their school Christmas dinner on this day, children should be wearing school uniform please.

### **Wednesday 17th - School Nativity, Whimple Church - 4pm start**

The children in Ash and Elm will be changed and given a snack at school before being taken to the church. Parents will be allowed to come into the church once the children are settled—this will not be until at least 3.45pm. Parents **DO NOT** need to collect their child from school.

### **Christmas Post-Box**

The school post box will be open for post until Friday 19th first thing. If class names or initial can be added to the envelope that can help where we have duplicate names.



### **Federation News from Mr Jolliffe**

This week has been full of nativity plays across the federation and I have enjoyed watching and hearing about how the children have performed in different venues. Many thanks to all the staff and parents who work so hard to make these performances so enjoyable for everyone, including the children themselves. Next Monday evening is our federation Carol Service at 6.00pm at Crediton Parish Church, and our Elastic Bands will be playing under the leadership of Alison Golby. Groups of children from different schools will also be playing and singing, so it should be a great evening of musical celebration. Please do come along and support the children who are performing, you will be very welcome.

#### **HEAD OF SCHOOL AT BRAMPFORD SPEKE**

Ms Moore [Tofts], who is the Head of School at Brampford Speke C of E School, has been unwell and has been away from school since the middle of May 2025. After very careful thought and consideration, Ms Moore [Tofts] has decided that she is not going to be able to return to Brampford Speke and that she needs to move on to new opportunities that allow for greater balance personally and professionally. This means that she will not be coming back to school between now and the end of term.

Mrs Woolacott has stepped into leading Brampford Speke since the summer term and took the school through the SIAMS inspection so successfully. She is happy to continue as Acting Head of School until we are able to make a permanent appointment for the role of Head of School. James Akhurst will be based at Brampford Speke on Thursdays and Fridays to ensure continuity of leadership.

#### **ASTHMA INHALERS**

We have been reviewing our asthma policy and practice recently and staff have received training on how to identify and support children with asthma to manage their condition. All schools now have a spare inhaler and spacer that can be used in an emergency as part of our first aid kits. If your child does have asthma, please remember that inhalers need to be in date and have to be used regularly if they are in school, otherwise they can get blocked and not be useful if needed.

#### **FEDERATION CAROL SERVICE**

The federation carol service takes place on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm at Crediton Parish Church and all parents are welcome to join us to watch children from the different schools perform, hear the Elastic Bands play and listen to readings and a Christmas reflection. We look forward to seeing you there.

#### **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY**

Our next professional learning day is on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> January and all the federation schools will be closed to children for the day. The spring term starts on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

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

The slideshow with more information about the Year 5 and 6 residential visit to Bath and Bristol is now on the federation website under 'Residential visits'. Please could parents complete and return the register of interest slip by Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 so that we can finalise numbers.

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#### **Applications for Reception Places September 2026**

Children born between 01/09/2021 and 31/08/2022 are entitled to start full time Primary Education in September 2026. The [online application](#) facility is now open and closes at midnight on 15th January 2026.

## Rail Safety

Living in a village with a railway provides a valuable transport link. However, just like our roads we have to ensure as adults that they respect the railway and the dangers that it can bring. All children across the school have been part of the Rail Safe Friendly Programme and watched an age appropriate video to support this. This also involved a class discussion to talk through any concerns or queries. The link below is support for parents in order to also help with this.



**THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME**

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.

Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting [railsafefriendly.com](https://railsafefriendly.com)

**DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC**

According to the **ORR Report**, April 23 - March 24 on UK railways:

Statistic	Value
people died in accidents while trespassing	12
were struck by a train or tram	58%
were electrocuted	42%

According to **Rail Safe Friendly**, July 25:

Statistic	Value
companies support the programme	120+
schools in the UK have engaged	11,000+
UK schools still need to be reached	20,000+

Simon Frazer, Principal, Guilsborough Academy

"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"

# Raffle

**Spread Joy This Festive Season!**

## Enter Our Christmas Hamper Raffle

Win one of our 6 hampers full of Festive Goodies!

Date of Draw: 17/12/2025

Location: Whimpe Church (KS1 Nativity Play)

Tickets: £1 each (£5 a strip)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Large Luxury Hamper**

Each hamper is bespoke and made up from the donations everyone generously gave.

All proceeds go to supporting Whimpe School.

Get your tickets now and join us in making the season brighter for everyone! Tickets for sale in the top playground at pick-up. Card or cash payment. Please see Catherine Evans-Martin or message your Class Rep.

# Dates for your diary

## December

Monday 15th	EVF Carol Service at Crediton Church 6pm
Wednesday 17th	Nativity KS1 at Whimble Church 4pm
Friday 19th	Last day of term—1.30pm finish

## January

Tuesday 6th	Start of term for children
Friday 23th	KS2 Barnfield Theatre
Friday 30th	Year 5 and 6 Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Exeter University

## Term dates for pupils - 2025/26:

**AUTUMN TERM 2025**      **4th September to 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**SPRING TERM 2026**      **5th January to 2nd April 2026**

*Half term: Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026*

*Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026*

**SUMMER TERM 2026**      **20th April to 22nd July 2026**

*Half term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026*

*Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026*

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