

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2024



Whimple Primary School

Issue 4

27.09.24

Another inclement week, not sure I can remember a September like it but it keeps us on our toes! Please remind children to bring their coats every day, we never know when we may need them.

Now we are well into the term, just a gentle reminder that children should be in school for 9am. We are having increasing numbers of children arrive after this time which not only disrupts them but the learning of others. Registers have to record late arrivals and if after 9.10am this is classed as an unauthorised absence. I appreciate some mornings can be more challenging than others, and when we are aware of those things we make adjustments, however, some families are consistently late most days of the week. We appreciate your help and support with this.

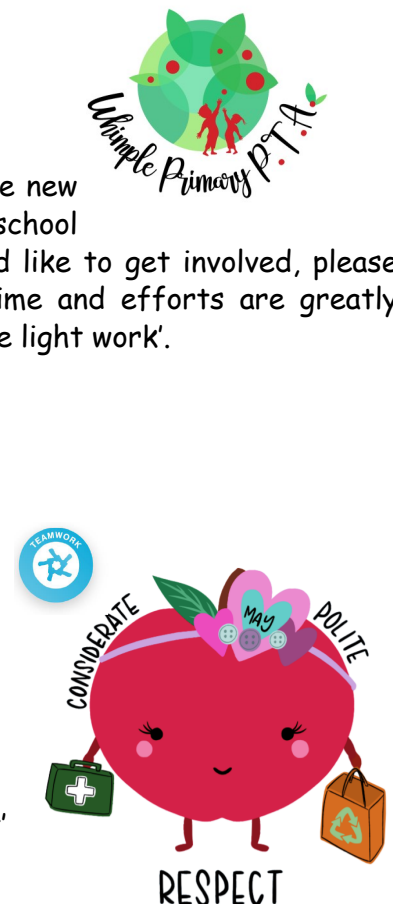
PTA Class Representatives:

Many thanks to the parents who have agreed to be a class rep for the new school year. Our PTA relies on parents to give their time to help the school raise funds for equipment and school trip contributions. If you would like to get involved, please email whimple.pta@gmail.com or speak to the school office. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated no matter how big or small and remember, 'many hands make light work'.

ELM: Vicky Day/Libby West
ASH: Natalie Temple-Murray/Hannah Shaw
OAK: Catherine Evans-Martin
BEECH: Polly Luscombe/Susan Pearce
WILLOW: Lynn Brind

Skills Builder

Our focus for this half-term is 'Teamwork' which is May our 'Respect' apple character. See later pages for more information.





Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

The role of a federation governor is an interesting and challenging one and gives a valuable insight into the wider educational strategy in Devon and beyond. I am very grateful to Digory Smith for his work as a governor over the last few years, especially as he has supported the transition of Whimble School into the federation. Digory has now stepped down as a governor so we have a vacancy on our Exe Valley Governing board for an Associate Member who will be linked to Whimble School. We are looking for someone with Finance or Health & Safety & Premises or experience of all three areas. We meet once each term. If you would like to talk to our Chair, Jackie Enright, to find out what this involves please contact Heidi Last, our Clerk to Governors [email; hlast@exevalleyfederation.org.uk] or me via the school offices, with details of your experience and your contact details. I look forward to hearing from you.

RE-FEDERATION CONSULTATION

The consultation period for re-federation with Moorsway opens today. A letter from both Chairs of Governors is attached to this email and the consultation report with a Q and A section are attached to this week's newsletters. There are also copies on the EVF website under 'important information' and 'Re-federation Consultation' as there have been some technical issues with opening PDF documents on some devices. Parents are welcome to come to the in person consultation on Friday, 11th October at 2.15pm at Silverton School or by writing to the consultation email account The consultation closes on Friday, 15th November [federationconsultation4@gmail.com].

PARENTKIND WINTER COAT CAMPAIGN

As winter is approaching, Parentkind has teamed up with FatFace to provide winter coats for children who would not otherwise have one. The girls' coats are a teal colour and are described as being perfect for chilly weather. With cuffed sleeves, deep pockets, a supersoft inner lining, and a stunning faux fur hood, she'll stay nice and toasty all day long. The boys' coats are navy blue and are softly padded for maximum comfort and lined with supersoft material, this padded jacket is everything they need to stay nice and toasty. It also has cuffed sleeves and an easy-to-use zip. The coats come in age 5-6y, 6-7y, 7-8y, 8-9y, 9-10y, 10-11y, 11-12y and 12-13y.

If you feel that you won't be able to afford to buy your child a coat this winter and would like us to apply for one of these coats on your behalf, please contact Silverton School office [silvertonadmin@exevalleyfederation.org.uk or 01392 860677] with your child's name and school and whether you want a boy's coat or girl's coat and what size. We will send off an order via the PTA and let you know if we have been able to order the coats as demand is expected to be high. Please let us know if you would like a coat by Friday, 27th September. All enquiries will be managed in the strictest confidence.

Skills Builder

After submitting a range of evidence, we found out that we have achieved the Gold Award. This is a significant achievement having only been involved with Skills Builder for three years. Staff have worked hard with the children to help embed the skills across the school.



Congratulations to

Whimple Primary School

We're building the essential skills for success.



We had to demonstrate the skills across six aspects.



Tom Ravenscroft,
Founder & CEO, Skills Builder Partnership
skillsbuilder.org



Keep it Simple

Our reward system matches the 8 skills. Each child is in a team - Badgers, Hedgehogs, Rabbits or Squirrels. Tokens are labelled with each skill and any member of staff or pupil can give a token. All classrooms and communal areas have displays linking the skills to our 6Rs.



Start Early, Keep Going

Children in all classes from EYFS to Year 6 earn weekly certificates which make specific reference to the skills. These are shared on a community-wide notice board, and then with parents. Skills lessons are taught weekly with a half-termly focus. Team points (tokens) are collected and counted weekly by our Year 5 and 6 children. Totals for the half-termly focus skill and overall points are announced in a Friday assembly. Each half-term the winning team 'win' a 'mufty' day.

Measure It

Skills Builder Passports have been made for school and home, for children to self-assess their own learning against the skills.

Focus Tightly

Staff training throughout the year has reinforced the link between current learning behaviours and the skills. Each half term has a focus for teaching and learning and is shared across the whole school. Timetabled sessions each week are to teach and practice skills.



Keep Practising

Evidence of class teachers using the skills as part of everyday teaching and learning across the school. This has formed part of everyday school life in all key stages. The essential skills are embedded into our curriculum and teachers are raising awareness of these skills across many curricular areas.

Bring it To Life

All classes take part of a Skills Builder Challenge Days at least once a year. Children work in groups to learn about and implement the skills in a real life situation. Whole School career assemblies have included talks from occupational therapists and Royal Navy Submariners, and more are planned.

Next Steps: To develop working with parents further through a parent workshop.





Skills Builder - Things to try at home

KS1 Autumn 1 Challenge

Teamwork



Build a den!

Homezone challenge



Work with members of your family to design and build a den. Share your ideas and come to a group decision on how you will make it. The den could be built outside with natural materials or indoors with furniture and blankets. Take a picture of the finished den from inside looking out and outside looking in!

Reflection questions

Getting Started: When do you find it easier (or more difficult) to work with others in a positive way?

Intermediate: Have you helped make decisions with others?

KS2 Autumn 1 Challenge

Teamwork



Tallest tower *Homezone* challenge

Work with members of your family or your friends to create the tallest free-standing tower. This means it can't lean on anything.

You can use anything in your house to create it. You could use cushions, cereal boxes, Lego, cardboard boxes. You could even challenge yourself and others by trying to use unexpected items.

Extension: If and when it falls over, try to make it even taller.

Reflection questions

Getting Started: When do you find it easier (or more difficult) to work with others in a positive way?

Intermediate: Have you helped make decisions with others?

Advanced: How can you encourage others to help out too?

Mastery: What is an 'unhelpful conflict'? How can you avoid this when working with others?

Further learning: <https://www.skillsbuilder.org/homezone/teamwork-getting-started>

Dates for your diary

October

Friday 4th Oak Forest School
Tuesday 8th Vision screening - Reception children

November

Tuesday 5th Flu Vaccinations — All Years
Wednesday 20th Individual School Photo's
Thursday 28th Bags2School Collection (PTA)

Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

AUTUMN TERM 2024

5th September to 18th December 2024

Half term - 28th to 1st November 2024

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): 29th November 2024, 6th January, 27th June 2025

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

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Website: www.whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk