

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026



Whimble Primary School

Issue 1

09.01.26

Happy New Year! 2026 has started with a bang and a howl!

The children have settled back into routine reasonably well—the first few days back are always more challenging at this time of year, I think we all struggle with the dark mornings and when it is cold as well, we just want to hibernate. Well done to all those who have managed to keep to time.



Curriculum Newsletters

Please find attached to this email the curriculum newsletters for each class for this term. This provides useful information about what is being taught as well as key information about what days key things are done, for example, spellings, PE.



PTA Updates

We have used some of the money raised in the summer to purchase some large play items for the children in the younger playground—we have a wooden pirate ship, new driving seats and a couple of trikes! The children have loved having them! Thank you





Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a lovely holiday and that you were able to enjoy some good family time over the last couple of weeks. The extremely cold weather at the start of this week meant that our professional learning day moved on-line, but staff from across the Exe Valley and Moorsway schools were still able to meet to learn about the next steps of our work on task design, writing development, the new Ofsted Toolkit and Early Years communication and language work. The sessions were led by subject leaders and the School Improvement Team. The final professional learning day of the school year will be on Friday, 26th June 2026.

THORVERTON PRESCHOOL

Thorverton preschool joined the EVMF on 1st January 2026 and we are delighted that Deborah Morris and her team are now part of the wider school grouping. Many thanks to Toby Giles and the preschool committee for their hard work and commitment to running the preschool and managing the handover to the federation. The preschool is now governor-led and Debbie Morris will be meeting regularly with senior leaders and governors to ensure that Thorverton Preschool continues to flourish as part of the federation.

SHAUGH PRIOR SCHOOL

Devon County Council is consulting on the future of Shaugh Prior Primary School which includes a proposal to close the school from 31 August 2026. Shaugh Prior is part of the Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation. This consultation is being undertaken in response to falling pupil numbers, educational standards and viability concerns. No decision to close the school has been made. A statutory process is being followed and is a legal requirement.

An information session is being held at The Moorland Hotel, Wotter, Plymouth, PL7 5HP on 29 January 2026 from 3:45pm to 6:45pm with representatives from the Governing Body and Devon County Council. Please email: schoolconsultations@devon.gov.uk if you will be attending, so that we can confirm numbers. We welcome your views on the proposed closure or any alternative suggestions. Please submit your response by 20 February 2026 via: email: schoolconsultations@devon.gov.uk or post: Shona Meek, School Place Planning Service, Room 248, Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QG. More information is available on the EVMF website.

Privacy Notice: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/privacy/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-representations-to-school-organisation-statutory-consultations/>

YEAR 5 and 6 RESIDENTIAL

The deadline for Year 5 and 6's residential visit to Bristol and Bath was 19th December. We have only had responses from half of the children in Year 5 and 6 and need to finalise arrangements and confirm bookings very soon. If you have not already done so, please return the form that was sent to all parents, by next Wednesday, 14th January 2026. After that, it may not be possible for your child to come on the visit in June.

Spring Term Clubs

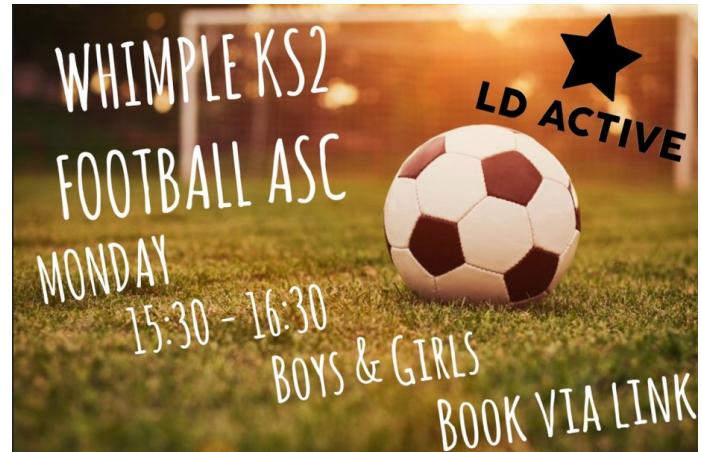
Craft/Games Club

Following on from the success of the club last half-term, Mrs Cornish and Miss Burden are going to run the club again but will also include a craft element to the activities.

The club is open to all years please use this link to book by Tuesday at 3pm so we know our numbers and can prepare. <https://forms.gle/n2K1UQNYqeH3zFfd8>



<https://activities.bookpebble.co.uk/supplier/ld-active-06986a00-3153-49c4-ba25-107310fa1b6a>



Honiton Music Centre

An exciting new project supported by the Devon Music Hub, Department of Education and Arts Council to encourage young people to take up a musical instrument, keeping it as affordable and accessible to learn as possible!

- **When:** Every Wednesday evening during term time from 4:00pm through to 6:30pm
- **Where:** Honiton Community College Music Department
- **Activities** - 30-minute group instrument lesson, 30-minute musicianship skills lesson and 30 minutes Ensemble session
- **Who:** Any youngster in the Honiton area, either Primary or Secondary school age
- **Cost:** Only £4 a week!
- **Which instruments can you learn:**



Sign up ASAP through scanning the QR code below as there are only 7 places per instrument!

A fantastic opportunity at a minimal cost—learn to play an instrument and experience playing in small and large groups. If your child is interested and you need some support with arranging this, please come and speak with us, as this is a fabulous chance to access playing an orchestral instrument.

Little Monsters Market—Baby and Children's Nearly New

I am reaching out to all nursery/primary schools in the area to make parents and settings aware of the Little Monsters Market Baby and Children's Preloved events have been successfully run in the Wonford area of Exeter since 2023. We have now moved to LED Broadclyst Leisure Centre and the first event is on 31st January, with 4 more events scheduled for the rest of 2026.

These popular events are aimed at young families and give them the opportunity to purchase and recycle excellent quality, nearly new maternity and baby /children's equipment, clothing and toys for a fraction of their original price. Everyone benefits, sellers earn money and recycle their preloved items, and families starting out, or replenishing their growing children's items can do so under one roof.

We have also found that sellers and shoppers return market after market and it becomes somewhat of a social event, where a cafe area is also provided.



Little Monsters Market

offer that all important bargain by selling quality, nearly new maternity and children's items at a fraction of their original cost.

Local craft stalls provide you with the opportunity to find something a bit different like unique baby keepsakes or a treat for yourself!

Local business stalls bring useful products and information for parents about local baby/children's groups and family focussed services.

Book Your Own Stall

Sell your outgrown children's items and keep 100% of your stall profits!

We provide:

- A specially selected indoor venue (covered by public liability insurance)
- Plenty of selling space
- A helpful sellers pack (with hints & tips of how to make the most of your day)
- Extensive advertising

Contact us for more information

Future Markets

Like our Facebook page or visit our website for information and future market dates.

[f/littlemonsters.sales](https://www.facebook.com/littlemonsters.sales) www.littlemonstersmarket.co.uk

Promote Your Business

We encourage local craft and business stalls at our events to give parents as much variety as possible.

If your business or service is parent, child or family focused this is a perfect opportunity to access your target audience!

Visit our website to find out more about the promotional packages we have available.



Find a huge selection of quality baby and children's items including clothes, toys and equipment at our

Nearly New Sale

LED Broadclyst Leisure Centre

8 Station Road, Broadclyst, Exeter EX5 3AL

Saturday 31st January 2026
2:30pm - 4:30pm



Book Your Own Stall

Sell your outgrown children's items and keep 100% of your stall profits! Contact us for more information.

www.littlemonstersmarket.co.uk



CORNWALL & DEVON
School Age Immunisation Service
Provided by Kernow Health CIC

NHS

Flu Vaccination

School Age Reception - Year 11

Drop In Clinic

Saturday 17th Jan 2026

10:30 - 13:30

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Wonford Road
Exeter
EX2 4UD

For more information please speak with a member of the team

Call us on **01392 342678**

kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net

Dates for your diary

January

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Friday 16th | School Wassail KS2 |
| Friday 23th | KS2 Barnfield Theatre - CVCC Beauty and the Beast |
| Friday 30th | Year 5 and 6 Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Exeter University |

Term dates for pupils - 2025/26:

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): 5th 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): 26th June 2026

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk

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