

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2025



Whimple Primary School

Issue 11

21.11.25

A change in the temperature this week and the children became all excited about the frost and ice. Don't forget that there is a non-pupil day on Friday and also on Thursday 27th November the school is running a non-school uniform day in return for a **food** or **drink** donations. The PTA will then make up a number of hampers to be raffled off.

Children in Need and ELF

Plans are in progress for our sponsored three-legged event in the lower playground. We hope to hold it on Wednesday 10th December (weather permitting). Children will be given the opportunity to practice before the day of the challenge.



A group of children in Beech are also organising a cake sale for after school on the same day.

A sponsor form is attached with this newsletter and paper copies will also be sent home with children next week. Please give whatever you can—the size of the amount does not matter, all the pennies add up.



School Photographs

A polite reminder that the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Sunday 30th November 2025**. Order through the **Tempest website** using your unique link that was emailed to you, or if you have received paper order forms visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk



Elm Class
Ash Class
Oak Class
Beech Class
Willow Class

Basil and Maeve
Ellie and Pippa
Jessica and Lucy
Charlotte and Matilda RS
Sully and Kirsty

Lunchtime stars:

Harrison
Emily
Oliver
Freddie
George HS



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



As a Federation community, we all want our children to grow up with strong social skills, active imaginations, and the ability to concentrate, learn, and thrive, so they can transition into adulthood with the skills they need for life. Increasingly, research shows that delaying smartphones and social media use can support children's wellbeing, protect them from online pressures, and help them stay more engaged in real-world relationships.

Smartphone-Free Childhood, SFC, is a growing movement of parents and carers who are choosing to delay giving children smartphones until at least age 14, and social media until 16. When parents act as a group, children feel less pressure, and families feel more supported.

As a federation, we're lending our support to this movement – not because we believe there's one right way to do things, but because we think this is an important conversation for all of us. We know that every family's situation is different, and many of you may already have devices in your household – for your child or their siblings. It's never too late to reset boundaries, build healthier screen habits, or take small steps toward a more balanced digital life, so we encourage you all to be a part of the movement.

To help establish this initiative across our schools' communities, we're looking for one or two parent volunteers per school to act as school organisers. At Thorverton, Charlotte Giles is already in this role and is happy to support parents in other schools to help to keep momentum across the Federation. The role is straightforward: connect interested families, share occasional updates, and act as a point of contact for the initiative. Charlotte will also help coordinate school organisers and guide the next steps with the SFC movement. If you're interested or would like to find out more, please contact your school office, or if you would like to read more about SFC and how to sign the Parent Pact please visit [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) website.

STAFF TRAINING DAY

Our next staff training day is on Friday, 28th November and all the federation schools will be closed to children for the day. Teachers will be working on developing and refining task design in lessons and will be based at Newton St Cyres for the day. The training will be led by our School Improvement Team, supported by other senior leaders and colleagues from across the federation.

YEAR 5 and 6 RESIDENTIAL VISIT

We are pleased to be able to tell you that the transport arrangements for the Year 5 and 6 residential visit to Bath and Bristol in June 2026 have now been confirmed. The cost of the three day visit will be £275, which includes transport, accommodation and all entry fees, including tickets for 'Matilda' at the Bristol Hippodrome. We have tried to keep the cost as low as we can by organising everything ourselves and using a Bristol-based coach company but we appreciate this is a significant amount of money. Please do contact your Head of School about ways in which we can help with the cost of the visit. More information will be sent to Year 5 and 6 parents today and the presentation with more information will be uploaded to the website next week with more details. Payments can be made through MCAS from this afternoon.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe continued



EARLY YEARS INDUCTION SURVEY

Now that Reception children have had their first half term in school, we would like to know more about your experience and how your child has got on in their first few weeks of school. If your child has started in Reception this year, please could you spare a few minutes to complete a short survey? The link is below:

<https://www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk/Recption-Parent-Survey/>

It would really help us to see what has worked well this year and to plan for improvements for next year's Reception children when they start school next autumn. Please could you do this by the end of today, thank you.

EXETER SANTA RUN – LET'S GET THE EXE VALLEY FEDERATION MOVING FOR ELF!

This December, pupils, parents, friends and families from across all Exe Valley Federation schools—will be taking part in the **Exeter Santa Run** (running 2.5 km dressed as Santa) to raise money for **ELF (Exeter Leukaemia Fund)**. Numbers are going really well but there is room for more families to join in on Sunday, 7th December 2025

ELF is Devon's blood cancer charity, supporting patients of all ages from across the county who are treated for blood cancer at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital. The charity provides essential care and support to families at some of the most difficult times in their lives.

Last year, Newton St Cyres raised a fantastic total, and this year we're going even bigger! All of our Heads of Teaching and Learning have accepted the challenge — and we'd love for as many families as possible to join in or support us.

To sign up (with a discounted rate) use this updated Exe Valley Link here: [https://www.letsdothis.com/gb/checkout/ticket?](https://www.letsdothis.com/gb/checkout/ticket?utm_organiser_id=154633&utm_source=reserved_entry&occurrenceId=21111147475&eventId=192754&reservationCode=re_jh1t2g723tg8&login=skipped)

[utm_organiser_id=154633&utm_source=reserved_entry&occurrenceId=21111147475&eventId=192754&reservationCode=re_jh1t2g723tg8&login=skipped](https://www.letsdothis.com/gb/checkout/ticket?utm_organiser_id=154633&utm_source=reserved_entry&occurrenceId=21111147475&eventId=192754&reservationCode=re_jh1t2g723tg8&login=skipped)

This event is especially close to our hearts, as one of our own children from Newton St Cyres has been supported by ELF.

You can read her story :<https://www.elfcharity.org.uk/patient-story-sophia>

Please make sure **all donations go directly to our Just Giving page**, so we can celebrate one big collective total from across the Federation:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/exevalleysantarunelf?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Let's get festive, have fun, and make a real difference together this Christmas!

School Pupil Immunisations

Thank you to all of those who signed up for their children to have the flu immunisation on Tuesday.

As you will have heard, there have been flu outbreaks in schools around the county and flu is predicted to be particularly virulent this year.

Kernow Health will be running clinics at various locations across Devon from mid-December, by appointment only. Contact details 01392 342678 or email kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net for further information.

flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu

School aged vaccinations

Did you know children will be offered these routine vaccinations at school?

- ✓ FLU - Reception - Year 11
- ✓ MMR - Catch-up
- ✓ HPV - Year 8 - Year 11
- ✓ Meningitis ACWY - Year 9 - Year 11
- ✓ Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP) - Year 9 - Year 11

Did you miss us?

We also have community clinics across Devon for:

- ✓ Home educated children
- ✓ Anxious children
- ✓ Children who missed the session at school

**DIPHTHERIA
TETANUS
POLIO (DTP)**

HPV

**MENINGITIS
ACWY**

MMR

FLU

SCAN
HERE



For further information scan the QR code or please speak with a member of the team

Call us on

01392 342678

kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net

Please read the posters for more details.

We're hoping we can significantly increase uptake in Devon and therefore reduce the likelihood of further flu outbreaks, especially around Christmas.



Christmas Fayre

Friday 12th December 2025

Dear All

We are now starting to collect for the School Christmas Fayre.

For the class stalls we are looking for:

Age appropriate toys in good working order (no pre-school/baby toys).

Age appropriate books.

Lucky dip prizes e.g. fidget spinners, presents left over from party bags, slap bands, keys rings etc.

Teddy bears/cuddly toys for the Teddy Tombola.

Gifts for parents e.g. unwanted toiletry sets, mugs, socks etc. (No Alcohol).

Cakes - homemade or shop bought.

Unfortunately donations can't be left in the Reception area and will need to be handed over to the relevant people.

Lucky Dip - Elm (Danielle Ives)

Toys & Books - Ash (Vicky Day & Natalie Temple-Murray)

Parent Gifts - Oak (Hannah Shaw)

Teddy Tombola - Beech (Catherine Evans-Martin)

Cakes - Willow (Polly Luscombe)

Thank you for your help and support.

Donation Ideas for Christmas Hampers (via non-uniform day Thursday 27th)

Crisps	Alcoholic Drinks	Non-Alcoholic Drinks	Chocolate
Tins of Soup	Christmas Cake	Mince Pies	Popcorn
Jam	Biscuits	Shortbread	Chutneys
Sweets	Pickles	Christmas Pudding	Breadsticks
Marmalade	Savoury Biscuits	Hot Chocolate	Fudge
Coffee	Tea	Honey	Dried Fruit

**Sorry NO toiletries/perfumed items/candles
as these can't be mixed with food.**

If you have any unwanted toiletry gifts etc. please could you donate these to the Christmas Fayre Parent Gift Stall. Thank you.

Dates for your diary

November

Monday 24th	Beech Class and Oak Year 4 swimming - session 4 of 6
Thursday 27th	Mufti day for Christmas hamper items
Friday 28th	Non Pupil Day

December

Monday 1st	Beech Class and Oak Year 4 swimming - session 5 of 6
Monday 8th	Beech Class and Oak Year 4 swimming - session 6 of 6
Thursday 11th	Carol Service at Whimble Church for KS2 6pm
Friday 12th	Christmas Fair
Monday 15th	EVF Carol Service at Crediton Church 6pm
Wednesday 17th	Nativity KS1 at Whimble Church 4pm

Term dates for pupils - 2025/26:

AUTUMN TERM 2025 4th September to 19th 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): 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

Available from Reception.



THE DEVON
Christmas
Issue
IS ON ITS WAY TO
YOUR SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimbleprimary.co.uk

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