

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2024



Whimple Primary School

Issue 13

06.12.24

Another week has flown by and we are definitely heading into all things Christmas. Today our four Rock Steady bands played in their termly concert to parents this morning. Due to weather and training days, their practice time has been disrupted a bit recently, but they all managed to perform brilliantly.

Things continue with the children's Christmas disco tonight in the hall. Please read page 3 of this newsletter carefully so you are aware of all the arrangements for the upcoming events both at school and in Whimple Church.

We have had information to pass on regarding the purchase of gifts for Christmas. Please be careful when choosing which toys to purchase for your children for this festive season. There have been a number of serious incidents with young children and poorly made and unregistered toys/games. Please read the attached poster on Toy Safety for more information.



Trophy Return

It is the time in the term where we celebrate children's successes for the term. Please can those children who received a 'Most Improved trophy' at the end of the summer term, return the trophy to school ready for their next recipients. Please drop them into the school office by Friday 13th December.

Applications for Reception Places September 2025

Children born between 01/09/2020 and 31/08/2021 are entitled to start full time Primary Education in September 2025. The [online application](#) facility is now open and closes at midnight on 15th January 2025.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

You will see from the two sections in the newsletter below that governors have been busy over the last couple of weeks. As we look towards re-federation on 1st January 2025, we need to elect a new parent governor and there is more information about this in the section below. Being a governor opens up opportunities for you to learn more about the way that schools are led and managed and to offer both support and challenge to senior leaders. We are moving to a new way of working in January, with school governors focusing on the work of each school and federation governors who will have oversight of all the schools in the federation and its strategic development. These are undoubtedly challenging times for the public sector as a whole and education in particular. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can be involved in shaping the future direction of the federation and supporting your own school, please do let me know via the school offices or contact Heidi Last, our Business Manager by email [see information below].

FULL GOVERNING BOARD REPORT – DECEMBER 2024

The Full Governing Board met at Newton St Cyres on Tuesday, 3rd December. It was a positive meeting which focused on the continuing work by the Exe Valley Federation school leaders to improve the quality of education for all children across the federation and to keep children safe in the federation schools. Reports were received and discussed on safeguarding, behaviour, attendance and SEND, which governors monitor and discuss at each governor meeting. Governors also looked at and discussed the federation budget.

Re-federation with Moorsway was also discussed by the governors. The Exe Valley Federation continues to expand and flourish and re-federation with Moorsway allows school leaders and teachers across the ten federation schools to share ideas and expertise which can be taken back to their own schools to improve the quality of education in their school. This will benefit children in all the federation schools. It was agreed that as a federation it is important to continue to be outward looking and to support other schools to improve the quality of education offered.

PARENT GOVERNORS

Following re-federation, there are two vacancies for a parent governor on the EVF governing board and a letter giving more details about this is attached to this newsletter. Please think about becoming a governor, or encouraging others to volunteer. If you would like to stand for election please complete and sign the nomination form attached to this newsletter and return to your child's school office, or by email to hlast@exevalleyfederation.org.uk, no later than 12 noon on 13th December 2024.

EVF CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The federation's carol service takes place at Crediton Parish Church on Monday, 16th December at 6.00pm. Children from the different schools will be taking part in bands and performing songs and all parents are welcome to join us there. More information about this event will be coming home soon.

All Things Christmas - What you Need to Know

Christmas Events

Wednesday 11th - 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.

After the nativity, children can be collected but we ask that you tell the class teacher so we can ensure everyone is safe.

Thursday 12th - School Carol Service, Whimple Church - 6pm start

Children need to be brought to Whimple Church at 5.45pm and should wear their school uniform along with something festive. Parents will be asked to wait outside initially whilst we settle the children into their class sections and check we have everybody.

Christmas Fair - Friday 13th - afternoon, parents after 3.30pm

Each class will get the chance to visit the Christmas fair in the afternoon.

Children can bring in a maximum of £3 to spend.

Parents can bring their children along to the fair after they have been collected from class at 3.30pm.

Other Christmas Things

Christmas Post-Box

The school post box will be open for post from Monday and will be placed in the reception area to accept everyone's Christmas cards. From Wednesday onwards, there will be postal deliveries to class. Please encourage your children to use this box as it is lovely to see their faces when they get some post of their own.

Christmas Hampers

There are four fantastic hampers up for grabs with some amazing contents.

Raffle tickets are now on sale with tickets costing £1 each.... £5 for a strip from the top Playground after school - look for the large sign.

As well as being able to buy them in the playground, they will be on sale at the KS1 Nativity and the KS2 Carol Service.

The Raffle will be drawn at the end of the Christmas Carols on Thursday 12th December.

Christmas Dinner, Hats and Jumpers - Wednesday 18th

Children will be eating their school Christmas dinner on the last day of term before going home. Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers into school.

Children can make a hat at home based on any Christmas theme - these can also be worn on the last day of term and is open to everyone. Hats will be paraded and judged in our last assembly.



Skills Builder - Building Essential Skills for Life

This half-term we have been focusing on our Leadership Skills and how we can develop and improve them. This skill links closely to last terms focus - Teamwork.

Please find below an activity for KS1 (Ash and Elm) and KS2 (Oak, Beech and Willow) to try at home over the holidays - it may evoke some good conversations with your family as adults could join in too.

In January, we would like to hold a Skills Builder event where parents can learn more about these skills and how to help develop them further in their children. We are currently planning a session after school where parents can participate in some fun activities with their children. If you would be interested in this, please let us know.



KS1 Autumn 2 Challenge

Leadership



Identify emotions

Homezone challenge



Draw a picture or cut out pictures of three people. Imagine they are all on the way to play a sport. Draw a thought bubble to show how each person feels. Make each person have a different emotion. How might they show that emotion?

Extension: How might the other people react?

Reflection questions

Getting Started: How can you find out about how others are feeling about something?

Intermediate: How can you find out more about strengths and weaknesses in others?

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

skillsbuilder.org

KS2 Autumn 2 Challenge

Leadership



Leader in me Homezone challenge

Draw a picture of yourself as a leader. Around your drawing write down your leadership strengths (the things that make you a good leader). Now ask a family member or friend to do the same thing. Compare your drawings. Did you both identify the same strengths?

Work together to identify 3 more strengths to add to your own list. Over the next week, complete 3 tasks at home to apply your strengths.

Extension: How might the other people react?

Reflection questions

Getting Started: How can you find out about how others are feeling about something?

Intermediate: How can you find out more about strengths and weaknesses in others?

Advanced: How might you be able to motivate others to improve their weaknesses?

Mastery: What kind of leader would you like to be?

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

skillsbuilder.org



Eco School Christmas Jumper Swap

One of the areas that our school is working on this year is reducing waste.

So why not join our...

"Big Christmas Jumper Swap"



Drop off: Bring in your unwanted Christmas jumpers between Mon 9th - Fri 13th Dec

Where: To your classrooms

The swap: Friday 13th December at the Christmas Fair

Dates for your diary

December

Friday 6th Christmas Disco (PTA)
Wednesday 11th KS1 Nativity 4pm Whimble Church
Thursday 12th KS2 Carol Service 6pm Whimble Church
Friday 13th Christmas Fair (PTA)
Monday 16th EVF Carol Service, Crediton Church 6pm
Wednesday 18th Christmas dinner (Christmas jumpers and hats)
Wednesday 18th School finishes at 1.30pm.

Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

AUTUMN TERM 2024

5th September to 18th December 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): 6th January, 27th June 2025

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