

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2024



Whimple Primary School

Issue 1

6.09.24

Welcome back, or if you have just joined us, welcome to Whimple Primary School. It was lovely to see everyone and I hope you have all managed to do something you enjoy over the summer.

Despite a few first day wobbles, the majority of children have settled in really well. We have to talk with them all about our feelings at the start of a new year and what we can do to help ourselves and each other. We just need the weather to improve now!

We have welcomed 19 reception children into Elm Class, as well as 2 other children across the school. I would like to thank you all for ensuring they are in school despite the tears. For a small number of children I know it is really challenging, however, it is really important that we stay firm and it will help everyone in the long-term. If you can encourage your child to either walk down to their class on their own, or with a member of staff, that will really help us to help you, and your child.

Our newsletter is sent out by email on a Friday and contains important information. This is a key point of contact as we endeavour to try and keep email correspondence to a minimum as we know it can become overwhelming. Please take the time to read through it and you can also access each newsletter on the front page of the school website. This issue is a bumper one and covers a whole range of items, for some it will be a gentle reminder whereas for others it will help with finding your way through the school system.

Gardening

We have had one wonderful volunteer to help with gardening last year who would like to continue but ideally along with another adult so it can be a more productive session. If you know of anyone who is interested please send them our way. Volunteers are subject to DBS checks.

Packed Lunches and Snacks

We continue to encourage healthy snacks for children at school. We have a **NO NUTS** policy in school as we have a number of children with significant allergies, this includes ALL NUTS and NUT products not just peanuts. It is surprising just how many snack bars contain nuts, so please can we ask you all to check ingredients listings before sending any in, instead of making the assumption that it wouldn't contain them.

All school dinners, including universal free school meals for reception, year 1 and year 2, should now be ordered online with School Gateway. Please make sure you order meals in advance. If you are unsure or need any assistance please call into the office.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



Welcome back to school! I hope you and your family have had a lovely summer break and that your children are looking forward to a new school year. We are certainly excited about all the new opportunities for learning that a new year brings and look forward to seeing the children flourish over the next three terms.

On Monday this week, Ofsted announced some changes to the way that they will inspect schools this year and outlined their plans for further changes for next September. Up until now, schools have received a one or two word summary judgement in their inspection reports but this will no longer be the case, although the four judgement areas will still be graded separately. There are also going to be some changes to one day inspections to make them more manageable for schools, especially small schools like ours who have two inspectors for one day. It is right that schools are held to account by a robust inspection system. However, the changes have been welcomed by professional associations and parent groups, and appear to mark a significant change in tone from the new Chief Inspector of Schools.

FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A summary of this year's Federation Development Plan is attached to this week's newsletters. This plan outlines our development priorities for this year under the six aims that are part of the federation's overall strategic plan. Please do take a few minutes to read through it so that you are aware of the development priorities for the federation. Each school also has a School Development Plan that reflects the development priorities that are specific to each member of the federation.

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

Schools are required to send a letter about attendance from Devon County Council twice a year. This letter is attached to this week's newsletter. Overall, attendance levels at federation schools have been broadly in line with county attendance but we don't want this to slip as we come into the summer term. There is a Staff Development Day on Friday, 29th November which gives families an opportunity to have a long weekend away, so please take advantage of this rather than taking days out of school. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us in making sure every child is in school every day whenever possible, this is very much appreciated. The Head of each school is the lead for ensuring that attendance is as good as possible, and that avoidable absences are picked up and addressed.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

Over the last 12 months Mr Nichols has initiated a huge amount of work to promote outdoor learning across the federation. Mr Nichols is going to be teaching at Cheriton Fitzpaine School this year, but his work on outdoor learning will be taken on by Mrs Trish Allwright, who is a qualified Forest School practitioner. Each class will have a day with Mrs Allwright during the year to continue and develop their outdoor learning skills.

Start and End of the School Day

The school day commences at 9.00am. Children should ideally arrive at school by 8.55am to be in good time for a prompt start at 9.00am. Please wait in the top playground behind the rainbow until a member of staff comes out to greet children and send them into class.

Older children are able to walk to and from school on their own if parents have signed the relevant paperwork. This needs updating annually so parents can remind children of what is expected from them and what they can do should something unexpected happen.

School finishes at 3.30 pm for all children. KS2 parents wait in the area by the main gates; parents collecting from Elm wait opposite their class, against the main building and those collecting from Ash wait nearer to the grass side. Please make sure you keep younger siblings with you and not play under the shelter or the equipment; once your child has been handed over, please also keep them with you.

Parents are able to leave via the bottom gate if they need to walk towards Grove Road/church side of Whimple, avoiding the busy road. This departure access route is also available to adults and children from other classes as well to save walking on the unpaved road. Please close the gates as you leave if you are one of the last as we have some children who stay on site and we want to ensure they are safe.

Reminder for parents of our Reception Children - whilst these children attend part-time, please wait outside the double doors at the main entrance of the village hall and children will be brought to you. **Collection is at 1.15pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, before they stay full-time on Thursday.**

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Absence

If your child is unable to attend school, please either email admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk or phone the office (01404 822584—dedicated absence mailbox). Before 9.10am on the day of absence. Schools follow precise safeguarding procedures which includes keeping registers up to date. Please provide full name, class name and specific reason for absence (this is because there is a number of codes we have to use which include late arrival).

Childhood Vaccinations

Starting or returning to school is an exciting time for all children. As they will be mixing with lots of other children, making sure they are up to date with their routine immunisations gives them the best protection from what can be very harmful infections. A list of the vaccinations your child should have had, by age, is available via this link [NHS vaccinations and when to have them - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk). If you are not sure if your child has had all of their vaccinations, please check their personal health record (the red book) and if you have any questions, contact your child's doctor's surgery. If you have any concerns about vaccinations, you may wish to read about the benefits of vaccination and possible risks to your child if they were to catch these diseases.

Helpful information is available from the NHS online;

Why vaccination is safe and important - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

NHS video (on youtube) about vaccinating your child, and

Vaccination tips for parents - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Flu Immunisations in school will be later this term. More information to follow.

School Uniform

We expect our families to support our uniform guidelines to promote pride in the school and give children an identity related to belonging to the school. It also presents the best image of the school to visitors and the wider community whilst helping parents avoid conflict over dress and reduce cost. School uniform is available from school and can be ordered on the School Gateway.

Uniform

- Grey or black trousers, dress or skirt (no jeans, leggings or jogging bottoms please).
- White polo shirt
- Blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- In the summer, blue and white gingham dresses and black or grey shorts may be worn.
- Black footwear without logos.
- Black, grey or white socks or tights.

PE

- Plain blue or black shorts or jogging bottoms
- Yellow T-Shirt with school logo
- Trainers



PE kits **need to be in school everyday please** so children have access to them whenever needed. We will encourage children to take responsibility for this but may need your support initially.

Please ensure that all clothes are named. If items are lost, please check the lost property box. Unnamed and unclaimed clothing will be washed and then recycled at the end of each term.

Our logoed uniform is available from the school office. Second-hand uniform is available through the PTA at various events throughout the year.

No jewellery other than wristwatches and plain stud earrings are allowed but, these must be removed or covered for P.E. We prefer hair accessories to be in school colours. Long hair must also be tied up. Make-up, temporary tattoos and nail varnish are not permitted.

If there are any concerns about uniform costs, please contact the office.

Parking

Please consider both other road users and especially pedestrians when parking and dropping off and collecting children at school. Many of our children walk home and they need to be able to walk on the pavements where possible as the road is very busy. We ask that you park away from the school in The Thirsty Farmer car park and then walk into school to avoid congestion. Parking along the road between school and the hall limits access on the pavement when car doors are opened. Please also consider our local neighbours and do not use their driveways for parking or turning around in.

Dogs

Dogs are not permitted on school property (not even in the arms of an adult). We continue to have a number of children that are fearful of dogs and have to walk home so please stay away from the pavement outside of the gates and railings - please arrange to meet your children a short distance away.



Before and After School Care

Breakfast Club

Is open from 7.45 to 8.50am every school morning in the Committee Room in the Victory Hall. If you need a place or would like more details contact:

Jarmila Darby on 07948 744499 or email Jarmilabreakfast@gmail.com

After School Club

Open for children from Reception to Year 6 and runs from 3.30 to 5.15pm every school afternoon in school. If you would like a place or more details contact:

Sarah on 07854 017113 or email whimbleafterschoolclub@gmail.com

More details on the parents tab of the [school website](#).

Dates for your diary

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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