

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2024



Whimple Primary School

Issue 12

28.11.24

Being a four day week for the children has made the week fly past, although we still have the challenge of fitting everything in, especially as the children have started practising ready for their Christmas events.

Although the children have the day off tomorrow, all staff will be attending training held at Silverton.

Library Opening

The school library will be open again next Wednesday (4th December) from 3.30pm to 4.15pm. Come along and take a look, we have a great selection of books to share and read.

Please also find attached with this newsletter a leaflet called 'Inspiring Reading' - this has lots of useful ideas on how to encourage reading at home.

I know I keep mentioning reading, but it really is the **ONE THING** that can have the **BIGGEST IMPACT**. The proof is seen daily at school - the children that are excelling, when asked, read daily with and without an adult, and read beyond just their reading book. Just 5 to 10 minutes per day can make a massive difference and adults are key to encouraging and supporting this.



Christmas Hampers

Thank you everyone for your Christmas Hamper donations. You've all been very generous and we've collected a great mix of savoury, sweet, alcoholic and non-alcoholic goodies.

We'll be able to create some great hampers and whoever wins one on the Raffle will be very lucky!

Raffle tickets will go on sale over the next couple of weeks. Tickets cost £1 each.... £5 for a strip.

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.

As soon as the hampers been made up, pictures will be posted on the WhatsApp class groups.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

The Exe Valley Federation and Moorsway Federations have been working together since September 2023 and building a bigger and stronger group to support each other in school improvement work. On Tuesday evening the governors of both federations met to consider all the responses from the consultation, both here and in Ivybridge, Shaugh Prior and Cornwood and to make a decision about the future direction of both organisations. We recognise that this is a challenging time as we continue to grow and offer support to other schools, and that changes will become necessary as this evolves. However, I am very pleased to say that, after careful consideration, thought and lots of challenging questions, both boards agreed unanimously to re-federate from 1st January 2025.

I have attached the letter from both Chairs of Governors that explains more about the decision and what will happen as we move into this new phase of collaborative working. As a result of re-federation, we will need to elect two new parent governors and there is more information about this opportunity below.

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. Parent governors are welcomed as valued members of the governor team and together they are responsible for the strategic direction of the schools, promoting high standards of educational achievement and ensuring our resources are used to maximum impact. Life as a governor is interesting and varied and we feel sure that there are parents prepared to take on this important role and give their time [approximately four hours a month] and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the schools' performance. 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 next week.

PRAYER ROOM

Every half term, a group of parents meet to pray for the federation schools. The next prayer room will be on Friday, 6th December at 9.15am at Silverton Evangelical Church [School Road, Silverton EX5 4JH]. Please contact Andy Mathers [apmathers@gmail.com] for more information.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

A final reminder that this Friday is a staff training day and schools will be closed for children tomorrow. Staff will be working on the teaching of shared writing with the English advisory team from Devon Education Services and our English lead teachers.

Christmas Hat Competition

It has been decided to reinstate the Christmas Hat competition. 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.

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

November

Friday 29th Staff training day - school closed to pupils

December

Friday 6th Christmas Disco (PTA)

Friday 6th Rock Steady Concert 10.30am

Wednesday 11th KS1 Nativity 4pm Whimple Church

Thursday 12th KS2 Carol Service 6pm Whimple Church

Friday 13th Christmas Fair (PTA)

Monday 16th EVF Carol Service, Crediton Church 6pm

Wednesday 18th Christmas dinner

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): 29th November 2024,

6th January, 27th June 2025

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