

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023

Whimble Primary School

Issue 9

10.03.23

Well it has been a week of all weathers. I woke up to snow on Wednesday morning - shame I couldn't bucket it up for the children! With all this inclement weather it is important that children bring a waterproof to wear so they can get some fresh air, even on the wettest of days. I believe there are a few on the way, a bit of a shock as it has been dry for so long.

Information Session for Parents

Thank you to all those who attended our session on Tuesday. Hopefully you found it useful. If parents have any suggestions for other aspects to cover in order to support children at home, please let the office know.

A link to the Little Wandle website, along with resources to aid the correct pronunciation of sounds and support with tricky words are available on the school website, under Our School - Learning. Here you will also find the key documents linked to Number Sense and the calculation strategies taught.

https://www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk/website/learning_2/623503

Reading Books

Please check at home for school reading books - many of the books used are part of a set and once one goes missing, it often means the whole set cannot be used.

Strike Action Update

The school will be **fully open** on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March, we will **not** be closing due to strike action.



Comic Relief - Friday 17th March

After our unique way of making everyone laugh last year, Comic Relief have borrowed our idea and have linked in with the Mr Men. So again this year our theme will be Mr Men and Little Miss characters. Pick out some coloured clothes and accessorise! I am sure there will be lots of great ones. If finances permit, please make a small donation to this great charity by either sending in some money or using the link below.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=10022>

Weekly Support and Suggestions

Skills Builder

This half term our focus skills are Staying Positive (resilience) and Speaking.

Staying Positive

The ability to use tactics and strategies to overcome setbacks and achieve goals

This skill is all about individuals being equipped to manage their emotions effectively and being able to remain motivated, and ultimately to motivate others, even when facing setbacks.

The early steps focus on identifying emotions - particularly feeling positive or negative. Building off that is the ability to keep trying - and then staying calm, thinking about what went wrong, and trying to cheer up and encourage others.

The focus then turns to identifying new opportunities in difficult situations, sharing those, and adapting or creating plans accordingly.

For more information please go to their website:

<https://www.skillsbuilder.org/homezone/speaking-positive-getting-started>



Online Safety - Using iPads

Just over a decade after its introduction, there are approximately 500 million iPad owners worldwide, many of them children and young people. With that in mind, Apple's parental controls and online safeguards are reassuringly thorough - if trusted adults choose to set them up.

Find attached 'What parents need to know about iPads'

More support and guidance is also available on the school website:

https://www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk/website/online_safety/378283



Easy Fundraising

It's great to see that more people are starting to use Easy Fundraising - we now have 39 supporters who have raised an amazing £1,125 over the last two years. This amount has enabled the school to purchase a reading spine across all the year groups.

More supporters on Easy Fundraising means more ways to enhance the school experience for the children. £60 would cover the village hall hire for a school disco, £250 would help subsidise the cost of a school trip or an after school club, and £350 would cover the cost of the year 6 leavers' party.

Easy Fundraising costs nothing to use, and has partnered up with a over 7,400 brands so you're more than likely to find the brand you want to shop online with. The app is so simple to use and tracks your own donations so you can see how much you've raised for the school.

Find out more here: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works>



Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter egg hunt is happening this year on Saturday 25th March, at the usual place on Woodhayes Lane (follow the arrows). £2 entry per child, wellies essential! Bring your homemade egg baskets - there will be prizes on the day for the best ones!

Bag2School

The next date for Bag2School is Wednesday 29th March. Just in time for a spring clear out! Drop-off point to be confirmed.



Dates for your diary

March

Friday 17th March	Comic Relief - Mr Men and Little Miss
Week commencing 20th March	Annual reports home for Year 1 to Year 6
Saturday 25th March	Easter Egg Hunt (Woodhayes Lane)
Week commencing 27th March	Parent consultations
Wednesday 29th March	Bag2School (drop-off point to be confirmed)
Friday 31st March	Last day of term 1.30pm finish

Assessment arrangements for summer 2023

Month of May	Key Stage 1 SATs (Year 2)
Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May	Key Stage 2 SATs
Week commencing 5th June	Multiplication tables check (Year 4)
Week commencing 12th June	Phonics Screening Check (Year 1/Year 2)

Term dates for pupils - 2023/24:

AUTUMN TERM 2023

6th September to 15th December 2023
Half term - 23rd to 27th October 2023

SPRING TERM 2024

4th January to 28th March 2024
Half term - 12th to 16th February 2024

SUMMER TERM 2024

15th April to 25th July 2024
May Day holiday - 6th May 2024
Half term - 27th May to 31st May 2024

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 4th and 5th September, 3rd January, 3rd June and 28th June 2024

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