

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2024

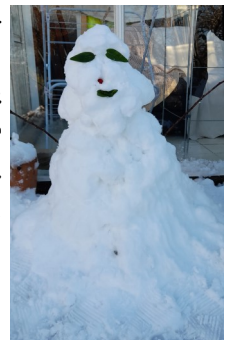


Whimple Primary School

Issue 11

22.11.24

Well, although forecast, you never really believe it is going to snow until you see it - or is that just me? It was a surprise to wake up on Thursday morning and look out to see everything white. Making a decision too close is always a tricky one with the distances travelled by staff and the micro-climates we seem to have. Thank you for your patience whilst a decision was made yesterday and today. Hopefully, the children made the most of the snow, I am sure many have not experienced it before. I did have to go out in the garden and attempt to make a snowman!



Reading event for Reception Parents

It was lovely to see a few parents attend this event last Tuesday, hopefully you found it useful and it gave you the chance to see our library.

Library Opening

The school library will be open after school on a Wednesday from 3.30pm to 4.15pm, starting on Wednesday 27th November. Pupils can come along with their parents to borrow a book from our lovely selection.



Christmas Events

We will be holding our annual ELF Run near the end of term.

Christmas Dinner is on Wednesday 18th December - if you haven't booked yet, please do so as numbers will need be submitted. Due to the number of meals involved, there will be no other meal options on that day.

Children will be able to wear Christmas jumpers as well. There will be more details about a Christmas jumper exchange next week.

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.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

Thank you for your understanding yesterday over closing schools due to the bad weather. It is always a really difficult decision for senior leaders to make because we know how important every day is to children's learning and really want every day to count. We need to balance this with keeping everyone in our school communities safe, including staff who travel some distance to work every day and may be experiencing different weather conditions at home from those at their school. We also know that school buses, meal provision and other school services can be adversely affected by the weather and we have learned from experience that power is often lost during bad weather and that puts schools in a difficult position because all our communications systems rely on electricity to enable us to contact parents and deal with emergencies. We do however, do everything we can to keep schools open and hopefully, this will be the only closure day this year.

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 next Friday, 29th November is a staff training day and schools will be closed for children on that day. Staff will be working on the teaching of shared writing with the English advisory team from Devon Education Services and our English lead teachers.

PTA

Please find the latest newsletter attached with this one.

Thank you for all the donations towards producing some Christmas hampers that will be raffled off near the end of term. There was a lovely array of things, so the hampers should look great. More details of how and where to buy tickets next week.



Don't forget the next Bags2School Collection is Thursday 28th November.

HELLO TEAM EXE VALLEY!

This is the sign up information for the **ELF SANTA RUN on SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER.**

REGISTRATION:

All Federation runners will receive a £1 discount at registration for the 2.5k Family Run.

Once the person has entered in all their information, they will get to the payment page where they can enter the discount code below and get £1 off!



Discount Code at checkout: **ELFSCHOOLDISCOUNT**

Discounted 2.5k Family Fun Run Child Suit (suit size ages 5-8) Link:

https://www.letsdothis.com/p/L2diL2NoZWNrb3V0L211bHRpRXZlbnQ/ZXZlbnRJZD0xOTI3NTQ=?basket=192754:21111138892*1&discount=ELFSCHOOLDISCOUNT&utm_organiser_id=154633

Discounted 2.5k Family Fun Run Youth Suit (suit size ages 9-12) Link:

https://www.letsdothis.com/p/L2diL2NoZWNrb3V0L211bHRpRXZlbnQ/ZXZlbnRJZD0xOTI3NTQ=?basket=192754:21111138890*1&discount=ELFSCHOOLDISCOUNT&utm_organiser_id=154633

Why we are doing this:

A message from Exeter Leukaemia Fund (ELF):

Thank you for taking part in the Exeter Santa Run for ELF! Sophia joined your Preschool this September, the same month that she rang the bell on the RD&E's children ward to mark the end of two years of cancer treatment. Sophia was diagnosed with leukaemia at just 15 months old, and ELF has been there every step of the way providing her family with transport to and from appointments, counselling and financial assistance. Now aged 3 and cancer-free, we were delighted to see Sophia join her brother Alfie (in Year 2) at your school, and we'll continue to be here for the whole family for as long as they need us.

By raising money in the Santa Run, you'll be ensuring that ELF can be here to support other families affected by blood cancer within our community. Thank you and good luck!

To read Sophia's story, please visit: [Patient Story - Sophia | Exeter Leukaemia Fund](#)

Aims:

Run and have festive fun. Raise money for an incredible charity.

I will set up **one** Just Giving page so we can all pool our sponsorship money together. Please hassle your friends/family and anyone you know for donations for our run and try and raise some money for ELF. No amount is too small and it would be great to work towards something collectively!

I will send out the Just Giving Page separately and will put it on all of our school newsletters and Facebook

Itinerary/Plan for the day:

- Meet Mr. Hookway with team ELF at 8:45 at the ELF hut (big green logo) in Princesshay (near COSTA)
- Get dressed into your Santa suits
- Take part in the Santa race at 9:45
- Finish, celebrate and take pictures with team NSC
- **See Santa for free** (receive a free present and photograph) and have first priority in the queue as part of Team NSC
- Head for a drink at a cafe/Christmas market

Ideally as many Parents or Guardians would take part in the run with their children - but there will be a good crowd of us able to be around your children and we will try and run/jog/walk as a group!

From Mr J Hookway, Newton St Cyres Primary School.

Dates for your diary

November

Thursday 28th Bags2School Collection (PTA)
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 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
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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