

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023



Whimple Primary School

Issue 14

15.12.23

Here we are at the end of the autumn term. The sound of xylophones collectively playing a selection of Christmas tunes, set the scene for today. The children have all worked hard throughout this term and are now definitely ready for a bit of rest in amongst all the festivities. We appreciate everyone's Christmas can look very different, but hopefully, everyone will have the opportunity to spend some time with friends and family. The staff would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year (We would also like to thank you for the chocolates and biscuits which have kept us going this week!)

Thank you

The school raised £134 for the Poppy Appeal this year and £200 for Children in Need. The Elf run raised £138.

Choir

The choir performed well at the Nativity in the church. It will start again after Christmas with the first session on Thursday 11th January. The choir is open to all ages and will cost £5 per session. Please sign your child up on the link [here](#).

PTA

The PTA would like to thank the following people for helping at the Christmas Fayre last Friday:

Katherine Panciewicz, Polly Luscombe, Susan Pearce, Catherine Evans-Martin, Katy Hill, Hannah Ward-Best, Dawn Ross, Lynn Brind, Abi Rose, Ali Shorer, and all the parents who helped decorate the grotto.



Also be a thank you to Caroline Rowe and Kaya Taylor for organising the Christmas cards designs.



The Governor Cup was presented to the school by an ex-chair of Governors to be presented to a child, who has actively demonstrated our 6Rs throughout the school day. The cup is given out on a termly basis and, this term it has been presented to Zara, in Year 6.

Alongside our 6Rs, which are closely linked to the skills identified in the Skills Builder programme, we have always acknowledged and celebrated children's progress and effort, not just attainment. For a few years we have had a most improved reader, writer and mathematician as part of our Year 6 leavers assembly. We have decided to roll this out for each class on a termly basis, with children being presented with a small trophy, (to keep for a term) and a certificate.

Elm Class

Most improved reader	Henry	Most improved writer	Charlie
Most improved mathematician	Islay R		

Ash Class

Most improved reader	Tilly	Most improved writer	Matthew
Most improved mathematician	Flo		

Oak Class

Most improved reader	Holly	Most improved writer	Charles
Most improved mathematician	Lily		

Beech Class

Most improved reader	Lyndsey	Most improved writer	Sully
Most improved mathematician	Poppy		

Willow Class

Most improved reader	Jess	Most improved writer	Mason
Most improved mathematician	Amelie		

We continue to present our learning certificates on a weekly basis, linked to our half-termly skills focus. These are displayed in the board by the double doors of the main building for a week before children can then bring them home.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

The federation carol service on Monday evening saw Crediton Parish Church filled with the sound of the Elastic Bands from Thorverton, Cheriton and Sandford, a soloist from Newton St Cyres performing 'Walking in the Air' and children from Silverton and Brampford Speke performing Christmas poems. Children from Cheriton also sang a carol for us. The confidence with which all the children performed was impressive and the bands sounded so good, especially as some of the children had only been playing their instruments for a very short period of time. A huge thank you to everyone who came, to the children who took part, and to Alison Golby and her daughter, Ella, who conducted the bands so skilfully. Unfortunately, Whimble's choir couldn't make it to the joint carol service this year but we look forward to them joining us next Christmas.

With best wishes for a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to you all.

TERM DATES

This term finishes on Friday, 15th December and the spring term starts for children on Thursday, 4th January 2024 (Wednesday, 3rd January is a non-pupil staff development day). The spring term ends on Thursday 28th March 2024 and half term is Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024 inclusive.

SAFEGUARDING OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

We know that that Christmas can be a difficult time for some families and if you are concerned about the safety of a child in Devon or want to speak to someone, or if you are a child worried about your own safety, you can contact our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by calling on 0345 155 1071.

If a child is in immediate danger please call 999.

If you suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused, or you are being abused yourself and live within Devon Local Authority boundaries, please contact us by calling Adult Social Care on 0345 1551 007 (Monday to Thursday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm and Saturday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm).

Outside of the hours above or on bank holidays call the Emergency Duty Service on 0345 6000 388. Alternatively, you can email: safeguardingadultseast-mailbox@devon.gov.uk (Exeter, East and Mid Devon).

Dates for your diary

January

4th Start of term for all pupils

11th Year 6 walk at Silverton

18th Year 5 and 6 BSO visit

Term dates for pupils - 2023/24:

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

Carols by Candlelight

St Mary's in Whimble at
4pm

On Sunday 17th December.



You are very welcome at the

Christmas Day Family service

(followed by optional Holy

Communion)

St Mary's Whimble
at 11am



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