

# NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2025



## Whimble Primary School

Issue 12

27.11.25

A massive thank you to all of those who donated items this morning for our Christmas hampers. The variety and amount is absolutely amazing. I can state there will be plenty of alcohol in the hampers!! Our PTA will collate the items and put the hampers together ready to raffle off at our Nativity in the church.

Tickets for the hampers will be available to purchase from next week from the top playground for £1 a strip—cash or card payments accepted.

Sponsor forms for our three-legged challenge have been sent home with the children today.

### School Photographs—last chance

*A polite reminder that the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Sunday 30th November 2025**. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link that was emailed to you, or if you have received paper order forms visit [www.tempest-orders.co.uk](http://www.tempest-orders.co.uk)*



### Cut Your Carbon Month

Thank you to everyone that have been ticking off their carbon cutting challenges during November. Please could you send your challenge sheets back into school next week for the Eco Committee to add to the online calculator. We will let you know the final calculation soon.

### Whimble Pre-School - Relief Staff

Our local pre-school is looking for some relief staff to help cover staff absence. Please see attached flyer for more details.



## **Federation News from Mr Jolliffe**



Over the last four years we have made significant improvements to the quality of education provided by the federation schools through developing the way the curriculum is delivered and this has been verified by Ofsted inspections at all the Exe Valley schools. We are now moving on to think more about how we can develop how we can design learning tasks to encourage deeper thinking and the impact this has on children's learning. This will be the focus of our work on Friday's staff training day, which will be led by the School Improvement Team and members of the Task Design Focus Group. They will be sharing examples of how they have used deeper thinking tasks to encourage deeper thinking and then giving colleagues time to design their own tasks for next term.

### **STAFF TRAINING DAY**

Our next staff training day is tomorrow, Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> November and all the federation schools will be closed to children for the day.

### **THORVERTON PRE-SCHOOL**

Thorverton Pre-school committee held an Extraordinary General Meeting on Tuesday evening and the committee and parents who attended voted unanimously in favour of transferring the pre-school from being committee-led to being governor led from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. The pre-school will be part of the Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation from the start of next year, subject to governors agreeing to this at their next board meeting. We will let parents know about the changes to payment methods and invoicing in the next few weeks.

### **YEAR 5 and 6 RESIDENTIAL VISIT**

The slideshow with more information about the Year 5 and 6 residential visit to Bath and Bristol is now on the federation website under 'Residential visits'.

### **PRAYER ROOM**

Every half term, a group of parents meet to pray for the federation schools. The next prayer room will be on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am at Silverton Evangelical Church [School Road, Silverton EX5 4JH]. Please contact Andy Mathers [apmathers@gmail.com] for more information.

### **Kitchen Assistant**

The Executive Headteacher and Governors of the Exe Valley Federation wish to appoint a Kitchen Assistant to support the Kitchen Manager at Newton St Cyres Primary School and then transport and serve meals daily at Sandford School. (Own transport required) . For more details please use the link below:

<https://www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk/Catering-Assistant/>



## Christmas Fayre Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear All

We are now starting to collect for the School Christmas Fayre.

For the class stalls we are looking for:

Age appropriate toys in good working order (no pre-school/baby toys).

Age appropriate books.

Lucky dip prizes e.g. fidget spinners, presents left over from party bags, slap bands, keys rings etc.

Teddy bears/cuddly toys for the Teddy Tombola.

Gifts for parents e.g. unwanted toiletry sets, mugs, socks etc. (No Alcohol).

Cakes - homemade or shop bought.

Unfortunately donations can't be left in the Reception area and will need to be handed over to the relevant people.

Lucky Dip - Elm (Danielle Ives)

Toys & Books - Ash (Vicky Day & Natalie Temple-Murray)

Parent Gifts - Oak (Hannah Shaw)

Teddy Tombola - Beech (Catherine Evans-Martin)

Cakes - Willow (Polly Luscombe)

Thank you for your help and support.



## **Christingle Gathering**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Whimple Church at 4pm**

**A wonderful light filled celebration,  
loved by children and adults, to help the  
whole family share the Christmas  
message in a fun and interactive way.**

**Make your own Christingle.  
Also, live music, refreshments (from  
3.45pm) and the Open The Book team.**

# Dates for your diary

## November

Friday 28th                      Non Pupil Day

## December

Monday 1st                      Beech Class and Oak Year 4 swimming - session 5 of 6

Monday 8th                      Beech Class and Oak Year 4 swimming - session 6 of 6

Wednesday 10th              Children in Need/ELF Three-Legged Day

Wednesday 10th              Cake sale for charity

Thursday 11th                  Carol Service at Whimble Church for KS2 6pm

Friday 12th                      Christmas Fair

Monday 15th                    EVF Carol Service at Crediton Church 6pm

Wednesday 17th                Nativity KS1 at Whimble Church 4pm

Friday 19th                      Last day of term—1.30pm finish

## Term dates for pupils - 2025/26:

**AUTUMN TERM 2025              4th September to 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**SPRING TERM 2026                5th January to 2nd April 2026**

*Half term: Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026*

*Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026*

**SUMMER TERM 2026                20th April to 22nd July 2026**

*Half term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026*

*Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026*

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: [admin@whimbleprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@whimbleprimary.co.uk)

Website: [www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk)