

# NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2025



## Whimple Primary School

Issue 4

26.09.25

The month of September is nearly over and the children are all settled back into school routines. Many of our reception children are now walking in on their own or with one of our older children. Where possible, this is what we want to encourage so our children become independent. If you do need to accompany your child, please only one adult accompany them—the area leading into Elm Class can become very congested and overwhelming for some of our Year 1 children.

### Curriculum Newsletters

Please find the curriculum newsletters for this term along with this email. There is one for each class, with the exception of Elm Class where there is one for each year group. These newsletters give a brief overview of what is being covered in each area of the curriculum this term and some suggestions about how you can support your child. If you have any questions or queries, please come and ask us.

### Reception 2026 Tours

If you have a child, or know of a family with a child due to start school in September 2026, please let them know that there will be an opportunity to look around the school and ask any questions they may have on the following dates:

Thursday 9th October at 4pm

Wednesday 22nd October at 5pm

Friday 7th November at 4pm

Monday 10th November at 4.30pm

### Don't Forget:

The next Bags2School Collection will be on Wednesday 1st October. Bags to be left in the shelter at the Thirsty Farmer pub, just up the road from the school.

Bags are available from the school office if needed.

To find out what can be donated and what cannot, click on the link below:

<https://www.bag2school.com/what-we-collect>





## Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



Our governing board met for the first time this week at their AGM and conference. The board comprises both federation level and school level governors as some members focus on specific schools rather than the wider federation. I am delighted that Jackie Enright is going to continue as Chair of Governors for another year and will be working alongside Sheryl Margesson and Louise Parry, who are responsible for leading the East and West Hub boards. Sadie Frost is leading the Moorsway Hub with a group of governors from the Moorsway schools. Governors give up a huge amount of time to their strategic roles and providing support and challenge to leaders, and I appreciate this very much indeed. A full report about the meeting may be found below.

### EXE VALLEY AND MOORSWAY FEDERATION FULL GOVERNING BOARD AGM

Governors met on Tuesday evening for the Annual General Meeting and Conference. Governors were welcomed by Heidi Last, Clerk to Governors and Business Manager, who began the meeting by sharing nominations for the roles of Clerk, Chair, Vice, Hub chairs and vices and school governors. Kat Goldby was welcomed as a new co-opted governor attached to Whimble School. Once these roles had been filled, the Statutory Lead governors for Attendance, Behaviour, Safeguarding and SEND were confirmed. Further information on the Governing Board can be found on the Federation's website under Key Information/Governance.


Documents previously sent to governors were discussed and adopted, these included; Governor Code of Conduct, Whole Board Terms of Reference, Annual Cycle of Business, Governor Impact Statement, New Governor Pack, amongst others.

The Executive Principal, John Jolliffe, shared an overview of the last academic year, including data from statutory assessments carried out in the summer term. He referenced the Federation Development Plan explaining the key focus areas for the coming year, one being children's writing. Each school has an individual School Development Plan focusing on specific targets identified for improvement. He explained how governors can support and challenge school improvement by attending review days, school events, curriculum visits, and conferencing children. Governors were asked to share feedback on how best they can carry out their roles and responsibilities.

The EHT for the West Hub, James Akhurst, shared the latest training he had undertaken with the Exeter Diocese on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice. He explained how this training was valuable for all staff and children in both Church of England and Community schools.

The EP shared the latest training for Safeguarding including the updated Keeping Children Safe in Education document. Several policies were discussed, updated and agreed, meeting dates and school review dates were shared. Governors were asked to complete a Skills Audit to identify strengths and areas for further training.

A reflection shared by a Foundation Governor; *A Christian vision for flourishing together, calls us onward to invest our time generously with and in others. Being generous with our time leads us to listen deeply, pay rich attention, welcome others, and practice hospitality.*

Exeter Cathedral

Events ▾ Faith & Worship ▾ Get Involved ▾ Plan Your Visit ▾ Music ▾ Our Building ▾ Learning & Collections ▾ More ≡

**Saturday 29 November | 10:45am - 4:45pm**

Be a Chorister for a Day is an experience for children aged 7 to 10 (school years 2 to 5) who love to sing.

This free-of-charge event will be led by the Cathedral's Director of Music, Mr Timothy Noon, and his team and includes:

- Singing practice in the Song Schools
- A chance to discover more about the Cathedral through a special guided tour
- A creative workshop led by Ms Zoe Cooper, Exeter Cathedral School's Head of Art and Cathedral Choir Chaperone
- A snack and lunch (free-of-charge)
- A final performance alongside the current choristers
- A named certificate recognising each attendee's participation in the ancient choral tradition of Exeter Cathedral

To book your child's place, please click the button below to complete the booking form.

If you have any questions, you can email the [Cathedral Music Office Administrator](#).

Book your child's place >



Elm Class	Harrison and Lola
Ash Class	Kaya and Walter
Oak Class	Jessica and Harry
Beech Class	Rubi and Freddie
Willow Class	Esme and Kirsty

**MULTI SPORTS—for children in Oak, Beech and Willow Classes**

We really want this club to continue but numbers are currently low making it unsustainable in the long term.

[Click here to book](#)



# Dates for your diary

## September

Monday 29th Willow Class swimming - session 3 of 5

## October

Wednesday 1st Bags 2 School

Friday 3rd Forest School - Year 1

Monday 6th Willow Class swimming - session 4 of 5

Monday 13th Year 6 Bikeability this week (more details to follow)

Monday 20th Willow Class swimming - session 5 of 5

Monday 20th Willow Parent consultations

Tuesday 21st Willow, Beech, Ash and Elm Parent consultations

Wednesday 22nd Oak and Elm Parent consultation

Thursday 23rd Oak Parent consultations

## November

Thursday 27th Mufty day for Christmas hamper items

Friday 28th Non Pupil Day

## December

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

Friday 12th Christmas Fair

Wednesday 17th Nativity KS1 at Whimble Church 4pm

## Term dates for pupils - 2025/26:

**AUTUMN TERM 2025** 4th September to 19th December 2025

*Half term: Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October 2025*

*Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 2nd and 3rd September, 28th November 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): 5th 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): 26th June 2026*

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