

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024



Whimple Primary School

Issue 4

26.01.24

Another week has flown by. There are lots of things going on, both this term and next. We will endeavour to keep you informed in advance as much as we possibly can. Please read through this newsletter carefully.

Curriculum Newsletters

Each class curriculum newsletter is attached along with the newsletter this week. Please take a little time to read them so you are aware of what the children are learning about this term and how you can help to support them at home. The newsletters are also available on class pages of the school website.

Online Safety Support

My LOL is a free social networking and dating site that is free to use. Despite, there being an age restriction on this App there have been concerns around controls linked to this. Definitely worth reading the attached flyer so you are aware, particularly if you have older children.

Exmoor Challenge

We are able to join other Exe Valley Federation Schools to enter teams of 4 into the Exmoor Challenge to be held on Saturday 4th May. In preparation for the event, children will be taught navigation skills and undertake a number of practice walks. This is a great opportunity for your child; the Year 6 pupils in the past have gained a lot from the experience. Teams need to be confirmed next week, so please discuss this through with your child, visit [their website](#) and [complete this form](#) if you are interested.

Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



The Exe Valley Federation is a local authority maintained group of schools, which means that our funding comes via Devon County Council from the Department of Education. As such, we work closely with Devon County Council and with Devon Education Services in particular. There has recently been a change of leadership within Devon County Council, which impacts on our work and on our funding. The County Council has appointed a new interim Director of Education and Learning, Ceri Morgan; the previous joint Directors, Matthew Shanks and Rachel Shaw, left their posts at the end of December.

Academies are overseen by the Regional Director's office and increasingly the RD is contributing to the improvement of all schools, whether they are academies or local authority schools. The previous Regional Director was Hannah Woodhouse, who left her post at the end of last year to lead education in the City of Bristol. Her replacement has been announced this week. Lucy Livings, currently deputy director of the South West's regions group, is set to start the new role on 29th January 2024. Ms Livings joined the civil service in 2003 and has worked as a deputy director at the DfE since 2017.

As a relatively large federation of seven schools, we work closely with both the local authority and increasingly, the Regional Director. The recent changes to the leadership of both organisations will inevitably result in new priorities and focus areas as Ceri Morgan and Lucy Livings take up their posts and these changes will in turn, have an impact on the way we run our schools, although it is too soon to say what this will look like yet. As the federation includes three church schools, we also work closely with the Diocese of Exeter's Education Team, which is led by Sue Lockwood. Maintaining positive relationships with these partner organisations is sometimes challenging but is a very important part of our engagement with education across Devon and beyond and these partnerships are vital to our continuing development and improvement.

YEAR 5 RESIDENTIAL VISIT

Please could parents of Year 5 children who are going on the residential visit to Bristol and Bath next month, return the SOE3 forms as soon as possible, if you have not already done so? Mrs PJ Wright will be coming with us to Bristol and Bath in place of Mrs Last, who will be looking after Silverton's office in Mrs Wright's absence.

YEAR 3 and 4 RESIDENTIAL VISIT

Information about the Year 3 and 4 visit to Okehampton YHA will be emailed to parents next week and will be added to the federation website. Children at Newton St Cyres, Silverton and Thorverton will be going from Wednesday 17th April to Thursday 18th April and children at Brampford Speke, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Sandford and Whimple will be going from Thursday 18th April to Friday 19th April.

PRAYER ROOM

The next Prayer Room will be held at Sandford Village Hall on Friday, 9th February at 9.30am. More details from Andy Mathers [email: apmathers@gmail.com]. New parents are welcome to join us.



REFLECTION

This half-term our focus for Skills Builder is Aiming High which also fits in well with our PSHE theme which is Dreams and Goals. Both of these link really well together.

From the Home Hub:

Think about everything that you have accomplished at home and at school this year. Then think about what else you want to achieve next year.

Write down 3-5 goals that you want to achieve next year.

Extension: Put these goals in order of importance, start with the least important and end with the most important.

Reflection Questions

Getting Started: How do you know if something is too difficult for you?

Intermediate: Why is it important to be willing to take on new challenges?

Advanced: What resources might you need to achieve your goals?

Mastery: What steps do you need to put in place to make your goals happen?

Whimple Cricket Club Under 9s

The local cricket club is looking to recruit Year 3 and 4 children for their team. See attached flyer.



PTA: January 2024 Newsletter

About the PTA:

Every parent of a child at Whimple Primary School is automatically a member of the PTA.

Our committee has only a handful of volunteers at its core. To maximise the opportunities, we would all like to see for our children in such an amazing village environment, we need to your help.

It's about donating a small amount of your time to help us raise funds and deliver activities, whilst appreciating everyone has busy lives. If each parent or couple could help with one event (big or small) annually, our children would benefit directly.

What does PTA funding pay for?

Last year, we raised over £4000.

This vital cash helps to support the school team in going the extra mile to do the best they can for our children.

Some of the things which PTA funding has paid for:

£1000 contribution to the Reading Scheme;

£800 for class readers; £400 in donations to teachers to augment the classrooms; £670 to support school trips – we paid for transport! Etc...

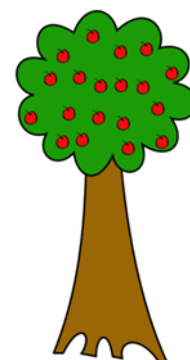
With your help, we can do more. We'd love to double that fundraising total – and we can – getting more people involved would be a great start in that direction!

We have a key vacancy to fill...

... a big "Thank You" to Helen Heriz-Smith

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Helen Heriz-Smith for her sterling efforts and support as our **Secretary** over the past year. Helen has been superb, and will be greatly missed as she steps back this year.

Which leaves us with a key vacancy to fill! We would love to hear from you if you may be interested in that role and can spare a couple of hours per month to assist.




**YOUR
PTA
NEEDS
YOU**

Forthcoming Dates & Volunteering Opportunities

Over the next few weeks, we will let you know of forthcoming event dates in 2024 via the school newsletter, as well as dates for PTA meetings which all are welcome to attend (in person, but hopefully with the option to dial in via Zoom if required).

Please do have a think if you can offer an hour or two to support the organisation or delivery of an event. This extra help goes such a long way. Wider participation also provides us, as parents, a good way to expand our own support networks in this wonderful village setting.

Dates for your diary

February

21st-23rd Year 5 residential to Bristol/Bath

March

18th Year 5 Showdown at Barnfield Theatre

w/c 18th Report go home to parents

w/c 25th Parent consultations if required

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

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