

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2024



Whimple Primary School

Issue 9

08.11.24

The children enjoyed using some of the apples they collected to press into juice. Although they often are unsure by the look of it, once tasted it is enjoyed. Thanks to Mr Palmer for giving his time (and equipment) to help us with this annual event which is enjoyed by all and continues to link into our local heritage.

Please can you help your child to remember to bring key equipment into school: PE kits, coats, spelling books and returning reading books.

We also need reading books returned every Monday from children in reception, year 1 and 2 - these books cost between £6 to £8 to replace. With even one or two not being returned means nearly £200 worth of books going missing per term. We will have to start charging for unreturned books as this is unsustainable. Please have a good look at home - all of our books are stamped.

Children in Need

Don't forget that next Friday is Children in Need and children can come to school dressed in pyjamas, anything colourful, particularly spots or something sporty.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=16402>



Reading event for Reception Parents

We are holding a 'Ready, Steady, Read! Family Workshop' on Tuesday 19th November 2 - 3pm. We would like to invite parents of our Reception children to attend an afternoon session on Tuesday 19th November, to support families with their child's reading journey. More information of what is involved is in the invitation sent out to parents.

NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe

As part of our PSHE curriculum, we use some of the resources that the NSPCC supply for free to schools.

Speak out. Stay safe. is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline. **Please read the attached letter for more information.** These sessions will take place in class between 18th and 29th November.





Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

I hope you had a good half term break and a bit of time away from the normal school routines. The next half term is always an exciting one in primary schools as we look forward to Christmas and all the excitement that this brings. As you know, keeping children safe is a core part of the work of schools and all staff have updated training on a regular basis to ensure that they understand how to help children if they need to do this. Another side of our work, which is perhaps less obvious, is ensuring that our recruitment systems are robust and that the staff we appoint are suitable to work with children. This starts with the wording of advertisements, through the application process, shortlisting, interviewing and finally to pre-appointment checks. On Tuesday this week, senior leaders worked with Jon Galling, who leads safer recruitment training for Devon Education Services, to update our knowledge on this important area of keeping children safe. We were re-assured that all our processes are robust and that there are safeguards in place to prevent unsuitable adults from getting jobs in our schools. However, our ongoing training also requires us to be vigilant about every person in school and to never assume that 'it couldn't happen here.' Thankfully, it is very rare for this to be problem in schools but keeping up to date with the latest advice is still very important.

YEAR 3 and 4 RESIDENTIAL VISIT PAYMENTS

The Year 3 and 4 residential visit is planned for Wednesday, 30th April to Friday 2nd May 2025 and we will be going by train from Crediton to the YHA at Okehampton. Silverton, Thorverton and Whimble will be going away for Wednesday and Thursday including Wednesday night; Cheriton Fitzpaine, Sandford, Newton St Cyres and Brampford Speke will be going for Thursday and Friday including Thursday night. We are still finalising the activity plan for the two year groups who are going and are waiting for confirmation of the cost. The visit is likely to cost around £110 for the two days, including activities, travel and accommodation. We appreciate that this is a significant outlay for parents so there will be a phased payment system set up on School Gateway for parents to start making payments of £20 each month towards the cost. We will confirm the price for the visit as soon as we can and let parents know.

RE-FEDERATION CONSULTATION

The consultation period for re-federation with Moorsway is open until Friday, 15th November. There are copies of the report, with updated Q and A's from the consultation meetings, on the EVF website under 'important information' and 'Re-federation Consultation'. Parents are welcome to write to the consultation email account [federationconsultation4@gmail.com].

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Just a reminder that 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

We are looking for donations for the Christmas Fayre Stalls in December.

The following people have agreed to be responsible for any donations. Please hand any items to these people or message them on the class chat.

1. Lucky Dip - Elm (Vicky Day)
2. Toys & Books - Ash (Natalie Temple-Murray & Hannah Shaw)
3. Teddy Tombola - Oak (Catherine Evans-Martin)
4. Parent Gifts - Beech (Polly Luscombe & Susan Pearce)
5. Cakes - Willow (Katy Hill)



Dates for your diary

November

- Friday 15th Children in Need
Tuesday 19th Ready Steady Read - Reception reading event 2pm
Wednesday 20th Individual School Photos
Thursday 21st Meet the PTA - Thirsty Farmer 7pm
Thursday 28th Bags2School Collection (PTA)
Friday 29th Staff training day - school closed to pupils

December

- Friday 6th Christmas Disco (PTA)
Wednesday 11th KS1 Nativity 4pm Whimple Church
Friday 9th Rock Steady Concert 10.30am
Thursday 12th KS2 Carol Service 6pm Whimple 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

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk

Website: www.whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk