

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024



Whimple Primary School

Issue 1

5.01.24

Happy New Year! Hopefully, you all had, or did something that made you smile or feel good over the break. The weather wasn't that helpful either; at least it looks like this may be improving in the next few days - seeing a bit of sunshine earleir today was lovely.

School Dinners

Just a reminder that dinners have to be ordered a week in advance. Booking will close at midnight on the Wednesday for dinners in the week following. A packed lunch needs to be provided if a dinner has not been ordered. Towards the ned of last term more and more parents were having to be contacted so please mark this in your diaries as a reminder. If a child has not ordered a dinner, we don't have the flexibility to order this on the day, so we will phone home for you to come in with a packed lunch instead.

Year 5 Showdown

Attached to the newsletter email is a letter for Year 5 parents in reference to a Showdown happening on March 18th for our year 5 students, and to be watched by their families. This is where our Year 5 pupils have the opportunity to learn and perform a dance routine. Please read the letter to give permission.

Choir

Choir will restart again on Thursday 11th January, 3.30pm to 4.30pm and is open to all ages. Cost is £5 per session, signing up for half a term at a time, so for this half term the cost will be £25. Payments will be set up on schoolcomms once we have confirmed the places. If you could please do this by end of Tuesday, we will inform you on Wednesday 10th January.

[Sign up here](#)



Parking

Whilst we appreciate wet days can make drop off and collection from school more challenging, please refrain from parking in the village hall car park. This is for school, preschool staff and the doctor's surgery. It is important that the disabled parking spaces are kept free for those who need them.

Dogs

Dogs are not permitted on school premises and we politely request that they are kept back from the school gates as some of our children are nervous around them. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

PE Kits

PE kits need to be in school at all times, please remind your children. Children in Beech and Year 4 in Oak will start swimming on Monday 15th. SOE3 forms will be brought home with your child today for completion and returning to school next week.

Online Safety

Many children have received devices for Christmas and are enthusiastically talking about them and programs they use/play with. It is vital that parents ensure controls are set up appropriately as well as monitoring the sites accessed and the time spent online.

There are a number of useful websites that can help with this, as well as many other resources under our parents tab on the school website.

Parental Controls: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

Parental agreement: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/christmas-2022/>

I have attached the Wake Up Wednesday guidance to the email—to look in closer detail. As seen here.





Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! I hope you have had a great Christmas holiday and have been able to enjoy some family time together. On Wednesday this week, staff from across the federation met at Cheriton Fitzpaine for the penultimate staff training day of the year. We spent some time reviewing our learning from recent Ofsted inspections relating to the way the curriculum is designed and delivered and then worked in year group teams on moderating writing. In the afternoon, Mr Perkins led a CPD session for teachers on computing, which is one of the last subjects to be a focus for development. The final Staff Development Day is on Friday, 28th June, so please do use this as an opportunity to plan a long weekend away, rather than taking children out of school and missing learning time.

YEAR 5 RESIDENTIAL VISIT

Parents of Year 5 children should have been sent information about the Residential Visit to Bath and Bristol last term. Please let your child's school office know if you have not received this information and if you have not returned the reply slip, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss, please contact Mr Jolliffe on the afternoon of Monday, 15th January at Cheriton Fitzpaine School on 01363 866456 between 1.00 and 6.00pm [return calls will be made in the following 48 hours if needed].

YEAR 3 AND 4 RESIDENTIAL VISITS

This year, Year 3 and 4 are going to Okehampton YHA again for their residential visit. The Year 4s, who went there last year, will be returning to the same Youth Hostel but doing different activities that are more challenging. The visit will take place from 17th to 19th April but each school will only stay for one night. More information about the visit will be sent home by end of January.

This will be a new trip for Whimple Primary School, but is very similar in set up to the Annual Sleepovers that we try to do in Victory Hall. We thought it would be a good way to get our younger children used to staying away from home, whilst taking part in some fun activities.

Dates for your diary

January

- 11th Year 6 walk at Silverton
- 11th After School Club - Choir starts
- 11th Year 5 Dance session
- 12th School wassail - Beech and Willow Class
- 15th Beech and Oak Year 4 swimming starts
- 18th Year 5 and 6 BSO visit

March

- 18th Year 5 Showdown at Barnfield Theatre

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

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk

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