

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2025



Whimple Primary School

Issue 13

05.12.25

With advent starting this week, it has been an exciting time for the children, and they always know the date! The Rock Steady Band children did an amazing job this morning, performing to their families and then to the school. For many of these children, it was their first time, and it was great to see how confident they all were, despite not having had a practice together for a fortnight.

It's another busy week next week with the sponsored three-legged marathon and cake sale on Wednesday, followed by the PTA Christmas fair on Friday afternoon.

Page four of this newsletter contains all the information with regards Christmas events - please read carefully.

Trophy Return

It is the time in the term where we celebrate children's successes for the term. Please can those children who received a 'Most Improved trophy' at the end of the summer term, return the trophy to school ready for their next recipients. Please drop them into the school office by Friday 12th December.

Applications for Reception Places September 2026

Children born between 01/09/2021 and 31/08/2022 are entitled to start full time Primary Education in September 2026. The [online application](#) facility is now open and closes at midnight on 15th January 2026.



Lunchtime stars:

Elm Class	Margot and Ava	Maisie
Ash Class	Harry and Charlie	Ellie
Oak Class	Daisy and Charlie	Charlie
Beech Class	Clara and Freddie	Ayda
Willow Class	Libby and Oscar P	Jack



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

The two weeks before Christmas are a very exciting time for children in primary schools, but it can also be a very challenging time for some children as routines are set aside and plays, performances and lots of extra events take place. The combination of being very tired and very excited can be overwhelming for some children as they look forward to Christmas at the end of a very long and busy term. It really helps class teachers and Heads of School to know if your child is finding the changes to routines and normal school days a challenge. If we know this, we can help them through these last few weeks by preparing them in advance for the changes that are going to take place. That way, we can help everyone to really enjoy this exciting time of year!

EARLY YEARS PARENT SURVEY

Many thanks to the parents who completed the survey recently. There were 18 responses in total and it was noted that the Moorsway Hub schools of The Erme and Cornwood received a good proportion of responses. Parents who visited the school reported that it was very useful meeting the Head and EY teacher and seeing the classroom and environment. They were impressed with the welcoming, friendly atmosphere and close-knit community feel of the school. Parents who visited felt it was helpful in making their decision. Those parents with older siblings knew about the school and didn't make specific visits.

All parents reported how well their children settled and if there were some mornings of anxiety that staff were supportive and caring and put into place strategies to support the morning transition.

Parents responded enthusiastically and positively about the excited and stimulated learning of new things; new and different play equipment; caring, supportive and friendly staff; structure of the day and well established routines; busy, active learners; sense of responsibility and growing up; making new friends and developing strong relationship with teacher and TAs; enjoying phonics and already reading words; bringing home library and reading books, playing with different aged children; the balance between learning and playing.

Some parents requested a little more detailed feedback about their child's day in the first few weeks, eg what they had eaten, learnt and a general timetable of the week, eg PE days. The majority of parents were happy with the induction process and very pleased with the communication and invitation to visit the classroom.

REPORT FROM FEDERATION GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

At the Full Governing Board Meeting on the 2nd December Governors from across the Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation (EVMF) met online.

Governors ratified the appointment of Leanne Penhallurick as Executive Head of the Moorsway Hub Schools from 1st January 2026. Governors also ratified the appointment of new school governors Adam Kinge-Whiteley (Cheriton), Andrew Withers (Thorverton) and Abi Leighton-Boyce (Newton St Cyres).

An update was received regarding church schools within the Federation and the work that is being done to ensure that these schools are ready for their SIAMS Inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). It was clear that the work which was being done in these schools was more than just ensuring they were prepared for inspection but also ensuring that the ethos, vision and values of each school was firmly embedded throughout the school.

Update reports were also received and discussed on safeguarding, behaviour, attendance and SEND. Governors also considered the Federation budget and discussed the challenges facing the Federation in managing its budget. As previously reported schools across the country continue to face considerable financial pressures.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe continued

Following a period of formal consultation Governors agreed that Thorverton preschool should become a governor-lead preschool and therefore the preschool will close on the 31st December 2025 and re-open on the 1st January 2026 under the EVMF's leadership. Governors approved a number of reports and policies which will be published on the EVMF website. It is clear that children are at the heart of all the work which Federation Leaders and all the staff do and they are committed to ensuring that children across the Federation Schools receive the best possible education.

PRAYER ROOM

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

FEDERATION CAROL SERVICE

The federation carol service takes place on Monday, 15th December at 6.00pm at Crediton Parish Church and all parents are welcome to join us to watch children from the different schools perform, the Elastic Bands play and listen to readings and a Christmas reflection. We look forward to seeing you there.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING DAY

Our next professional training day is on Monday, 5th January and all the federation schools will be closed to children for the day. The spring term starts on Tuesday, 6th January 2026.

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'. Please could parents complete and return the register of interest slip by Friday, 19th December 2025 so that we can finalise numbers.

All Things Christmas - What you Need to Know

Christmas Events

Thursday 11th - School Carol Service, Whimble Church - 6pm start

Children need to be brought to Whimble Church at 5.45pm and should wear their school uniform along with something festive. Parents will be asked to wait outside initially whilst we settle the children into their class sections and check we have everybody. All children are expected to attend, as they all perform at some point during the service.

Christmas Fair - Friday 12th - afternoon, parents after 3.30pm

Each class will get the chance to visit the Christmas fair in the afternoon.

Children can bring in a maximum of £3 to spend.

Parents can bring their children along to the fair after they have been collected from class at 3.30pm.

Children can also wear their Christmas jumpers to school on Friday 12th.

Wednesday 17th - School Nativity, Whimble Church - 4pm start

The children in Ash and Elm will be changed and given a snack at school before being taken to the church. Parents will be allowed to come into the church once the children are settled—this will not be until at least 3.45pm. Parents DO NOT need to collect their child from school.

After the nativity, children can be collected but we ask that you tell the class teacher so we can ensure everyone is safe.



Other Christmas Things

Christmas Post-Box

The school post box will be open for post from Monday and will be placed in the reception area to accept everyone's Christmas cards. From Wednesday onwards, there will be postal deliveries to class. Please encourage your children to use this box as it is lovely to see their faces when they get some post of their own. If class names or initial can be added to the envelope that can help where we have duplicate names.

Christmas Hampers

There are four fantastic hampers up for grabs with some amazing contents.

Raffle tickets are now on sale with tickets costing £1 each.... £5 for a strip from the top Playground after school - look for the large sign.

As well as being able to buy them in the playground, they will be on sale at the KS2 Carol Service and KS1 Nativity.

The Raffle will be drawn at the end of the Christmas Nativity on Wednesday 17th December.

Christmas Dinner - Wednesday 17th

Children will be eating their school Christmas dinner on this day, which should have been pre-ordered. The usual options will not be available on this day due to the numbers of meals involved.

Doodle Maths

The Winter Calendar has arrived in Doodle, a seasonal event where your child can earn wintery in-app rewards by Doodling 'little and often'!

From now until the **24th of December**, your child can open the calendar doors by **completing at least one exercise a day** in DoodleMaths.

They'll find **festive goodies** hiding behind each one – and if they open them all, they'll receive a **virtual Winter Calendar badge**!



Thursday 11th December
2:30-4:30pm

"Together We Thrive"
Meet the services supporting the College at our community coffee afternoon.

Join us in the main hall to connect with local support networks.

Complimentary refreshments available

			
			
			

FACE Parent Talks

Please find leaflet attached with dates for some online support for families.

Dear runners, participants, and supporters,

We're really looking forward to seeing you at the Santa Run this Sunday! All registered runners will already have received an email from ECCT with full event instructions, but here is a quick reminder of the key timings:

Event Timings

- **5k Santa Run** – Suit collection from **8:00am**, race starts at **9:00am**

2.5k Family Run – Suit collection from **8:40am**, race starts at **9:40am**

If you still need to collect your Santa suit on the day (which most people will do), please head to the **Exeter City Community Trust registration tent**, where you will also receive your race number.

The **ELF stand** will be directly next to the registration tent. Once you're signed in, please come over to say hello and pick up some ELF bits and pieces! As last year, it will probably be easiest to gather all school runners slightly away from the stalls to avoid overcrowding. Andy will pop over to say a few words and to take some group photos before the races begin.

ELF will also be at the finish area to cheer you home and capture lots more photos. Family and friends are very welcome to join us there with ELF flags if they'd like to help create a festive atmosphere.

A huge thank you for your fundraising!

The fundraising page is now at a brilliant **£747** – thank you so much for your support so far!

Just a quick reminder:

ELF does not receive any of the entry fees paid for race places. Those fees go entirely to the event organisers.

The only funds ELF receives are from the fundraising page — so every share, every donation, and every boost truly matters.

If you're able, a final week/weekend push by sharing the link to everyone would be absolutely fantastic:

🔗 **Fundraising link:**

https://www.justgiving.com/page/exevalleysantarunelf?utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_fundraiser_page_donation_received_nth_donation&utm_content=8b5810b1-5e1b-47b5-b92d-a2785d40c454&utm_medium=email&utm_source=postoffice&utm_term=1764059830525&scrlybrkr=760bedc4

Thank you again for your incredible support.

If you have any questions ahead of Sunday, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

SEE YOU LEGENDS ON SUNDAY!!!

Kind regards,

Jack Hookway (NSC Class Teacher) and Andy Jordan (ELF - Development Manager)



Christmas Raffle



Spread Joy This Festive Season!

Enter Our Christmas Hamper Raffle

Win one of our 6 hampers full of Festive Goodies!

Date of Draw: 17/12/2025

Location: Whimple Church (KS1 Nativity Play)

Tickets: £1 each (£5 a strip)

1st Prize – Large Luxury Hamper

What's in the Hampers?

Luxury chocolates

Festive biscuits & mince pies

Seasonal preserves & chutneys

Wine/beer

Crisps

Plus lots more!



Each hamper is bespoke and made up from the donations everyone generously gave.

All proceeds go to supporting Whimple School.

Get your tickets now and join us in making the season brighter for everyone! Tickets for sale in the top playground at pick-up. Card or cash payment. Please see Catherine Evans-Martin or message your Class Rep.

Merry Christmas & Good Luck!



Christmas Fayre **Friday 12th 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 7th 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

December

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 19th 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): 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

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

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