

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2025



Whimble Primary School

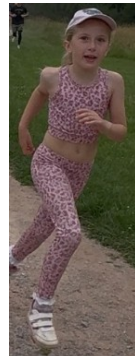
Issue 10

03.07.25

Well, what a week!

The week started with 25 children participating in Cranbrook Park run raising funds for school.

This was followed by a group of Whimble Dads successfully completing the Three Peaks Challenge in 24 hours - Ben Nevis in Scotland, followed by Scafell Pike in the lake District and finishing with Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) in Wales. An absolutely amazing feat, with 40% of the funds raised coming to school. (See more information later in the newsletter).



We are going to use it to purchase and fit some canopies in our playgrounds to help provide some shelter and shade.

On Monday, the children in Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a competitive cricket match, with Somerset batting some great balls. Although the day started a little overcast it soon warmed up and became a little too hot.

Wednesday saw 20 children from Year 4, 5 and 6 participating in a transition choir project with 4 other local primary schools and the Clyst Vale choir. Over two hundred children took part - it was lovely to listen to. Thank you to the parents who came to watch and also supported us with transporting the children - we got there in the end!



On Thursday, the children in Elm Class set off to Seaton Jurassic and had an absolutely fabulous time. Thank you to all the adults involved yesterday - it was a great team effort.

Thursday evening saw some of the children who have achieved their Torbay and Devon Civic Award in Year 6, attend their presentation evening at Isca College in Exeter. A number of other schools were involved in the evening, and it was lovely to celebrate all their

achievements.

Today children spent most of the morning with their new class getting to know their teacher and share some time with their new classmates.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

Our annual parent survey gives us an invaluable insight into your views about the work of the federation schools and what you would like us to focus on in the coming year. This year, a total of 68 parents responded to the survey, representing just over 10% of the children in the Exe Valley schools, which is almost double last year's responses. I was encouraged to see that 97% of parents who responded said their children were happy at school and 85% would recommend their child's school to another parent; 10% said they did not know if they would or not. There were lots of positive comments about the schools and their work and also some suggestions for what we should be working on next year. These included:

- Developing and sustaining the federation-wide sporting and culture events, including sporting competitions and festivals musical performances, concerts and shows.
- Retaining the 'village school' ethos of each school, in the context of the growth of the Federation over the last few years.
- Managing the small number of children with additional needs and accessing additional funding to improve SEND provision.

We will continue to work on these areas and will incorporate them into the Federation Development Plan and the individual school development plans for next year. A summary report, written by one of the governors, is attached to this week's newsletters.

EVMF FULL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

July 1st 2025 – Parent Update

At the recent Full Governing Board meeting on the 1st July, governors from across the Exe Valley Federation came together to review key strategic matters, with particular focus on finance and sustainability. The board formally approved the three-year budget plans following detailed discussions and prior scrutiny by the Finance and Risk Committee. It was acknowledged that the federation, in a manner consistent with most schools, federations and trusts in the country, continues to face significant financial pressures. Governors discussed the wider challenges affecting small schools in rural communities and agreed on the importance of communicating these challenges to the MPs in the Federation's constituencies

Alongside finance, the board reviewed safeguarding, attendance, SEND provision and updates from each hub. Positive progress was noted in several areas, including the continuation of the partnership with South Hams and the development of the new Federation website. Governors approved a number of key reports and policies to support ongoing improvements. The board also marked the upcoming departure of Ronnie, Chair of the Moorsway Hub, with thanks for his service. As Chair of Governors Jackie said at the end of the meeting, *"Children are at the forefront of everything we do."* The conversations and challenge throughout the evening made it clear that the governing team remains fully committed to this core principle.

PRAYER ROOM

Every half term, a group of parents meet to pray for the federation schools. The next prayer room will be on Friday, 18th July at 9.30am at Silverton Evangelical Church [School Road, Silverton EX5 4JH]. Please contact Andy Mathers [apmathers@gmail.com] for more information.

Sports Day - Friday 11th July

Sports Day is open to all parents and is being held at Whimble Cricket Club. There is parking available for parents at the venue which is found going out from the village towards Broadclyst. This event will start at 1pm with house team games followed on with sprint races, team tug of war and a long distance race.



Children need to wear their PE kits and trainers to school for the whole day.

In order to comply with safeguarding arrangements, parents are asked to sit in a specific area on the field. This will also enable everyone to see. (diagram of field is in attachment)

This should all finish by 3.15pm where children will go back to their class teacher where they can be collected to take home. Please be patient with this process as we need to ensure all children are accounted for. We will start with the youngest children. Children not collected by 3.25pm will be walked back to school for collection.

For more information around the format of the afternoon - see attached. Please can you ensure that children all have sunhats and sun cream.

Little Works, Big Difference

Creativity that Connects a Community

This summer, Daisi is launching *Little Works, Big Difference* – a countywide campaign inviting families, schools, artists, and supporters across Devon to come together through creativity.

At the heart of the campaign is a simple idea: **when lots of people create something small, it adds up to something big.** From mini artworks to community workshops, from children's drawings to professional pieces – we're building a shared exhibition that celebrates the creative spirit of Devon.



Join Us on Tuesday 6 August

Family Arts Event – Princesshay, Exeter

Get ready for a day of colourful creativity in Princesshay! Drop in any time to take part in hands-on art activities designed for children and families of all ages. Led by professional artists, with face-painting and live music, this event is your chance to get creative, make memories, and contribute to a county-wide community art project.

[Link here for donations](#)

Dear Parents,

The Whimple Dads all successfully completed the 3-Peaks Challenge over the weekend! There are some very sore knees today.



The weather was challenging with some thick cloud and 50 mph winds to start on Ben Nevis. We reached the summit in 3 hours 4 mins. We then started Scafell Pike heavy mist and fog in darkness, and after navigating the mountain river crossing, climbing up a never ending set of steps and summited on the boulder field in 2 hours 11 minutes.

Following minimal sleep we started Snowdon at breakfast time and reach the summit in 2 hours 40 mins.

Our fundraising response has been massive and thank you to everyone who has donated and local businesses that have supported us.

We had three amazing support team who volunteered their time/driving/morale so we say a big thanks to Mark Paterson, Rich Harker, & Steve Shaw. Without them the challenge wouldn't have been possible.

Some stats of the weekend challenge:

Total combined vertical ascent 3408m (38% of Mount Everest)

Step count: 60,811

Driving miles: 830

Sleep: 3 minutes 18 seconds.

All in 24 hours.

The team have self funded all hotels/minibus/fuel so all money donated will go towards good causes.

At writing the current total is an incredible £8,401!

50% will go to the village schools, with the other 50% being split between Hospicare, Cancer Research, Devon Air Ambulance, and Vranck House.

We would love to push the total as high as we can and see if we can break the £9000 barrier. We will leave our fundraising page open until next weekend (Sunday 6th July).

Any support you could give would be gratefully received no matter how small.

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/whimple3peaks?
utm_medium=CR&utm_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/whimple3peaks?utm_medium=CR&utm_source=CL)



Dates for your diary

July

Monday 7th	Beech Class Trip
Friday 11th	Rock Steady Concert for parents (9.30am)
Friday 11th	Sports Day (afternoon)
Tuesday 15th	Oak Class Trip
Thursday 17th	Ash Class Eco Fair
Friday 18th	EVF Cross Country Running
Thursday 24th	Leavers Assembly (afternoon)
Friday 25th	Last day of term—3.30pm finish

Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

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

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

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