

CONTACT

The Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

Issue 2 - 22

6.04.22

Please read this newsletter carefully as there are many bits of important information included that applies to all families.

Covid Updates

The use of the bottom gate as well as the main gates in the morning is working well. Please note there is no one way system regarding the main gates entry and exit, just please use the safest route available to you and you family.

Although cases of Covid continue to decrease across the country and Devon, we still need to be careful and take a preventative approach to Infection Control. Please continue to keep your child off school if they have any symptoms of an infection, e.g. gastroenteritis (diarrhoea and vomiting) or influenza (flu) like illness and not return to school for 48 hours have passed since the diarrhoea and/or vomiting episode.

We will continue to remind children about good hand and respiratory hygiene.

Parking

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE consider both other road users and especially pedestrians when parking and dropping off and collecting children at school. We have had a number of complaints in the past week or so, particularly with regards to people parking on the road directly outside and leaving car doors open so pedestrians have to walk in the road or in front of people's driveways. Please consider our local neighbours and do not use their driveways for parking or turning around in. The Thirsty Farmer is happy for you to use their car park and we want to continue to encourage our children to walk to school safely.

Swimming

Please make sure if your have a child in Oak Class that you have completed and returned the SOE3, we cannot take your child without it.

School Trip

Elm Class will be going on their school trip later this month. Please watch out for a letter and forms to complete.

Joining a Federation

During the autumn the Regional Schools Commissioner spoke with increasing clarity about the government's expectation that all schools will be part of Multi-Academy Trusts and that, although this would not be forced on schools, it was its direction of travel. This was confirmed in the Education White Paper which was published in March and contains a clear expectation that this goal will be reached by 2030.

As a small village primary school, the governors and I have been conscious of the challenges and difficulties that continuing to be a standalone maintained primary brings, alongside the Government's current intentions. Consequently, we have been carefully exploring the options available to us, so that as a school we can decide our future and not have that decision made for us.

Having looked at local federations, a decision has been made to trial working with the Exe Valley Federation as we felt this group of schools has a similar ethos and feel to ours. This time will be classified as a Managed Partnership, and will start in September 2022. The school will use this time to determine whether we want to officially federate.

Exe Valley Federation currently includes 6 village primaries - Silverton, Brampford Speke, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Newton St Cyres, Thorverton and Sandford.

Each of their individual schools upholds their own distinctive ethos and traditions and are able to develop in their own unique way, whilst gaining from being part of a wider community. Ultimately on a day to day basis nothing will fundamentally change during this period of trial.

If you have any questions please contact one of the governors directly.

Public Health Devon warns of Lyme disease this tick season

It's tick season, and with our woodlands and favourite countryside paths becoming thicker with vegetation, the chances of us getting ticks at this time of year is greater, warn Public Health Devon.

"Ticks thrive in warmer weather and in lush vegetation," says Steve Brown, Director of Public Health Devon. "And with warmer weather and people taking to the outdoors for recreation, woodlands and overgrown paths are likely to have ticks living among them."

There are around 1,500 cases of Lyme disease each year in England and Wales, commonly spread by ticks. And case levels here in Devon are routinely higher than England's average.

Early symptoms include a 'bullseye' rash around the site of the bite, and flu-like reactions such as fatigue, fever, chills or muscle aches.

Prevention and being prepared to respond quickly is the best form of protection, including:

- walking on defined paths
- covering up as much as possible
- wearing light coloured clothing so that ticks are easier to spot
- wearing an insect repellent that can deter ticks from climbing onto skin
- carrying out regular checks after outdoor activity, as spotting them early allows you to act promptly

For more advice about how to properly remove a tick, and what to do if the removal's unsuccessful, (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/>)

Dates for your diary

Monday 9th May to Thursday 12th May

Key Stage 2 SATs (Year 6)

Wednesday 11th May Oak swimming session (further dates: 25th May, 8th, 15th and 22nd June)

Week commencing 6th June

Phonics Screening (Year 1)

Multiplication Tables Check (Year 4)

Monday 11th to Friday 15th July Year 5 and Year 6 Residential to Pixie's Holt

SUMMER TERM 2022

25th April to 26th July 2022

May Day holiday - 2nd May 2022

Half term - 30th May to 6th June 2022

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 7th June 2022

Term dates for pupils - 2022/23:

AUTUMN TERM 2022

5th September to 16th December 2022

Half term - 24th to 28th October 2022

SPRING TERM 2023

4th January to 31st March 2023

Half term - 13th to 17th February 2023

SUMMER TERM 2024

17th April to 21st July 2024

May Day holiday - 1st May 2022

Half term - 29th May to 2nd June 2023

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only):

1st and 2nd September,

31st October 2022,

3rd January, 30th June 2023



Fifi & Bear
MARKETS

Pop-up Market

SUNDAY 29 MAY 2022
10 - 3PM

WHIMPLE VICTORY HALL
SCHOOL HILL, WHIMPLE EX5 2TS

JOIN US AT OUR FIRST POP-UP MARKET
WHERE YOU CAN ENJOY A LOVELY
SELECTION OF LOCAL SELLERS & CRAFTS,
DELICIOUS FOOD & DRINK AND CHILDRENS
ACTIVITIES

FREE PARKING AT THE VENUE
AND AROUND THE VILLAGE

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON WHO WILL BE AT THE MARKET:
📷 @FIFIANDBEARMARKETS
📌 FIFI AND BEAR MARKETS

ENTRY £2*
UNDER 12'S FREE
CASH & CARD
ACCEPTED

*A PERCENTAGE OF THE
ENTRY FEE WILL BE DONATED
TO WHIMPLE PRIMARY
SCHOOL

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