

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2025



Whimple Primary School

Issue 7

17.10.25

It has been another busy week with children in year 6 completing Bikeability to gain improved cycling proficiency when riding around the roads. The children stated they had learned lots and it had really helped them. Apple picking at our orchard has begun with some of our classes, and others will get the opportunity next week. Last year we picked 1500kg, and we are hoping to pick a similar crop this year to deliver to Sandford Orchards as part of the Dart's Farm Community Apple Pick.

Next week is the last week of this half term and we look forward to meeting with you all to discuss your child's progress at the parent consultations held across the week. These will all be held in your child's classroom - if you loiter in the vicinity the teacher will come and collect you. If it is wet you are welcome to wait inside but please DO NOT use the library, as our after school club will be in there. If your consultation is within the time of the school day, please press the buzzer and come to reception.

School Fundraising for Charity

We are happy to support the EVF Santa Run event for ELF. However, don't worry if you are unable to support this particular event as we will be holding our annual ELF run along with raising money for Children in Need - more details after half-term.

PTA AGM

Our annual meeting will be held in the school library at 7pm on Wednesday 22nd October. Please come along if you can.



Elm Class	Ellis LL and Jacob
Ash Class	Chrissy and Louie
Oak Class	Elsa and Casper
Beech Class	Madison and Ted
Willow Class	Jack and Jacob
Lunchtime stars:	
Elm Class	Max
Ash Class	Lucy
Oak Class	Flo
Beech Class	Archie
Willow Class	Mikel



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



Over the last four years we have worked very hard on improving our curriculum so that children 'learn more and remember more' and this has made a significant difference to the quality of education in all our schools. This week, the School Improvement Team met with teachers from across all the Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation schools to explore how to refine the way we design learning tasks in lessons. Each small step of learning within a series of lessons is accompanied by a learning task and developing these will help children to think more deeply about what they are learning. The research group was joined by colleagues from South Hams Federation to consider how task design connects curriculum intent to meaningful pupil thinking. The research group will be trying out some of their ideas in classes in the next half term and sharing their thoughts with all teachers on the next staff training day.

EXETER SANTA RUN – LET'S GET THE EXE VALLEY FEDERATION MOVING FOR ELF! 🎅

This December, pupils, parents, friends and families from across all Exe Valley Federation schools —will be taking part in the **Exeter Santa Run** (running 2.5 km dressed as Santa) to raise money for **ELF (Exeter Leukaemia Fund)**.

ELF is Devon's blood cancer charity, supporting patients of all ages from across the county who are treated for blood cancer at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital. The charity provides essential care and support to families at some of the most difficult times in their lives.

Last year, Newton St Cyres raised a fantastic total, and this year we're going even bigger! All of our Heads of Teaching and Learning have accepted the challenge — and we'd love for as many families as possible to join in or support us.

To sign up (with a discounted rate) [Use this Exe Valley Link](#)

This event is especially close to our hearts, as one of our own from Newton St Cyres has been supported by ELF. You can read her story : <https://www.elfcharity.org.uk/patient-story-sophia>

Please make sure **all donations go directly to our JustGiving page**, so we can celebrate one big collective total from across the Federation:

🔗 https://www.justgiving.com/page/exevalleysantarunelf?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Let's get festive, have fun, and make a real difference together this Christmas! 🎄✨

TEN A DAY GUIDE TO MENTAL HEALTH

The Children & Family Health Devon (CFHD) website has lots of useful resources to support families with talking about mental health, which you can find using this link:

<https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/resources/>.

Their leaflet is attached to this week's newsletters for your information, and a '10 a day' guide which you could use to talk to your children about how to look after their mental health.

BRAMPFORD SPEKE CHURCH SCHOOL INSPECTION

Brampford Speke was visited for a SIAMS inspection at the start of October. The report has now been published and is excellent and really captured the school. Well done to everyone involved in making this such a success! Many of the highlights from the inspection were relevant for the other federation schools and will be used to continue school improvement. The report is on the school's section of the EVMF website.

PRAYER ROOM

Every half term, a group of parents meet to pray for the federation schools. The next prayer room will be on Friday, 24th October at 9.30am at Silverton Evangelical Church [School Road, Silverton EX5 4JH]. Please contact Andy Mathers [apmathers@gmail.com] for more information.

BHM POSTER

This week's poster is about six Black people who have transformed the way we see ourselves and each other through their creative talents and reshaped Britain's cultural landscape.

CREATIVITY. COURAGE. CHANGE.

Black British artists, writers, and cultural leaders have transformed the way we see ourselves – and each other. Through bold expression and fearless innovation, they challenged stereotypes, championed representation, and reshaped Britain's cultural landscape. The six individuals honoured here reflect a wider creative legacy: one rooted in talent, truth, and the enduring power of storytelling in all its forms.



BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH
Poet, performer, and activist whose dub-infused verse gave voice to the streets, challenging injustice with rhythm, rebellion, and hope.



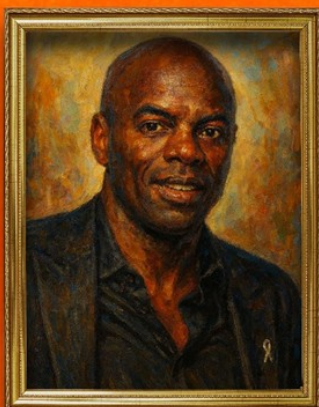
STORMZY
Globally renowned artist blending lyrical power with bold activism, creating space for Black British excellence in music, education, and publishing.



MARGARET BUSBY
Trailblazing publisher, editor, and broadcaster who opened doors for countless writers and helped redefine the literary world.



EDWARD ENNINFUL
Fashion visionary who transformed British Vogue into a platform for inclusion, beauty, and cultural change on a global scale.



TREVOR NELSON
Radio pioneer and music tastemaker who brought soul, R&B, and Black British music into the mainstream, shaping the sound of a generation.



LUBAINA HIMID CBE
Acclaimed visual artist and educator whose vivid work honours overlooked histories and gives voice to powerful stories of identity and resistance.

blackhistorymonth.org.uk

Sunday 19th October at 10:30am



Come and join with us as we celebrate a Harvest Gathering for all the family, with special guests the Young Farmers. We will have Coffee & Cake (from 10:15am), our live worship band, and the baptism of baby Harry!

Would you like to make a food donation for someone in need? You can bring a non-perishable harvest gift, and everything we collect will be donated to the Cranbrook Food Hub.



THE DEVON
**October
Issue**
IS ON ITS WAY TO
YOUR SCHOOL

Now available from the reception area.
Feel free to take one.

'10 a day' choices towards balancing our mental health



1
Talk about your
feelings



2
Do something
you enjoy and
are good at



3
Keep yourself
hydrated



4
Eat well



5
Keep active in
mind and body



6
Take a break



7
Stay connected
to those you
care about



8
Ask for help



9



10

Dates for your diary

October

Monday 20th	Willow Class swimming - session 5 of 5
Monday 20th	Willow Parent consultations
Tuesday 21st	Willow, Beech, Ash and Elm Parent consultations
Wednesday 22nd	Oak and Elm Parent consultation
Thursday 23rd	Oak Parent consultations
Friday 24th	Last day of term

November

Monday 3rd	Start of term
Monday 17th	Tempest Individual Photo's
Tuesday 18th	Flu Immunisations
Thursday 27th	Muft day for Christmas hamper items
Friday 28th	Non Pupil Day

December

Thursday 11th	Carol Service at Whimble Church for KS2 6pm
Friday 12th	Christmas Fair
Wednesday 17th	Nativity KS1 at Whimble Church 4pm

Term dates for pupils - 2025/26:

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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