

# NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025



## Whimble Primary School

Issue 12

04.04.25

Another great week - 23 children from Year 5 and 6 participated in the EVF Dance Showdown at the Barnfield Theatre on Monday. The theme was dance through the decades and they put on an amazing display to Men in Black by Will Smith to represent dance in the 1990s.

All children participated in a class Easter Egg Hunt over at our Forest School site - the children demonstrated great teamwork skills - thank you to the PTA for purchasing the eggs.

Today all the Rock Steady Bands performed to parents and children - it was a lovely privilege to see how they have all progressed.

Staff and children wish you all a Happy Easter and we will see everyone on Tuesday 22nd April.

### Achievement Assembly

Today we held our termly achievement assembly. These awards celebrate effort and success for progress in key curriculum areas across each term.

The Governor Cup was presented to the school by an ex-chair of Governors to be presented to a child, who has actively demonstrated our 6Rs throughout the school day. The cup is given out on a termly basis and, this term it has been presented to Finley in Year 5.

Trophies can be kept for the term so keep them on show somewhere in your home and then return them at the end of the summer term.

<b>Elm Class</b>	Most improved reader	Emma	
	Most improved writer	Dottie	Most improved mathematician
<b>Ash Class</b>	Most improved reader	Rory	Corey
	Most improved writer	Louie	Most improved mathematician
<b>Oak Class</b>	Most improved reader	Rubi	Arthur
	Most improved writer	Jackson	Most improved mathematician
<b>Beech Class</b>	Most improved reader	Mikel	Freya
	Most improved writer	Holly and Henry	Most improved mathematician
<b>Willow Class</b>	Most improved reader	George	Ayda
	Most improved writer	Maci	Most improved mathematician
			Ava



## **Federation News from Mr Jolliffe**

### **FEDERATION BOARD MEETING**

At the Full Governing Board Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April, the three Hubs met at Newton St Cyres for the first time in person since the re-federation on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. As part of the new Federation structure, governors confirmed the proposed management structure and job roles, with John Jolliffe moving into the role of Executive Principal, and an Executive Headteacher confirmed for each Hub.

Led by John Jolliffe, governors spent a significant portion of the meeting discussing school improvement work taking place across the Federation, focused on enhancing the curriculum and sharing best practice among colleagues and across Hubs. Leaders and staff from across the Federation have been working collaboratively on various projects over recent months, which is already having a positive impact within individual schools and for the future direction of the Federation as a whole. Governors also reported on the financial considerations and priorities for the new financial year, and the important statutory reporting areas of attendance, behaviour, SEND and safeguarding.

Finally, John Jolliffe gave an overview of the recent work that he has completed in partnership with Exeter Diocese and the Exeter Flourishing Partnership, looking at how the church schools in the Federation can retain and enhance their Christian ethos.

### **SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS**

If you are concerned about the safety of a child in Devon or want to speak to someone, or if you are a child worried about your own safety, you can contact Front Door (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub or MASH) by calling 0345 155 1071. If a child is in immediate danger, please call 999.

If you suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused, or you are being abused yourself and live within Devon Local Authority boundaries, please contact Adult Social Care on 0345 1551 007 (Monday to Thursday 9am to 5pm, Friday 9am to 4.30pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm).

Outside of the hours above or on bank holidays call the Emergency Duty Service on 0345 6000 388.

Alternatively, you can email: [adultsc.safeguardingadultservices-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:adultsc.safeguardingadultservices-mailbox@devon.gov.uk) (Devon Safeguarding Adults Service).

### **FROM MR JOLLIFFE**

On Monday afternoon and evening, our annual Showdown Dance performances took place at the Barnfield Theatre in Exeter. The theme of this year's performances was 'Dance through the decades' and each school performed a dance to a song from a different decade. The standard of dancing was very high and this was an excellent opportunity for children from across the Exe Valley schools to perform on stage in front of a live audience. Many thanks to the Premier Sports team for their work in supporting the children to create their dances and helping them to rehearse. Thank you, too, to the staff and parents who supported this event and helped to make it such a valuable experience for our children.

### **YEAR 5 and 6 RESIDENTIAL VISIT**

Year 5 and 6 are going to Ultimate Adventure in North Devon from Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June to Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> June. We will be leaving at 9.30am on the Wednesday and returning at 6.30pm at the end of the visit to make the most of our time away. More information about the visit and details of drop-off and pick-up locations will be sent home to parents at the start of next term, with the forms that need to be completed and returned ahead of the visit.

### **TERM DATES**

The spring term finishes tomorrow, Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and the summer term starts immediately after Bank Holiday Monday on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The last day of the half term is Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May and schools come back after the break on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025. The final staff training day of the year is on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June and term ends on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

## Clubs available after Easter:

### Multi Sports

Starts Monday 28th April until the end of the summer term

[Click here](#) to book

### Gardening Club

Starts Thursday 1st May 3.30pm to 4.30pm (for 8 weeks)

This club is for Years 1 and 2

Run by Miss Sharratt.

The school garden will be open as part of the Whimple Village Hall Garden Safari in June so children will be planting and making things towards this. [Click here](#) to book.

### Drama Club

Starts Wednesday May 7th 3.30pm to 4.30pm (for 5 weeks)

This club is for Year 1 to 6

Run by Miss Norton and Miss Clarke.

A range of drama type activities.

[Click here](#) to book.



# SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION 2025

Come and enjoy a range of the children's artwork!

**FRIDAY 25TH APRIL**

3:30pm - 5pm  
Village Hall

Tea, coffee and cake available

All money raised from this event will support this year's school trips.

**RAFFLE TO WIN AN ART HAMPER!**



## Skills Builder

This half-term our focus has been on: Staying Positive — Resilience

Speaking

Find some challenges below to have a go at together at home.

### KS2 Spring 1 Challenge

*Staying positive*



#### Weekly wins *Homezone challenge*



Get a piece of paper and write down everything that you have done to make yourself feel proud this week.

Think about if you faced any challenges. Think about every time you kept trying. Think about every time you encouraged someone else to keep trying too.

Extension: Do the same activity but for a family member or a friend, show them why they should feel positive and proud as well.

#### Reflection questions

**Getting Started:** How does this activity make you feel?

**Intermediate:** How could you use this activity to feel more positive when something goes wrong?

**Advanced:** What resources might you need to achieve your goals?

**Mastery:** What steps do you need to put in place to make your goals happen?

**Further learning:** <https://www.skillsbuilder.org/homezone/staying-positive-getting-started>

skillsbuilder.org

### KS2 Spring 2 Challenge

*Speaking*



#### All about me *Homezone challenge*



Think about the five most interesting facts about yourself.

Once you have thought about the facts, plan out the logical order that you would tell someone in.

Then, speak clearly when telling either a family member or friend these facts.

Think about how you might use tone, expression and gestures when telling a family member or friend.

#### Reflection questions

**Getting Started:** How do we know if we are speaking clearly?

**Intermediate:** As you speak how can you put your points into a logical order so you can be easily understood?

**Advanced:** How can you use tone, expression and gesture to make your speaking engaging?

**Mastery:** How can you adapt the content of what you are saying, in response to listeners?

**Further learning:** <https://www.skillsbuilder.org/homezone/speaking-getting-started>

skillsbuilder.org



## Skills Builder

These are the home challenges for our younger children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to try at home.

### KS1 Spring 1 Challenge

*Staying positive*



#### Positivity poster

Homezone challenge



Create a positivity poster to display at home.

Write words and phrases to help people stay positive.  
Draw pictures to illustrate each phrase.

#### Reflection questions

**Getting Started:** How does this activity make you feel?

**Intermediate:** How could you use this activity to feel more positive when something goes wrong?

**Further learning:** <https://www.skillsbuilder.org/homezone/staying-positive-getting-started>

skillsbuilder.org

### KS1 Spring 2 Challenge

*Speaking*



#### The birthday party

Homezone challenge



Think about a person you admire. This could be someone that you know, someone that you've learnt about or someone from a story/movie. Imagine you could invite this person to your birthday party.

Plan how you could encourage the person to come to your birthday party by using facts and examples to support why you would like them to join your party. What tone might you use? What might you say to convince them to come?

Extension: Pretend a family member or a friend is the person you would like to invite and try to convince them to come.

#### Reflection questions

**Getting Started:** How do we know if we are speaking clearly?

**Intermediate:** As you speak how can you put your points into a logical order so you can be easily understood?

**Further learning:** <https://www.skillsbuilder.org/homezone/speaking-getting-started>

skillsbuilder.org

# Dates for your diary

## April

Tuesday 22nd            First day of summer term  
Thursday 24th           Exmoor Challenge Practice Walk (some Year 6)  
Friday 25th            School Art Display open to the public from 3.30pm  
Wednesday 30th to Thursday 1st May Year 3/4 Residential

## June

Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th Year 5/6 Residential  
Saturday 21st           School Summer Fair

## Statutory Assessment Dates

**May**            Monday 12th to Thursday 15th Year 6 SATs  
**June**           w/c 2nd June            Multiplication Tables Check - Year 4  
                    w/c 9th June            Phonics Screening Check

## Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

**SUMMER TERM 2025**

**22<sup>nd</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

*May Day holiday - 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025*

*Half term - May 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025*

*Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025*

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