

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2025



Whimple Primary School

Issue 1

5.09.25

As we start a new school year, we welcome 19 new children into Elm Class and it was great to see their smiles coming in. Whilst walking in with one of our new children yesterday, I asked how she was feeling, and she said, "excited, but a little nervous". I replied saying that I thought most of the adults and children felt that way today too and that it was perfectly normal to feel that way. To the rest of our pupils and families, it was lovely to see you all and I hope you managed to do something you enjoy over the summer. The weather was a bonus. We also welcome a new teaching assistant, Miss Luckhurst, to the team.

Our newsletter is sent out by email on a Friday and contains important information. This is a key point of contact as we endeavour to try and keep email correspondence to a minimum, as we know it can become overwhelming. Please take the time to read through it; you can also access each newsletter on the front page of the school website. This issue is a bumper one and covers a whole range of items; for some it will be a gentle reminder, whereas for others it will help with finding your way through the school system.

Gardening

We have had one wonderful volunteer to help with gardening last year who would like to continue but ideally along with another adult so it can be a more productive session. If you know of anyone who is interested please send them our way. Volunteers are subject to DBS checks.

Packed Lunches and Snacks

We continue to encourage healthy snacks for children at school. We have a **NO NUTS** policy in school as we have a number of children with significant allergies, this includes ALL NUTS and NUT products not just peanuts. It is surprising just how many snack bars contain nuts, so please can we ask you all to check ingredients listings before sending any in, instead of making the assumption that it wouldn't contain them.

All school dinners, including universal free school meals for reception, year 1 and year 2, should now be ordered online with MCAS (My Child at School App). Please make sure you order meals in advance—the cut off is midnight on Wednesday the week before. There is no flexibility with this. If you are unsure or need any assistance please call into the office.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



Welcome to a new school year! I hope that you have had a great summer holiday and some family time to relax and enjoy the good weather. As we have welcomed the children back to school this week, it has been lovely to see their enthusiasm and excitement at being back at school again, and getting ready for a new year of learning. Our strategic educational plans for the year are outlined in the Federation Development Plan and there is more information about this further down this week's newsletter.

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

Schools are required to send a letter about attendance from Devon County Council twice a year. This letter is attached to this week's newsletter. Overall, attendance levels at federation schools have been broadly in line with county attendance but we don't want this to slip as we come into the summer term. There is a Staff Development Day on Friday, 28th November which gives families an opportunity to have a long weekend away, so please take advantage of this rather than taking days out of school. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us in making sure every child is in school every day whenever possible, this is very much appreciated. The Head of each school is the lead for ensuring that attendance is as good as possible and that avoidable absences are picked up and addressed.

FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A summary of this year's Federation Development Plan is attached to this week's newsletters. This plan outlines our development priorities for this year under the six aims that are part of the federation's overall strategic plan. Please do take a few minutes to read through it so that you are aware of the development priorities for the federation. Each school also has a School Development Plan that reflects the development priorities that are specific to each member of the federation.

HEALTHCARE PLANS

At the start of the year, we would like to remind parents about the importance of updating Individual Health Care Plans. Individual Health Care Plans are written by health practitioners and schools to make sure that everyone looking after a child with medical conditions knows what to look out for and what to do if intervention is required. This includes Asthma Care Plans, which are one type of IHCP and these have a tendency to go out of date, so now is a good time to review them and make sure all the medication held in school is in date and still relevant.

Where pupils develop medical conditions other than asthma, an IHCP should be written to cover all aspects of their healthcare. This is important as one condition may impact on another and the needs of the whole child should be considered by educational professionals.

If your child has an IHCP, please contact your school office to arrange to talk to the admin assistant or Head of School to make sure that your child's IHCP is up to date. Thank you for your help.

CHANGES TO FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES

If your family circumstances have changed recently, it would help us to know about these changes so that we can update our communication system. Our School Comms can be set up to send email notifications to either one parent or both parents and you may want to change the current settings if your circumstances have changed in the last few months. We are very happy to send newsletters and other email communications to one or both parents, so please do let us know what you would prefer.

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT

Members of the federation's governing board work incredibly hard to support and challenge the senior leadership team to provide the best education possible in all our schools. The annual report from Jackie Enright, Chair of Governors, is attached to this week's newsletter; please do take a moment to read it and find out more about the work of governors. If you would be interested in joining the governing board at a school level, please contact Mr Jolliffe via your child's school office.

Start and End of the School Day

The school day commences at 9.00am. Children should ideally arrive at school by 8.55am to be in good time for a prompt start at 9.00am. Please wait in the top playground behind the rainbow until a member of staff comes out to greet children and send them into class.

Older children are able to walk to and from school on their own if parents have signed the relevant paperwork. Please remind your child what is expected from them and what they should do if something unexpected happens.

School finishes at 3.30pm for all children. KS2 parents wait in the area by the main gates; parents collecting from Elm wait opposite their class, against the main building and those collecting from Ash wait nearer to the grass side. Please make sure you keep younger siblings with you and not play under the shelter or use the equipment; once your child has been handed over, please also keep them with you.

Parents are able to leave via the bottom gate if they need to walk towards Grove Road/church side of Whimple, avoiding the busy road. This departure access route is also available to adults and children from other classes as well to save walking on the unpaved road. Please close the gates as you leave if you are one of the last as we have some children who stay on site and we want to ensure they are safe.

Reminder for parents of our Reception Children - whilst these children attend part-time, please wait outside the double doors at the main entrance of the village hall and children will be brought to you. **Collection is at 1.15pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, before they stay full-time on Thursday.**

As our cloakrooms areas are only small, we would like you to encourage your child to come into the classrooms independently. This also helps those who struggle, as large numbers of adults can be overwhelming.

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Absence

If your child is unable to attend school, please inform the school office by 9.10am on each day of absence. This can be by email admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk or phoning the office (01404 822584—dedicated absence mailbox). Schools follow precise safeguarding procedures which includes keeping registers up to date. Please provide full name, class name and specific reason for absence (this is because there is a number of codes we have to use, which include late arrival).

School Uniform

We expect our families to support our uniform guidelines to promote pride in the school and give children an identity related to belonging to the school. It also presents the best image of the school to visitors and the wider community whilst helping parents avoid conflict over dress and reduce cost. School uniform is available from school and can be ordered on the **MCAS App**.

Uniform

- Grey or black trousers, dress or skirt (no jeans, leggings or jogging bottoms please).
- White polo shirt
- Blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- In the summer, blue and white gingham dresses and black or grey shorts may be worn.
- Black footwear without logos.
- Black, grey or white socks or tights.

PE

- Plain blue or black shorts or jogging bottoms
- Yellow T-Shirt with school logo
- Trainers



PE kits **need to be in school everyday please** so children have access to them whenever needed. We will encourage children to take responsibility for this but may need your support initially.

Please ensure that all clothes are named. If items are lost, please check the lost property box in reception. Unnamed and unclaimed clothing will be washed and then recycled at the end of each term.

Our logoed uniform is available from the school office. Second-hand uniform is also available, just ask at the office.

No jewellery other than wristwatches and plain stud earrings are allowed but, these must be removed or covered for P.E. We prefer hair accessories to be in school colours. Long hair must also be tied up. Make-up, temporary tattoos and nail varnish are not permitted.

If there are any concerns about uniform costs, please contact the office.

Parking

Please consider both other road users and especially pedestrians when parking and dropping off and collecting children at school. Many of our children walk home and they need to be able to walk on the pavements where possible as the road is very busy. We ask that you park away from the school in The Thirsty Farmer car park and then walk into school to avoid congestion. Parking along the road between school and the hall limits access on the pavement when car doors are opened. Please also consider our local neighbours and do not use their driveways for parking or turning around in.

Dogs

Dogs are not permitted on school property (not even in the arms of an adult). We continue to have a number of children that are fearful of dogs and have to walk home so please stay away from the pavement outside of the gates and railings - please



Parent Information Sessions

At the beginning of each school year, we hold parent information meeting for each class.

Each session will last approximately 15-20 minutes and will include lots of information about what is expected from children in that class and how you can help.

We encourage as many parents as possible to attend as this is also an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. (see dates and times on final page of newsletter)

Parent Consultation Sessions

Teachers will be holding these sessions week commencing 20th October. More details to follow, but put the date in your diary.

Year 5 and 6 Residential Visit

Next year's Year 5 and 6 residential visit will be taking place in June and we will be staying at the YHA in Bath for two nights. During the visit we will be going to Aerospace Bristol, the Jamia Masjid Mosque and SS Great Britain in Bristol and No 1 The Royal Crescent and the Roman Baths in Bath. We will also be going to see 'Matilda' at the Hippodrome in Bristol on the second evening of the visit. We will need to know numbers for finalising bookings and paying for the activities by mid-October, so more information will be coming out to parents of Year 5 and 6 children in the next few weeks.

MULTI SPORTS—for children in Oak, Beech and Willow Classes

Starts Monday.

[Click here to book](#)



Before and After School Care

Breakfast Club

Is open from 7.45 to 8.50am every school morning in the Committee Room in the Victory Hall. If you need a place or would like more details contact:

Jarmila Darby on 07948 744499 or email Jarmilabreakfast@gmail.com

After School Club

Open for children from Reception to Year 6 and runs from 3.30 to 5.15pm every school afternoon in school . If you would like a place or more details contact:

Sarah on 07854 017113 or email whimpleafterschoolclub@gmail.com

More details on the parents tab of the [school website](#).

AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

THURSDAY MORNINGS AT WHIMPLE CHURCH



Parents with or without children are very welcome to drop
in for breakfast on Thursday mornings

9.00am - 11.00am in the children's corner.

No charge but donations welcome

If you want to find out more contact Helen on 07779 722421

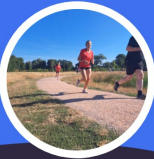


CRANBROOK
COUNTRY PARK
PARKRUN!



CRANBROOK COUNTRY PARK PARKRUN

JOIN US EACH SATURDAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR A
FUN TIMED WALK, RUN OR JOG



When

Saturday @08:45

Where

Cranbrook Country Park
Tillhouse Road

Find out more and register at: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/cranbrookcountrypark/>



CRANBROOK
COUNTRY PARK
JUNIOR PARKRUN!



CRANBROOK COUNTRY PARK JUNIOR PARKRUN

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR A
FUN TIMED WALK, RUN OR JOG FOR CHILDREN AGED
4-14 YRS OLD.



When

Sundays @08:45

Where

Cranbrook Country Park
Tillhouse Road

Find out more and register at: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/cranbrookcountrypark-juniors/>

CRANBROOK RUNNING CLUB & THIS GIRL CAN - CRANBROOK
PRESENTS...



'BACK TO SCHOOL' COUCH TO 5KM PROGRAMME FOR MUMS

DROP OFF THE KIDS AND JOIN US FOR A
RUN. BUGGIES WELCOME.

COUCH TO 5KM IS A 10 WEEK PROGRAMME SUPPORTING
YOU TO REACH YOUR 5KM GOAL.



When

Thurs 11th Sept 09:15

Where

Cranbrook Train Station



Dates for your diary

September

Friday 12th	Forest School - Year 2
Monday 15th	Willow Class swimming - session 1 of 5
Monday 15th	Parent Information Session: Elm Class Monday 3.45pm
Tuesday 16th	Parent Information Sessions: Ash Class 3.40pm Oak Class 4.00pm Beech Class 4.30pm Willow Class 5.00pm

Friday 19th	Forest School - Year 2
Monday 22nd	Willow Class swimming - session 2 of 5
Friday 26th	Forest School - Year 1
Monday 29th	Willow Class swimming - session 3 of 5

October

Friday 3rd	Forest School - Year 1
Monday 6th	Willow Class swimming - session 4 of 5
Monday 13th	Year 6 Bikeability this week (more details to follow)
Monday 20th	Willow Class swimming - session 5 of 5

Week commencing 20th October—parent consultations: Willow—Monday/Tuesday; Beech Tuesday; Oak Wednesday/Thursday; Ash Tuesday and Elm Tuesday/Wednesday.

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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Email: admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk

Website: www.whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk