

# CONTACT

## The Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

Number 205

8.09.17

### Welcome Back

Here we all are at the start of September and the beginning of yet another school year. We hope you all had a good break and it was lovely to see all the children come back with smiles on their faces, smartly dressed in their uniforms and many with new haircuts. One child at the end of the first day back said to me, "The holiday was great, but today has been even better!" I wouldn't expect every child to feel the same, but it is heart-warming to know that our pupils feel that school is like a second home.

'CONTACT' is the school's main newsletter and it is our way of keeping you informed and up-to-date with what is happening. I would recommend reading it through carefully as there are often lots of pieces of information. It will be sent out by email regularly to keep you up to date with all that is happening at school but hard copies are available from the School Office on request.

We would like to start by welcoming our new members of staff.

In the School Office we now have Mrs Lucy Presneill and Mrs Caroline Rowe. The office will be open from 8.45am until 3.45pm every day.

Joining our teaching team we have Mrs Hannah Boyd, Miss Bethany Dunsford and Mrs Sally Terrett. Mrs Boyd will be teaching Beech Class on Monday and Tuesday with Miss Clarke who will teach Wednesday to Friday. Miss Dunsford is teaching Oak Class and Mrs Terrett Elm Class. All the children have returned to school with positive attitudes and the new Reception children have also made a great start.

With these changes in staff our safeguarding officers have also altered.

Designated Safeguarding Officer

Mrs C Shilston



Deputy Safeguarding Officers

Miss H Clarke



Miss Z Norton



We continued to be committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of all our pupils at school. If you have any safeguarding concerns or you are worried about a child, please speak to one of them.

## **Please help us, to help you and your children.**

We have more pupils on roll at school than we have ever had. This means our space, both inside and outside, is precious and limited. We would be grateful if you could help by reading and following some simple routines at the start and end of the day as this should make the busy times of the day easier for everyone and more importantly less traumatic for all children.



### **In the morning:**

All children from Year 2 upwards can wait in the top playground from 8.50 a.m. onwards, parents are welcome to stay until the bell if they wish to. The children may put their coats and lunch boxes in the cloakrooms. Children in Beech and Willow should line up to go into class when the bell goes.

Children in Year 1 can be left in the Key Stage 1 playground from 8.50 a.m. onwards, however if parents wish to stay with their child until the bell they must wait with them in the top playground. This is to reduce the number of parents in the bottom playground and enable the teacher on duty to be able to supervise the children whose parents don't stay until the bell. Parents of Year 1 children are asked to let children put their lunch boxes and coats away by themselves. They should go into class when the bell goes.

Children in Reception can wait with their parents in the Key Stage 1 playground or be left from 8.50. When the bell goes try and encourage them to go into the classroom on their own.



### **Wet Mornings**

If it is raining in the morning the children will be asked to stay in their classrooms rather than come back out to the playground. Please can you say your goodbyes before they go in and then we encourage you to leave so our sheltered areas don't become congested. The shelter in the lower playground is part of the outside classroom for the reception children and will often be set up with activities for the day so please refrain from standing under it. Mrs Terrett spends a lot of time making it look lovely. Thank you.

### **Home time**

Parents of children in Ash and Elm, classes, (Miss Norton and Mrs Terrett) should wait for their children outside of their classroom in the Key Stage 1 playground. If you could stand along the length of the main building rather than on the grass area it enables greater visibility and access for all. Older children have been told to find their parents in the Key Stage 1 playground. All other children should be collected from the top playground. If you bring younger siblings into school please keep an eye on them as the playground is a busy place.

Children that have not been collected by 3.40pm will be taken to the computer room to wait. Parents need to come to the office to collect them so we know when they have left.

No child can be collected by someone else unless the school is informed prior to collection, so please phone the office to let us know if any collection arrangements have altered that we are unaware of.

## Safety

The lower metal gate (by the bridge), and the top wooden gate (leading from the steps to the Victory Hall car park), will be open for people to use at the start and the end of the day but will be secured between 9.10am and 3.20pm. Please leave the gates ajar so other parents can enter the school before and after school.

***Access into school during school hours will only be in through the left-hand blue main gate.***



Children should not climb on the equipment before school - please could you reinforce the message with them.

## Parking around the school

Please can I remind parents who have to drive to school to drop off and collect their child to **park considerably** and respect the villagers who live in the surrounding area.

Whilst we appreciate it is difficult when nearly 100 families are trying to leave with their children at the same time, we do need to ensure the safety of all of them, including very young children.



We encourage those who have to drive, to park at the Thirsty Farmer, the station or in the village square, and walk to school. A short walk in the fresh air is a great way to invigorate both body and mind.

Please **DO NOT** park in the village hall car park or block household entrances.

We want to have a positive relationship with all those who live in our community.

## Class names

The newsletter will refer to classes by the name of the class. Some information will be for a particular year group or key stage so here is a chart to help you out.

Elm Class	Reception and Year 1	Early Years and Key Stage 1	Mrs Terrett
Ash Class	Year 1 and Year 2	Key Stage 1	Miss Norton
Oak Class	Year 3	Key Stage 2	Miss Dunsford
Beech Class	Year 4 and Year 5	Key Stage 2	Miss Clarke and Mrs Boyd
Willow Class	Year 5 and Year 6	Key Stage 2	Mr Brown

## Music Lessons with Mrs Carter

Mrs Carter has an overwhelming response to her offer of music tuition. She has sent an email out to all those involved explaining what is happening. Lessons start on Wednesday 13th after lunch. In order to minimise the disruption to lessons in the afternoon we ask that the children take their instrument to the hall, using the side door, and leave them sensibly on the stage.

The instruments **must be collected** from the hall at the end of the day, we cannot guarantee their safekeeping.



## Music Clubs for the Autumn Term

*As always, there are a variety of music clubs to give Whimble School's pupils lots of opportunity to take part & enjoy a wide variety of music. The clubs perform each term for the school, parents & community. The choir sometimes have other performances during the year.*



*The clubs available are:*

**Beginner Recorder Club** - Year 2 and up, they will learn to play & to read music. This will be during Tuesday lunchtime 1 to 1.30pm in the annex. We have recorders to lend, and the children will get a book to take home to practice with

**Advanced Recorder Club** - the existing group, after school on Mondays, to 4.30 pm in the library. Children may bring a small snack.

**Whimble School Choir** - Year 2 and up. We enjoy singing a wide range of songs, in many styles. Singing is a great way to increase self-confidence and build team spirit. We'd love to have more older children join as well as younger ones. Rehearsals are Tuesdays after school in the Victory Hall, pick up is by the side door at 4.30pm. Children may bring a snack & drink. They are registered in the library before going up to the hall together.

**Beginner Guitar Club** - Year 3 and up, no experience necessary and we have guitars available to borrow, (£20 returnable deposit against loss or damage). Children will be given a songbook to work from and practice with at home. Tuesday lunchtime 12 to 12.30pm in the annex.

**Advanced Guitar Club** - the existing group Tuesday lunchtime. 12.30 to 1pm.

## Fees

Choir - £10 per child for the term, £17.50 for a family.

Guitar clubs - £2.00 per session - £20 per child

Recorder clubs - £2.50 per session - £25 per child

Payment can be handed into the school office - cash or cheque (to Emma Palmer) or by BACs, let me know if you prefer BACs so I can send details.

The clubs will start on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Please let me know if your child is not continuing with a club they did last term, or if they'd like to join.

Please email me on [empalmusic@gmail.com](mailto:empalmusic@gmail.com)

I look forward to a lot more musical fun this year!

## Other Clubs for the Autumn Term

### Tiger Karate

Martial Arts exclusively for children aged up to 14 years old. Help your child gain the confidence to exceed in life!

Improve your fitness	Learn self defence
Improve flexibility	Improve focus
Discipline	Improve self-confidence
Team work	Regular gradings
Anti-bullying	And most of all have fun!



This club runs after school on a Friday starting 15th September until 4.45pm and has spaces. If you are interested or have any further questions contact:

Gurmure (chief instructor) on 07748992776

or e-mail: [tigerstylesportskarate@yahoo.com](mailto:tigerstylesportskarate@yahoo.com) or visit [www.tigerstylesportskarate.co.uk](http://www.tigerstylesportskarate.co.uk).

### Please Remember

Children attending after school clubs must go and wait quietly in the library until the person in charge of the club comes to collect them. Registers for clubs are always taken. If your child is in school but will not be attending an after school club for which they are registered you must let the person/organisation running the club know that they will not be attending. If your child has been absent from school we will inform the club that they will not be attending.

### Other Clubs:

Premier Sports have decided not to run any after school clubs for us this year. We are looking to find alternative providers and will update you when we know more.



### Book Amnesty

During the summer holiday we have had a big tidy up and found that many of our guided reading sets have books missing. Please can you have a good search at home and return any reading and library books you find back to school.

We will be monitoring our book stock more closely this year due to increasing book losses and unfortunately we will have to start charging for unreturned or damaged books.





## **Advance Warnings**

### **Reception Information Evening**

The information evening will be held on Thursday 21st September commencing at 6pm in Ash classroom. A crèche will be available but will need to be booked in advance. Letters with more information will be coming home shortly.

### **Year 5 Sleepover**

The children in Year 5 will soon be bringing home a letter inviting them to a sleepover in the hall. This is for one night only and will be on Friday 22nd September.

### **A plea for some help (especially men although women are more than welcome)**

As part of our Friday afternoon curriculum we use The Orchard for some great activities led by Mrs Wall. We would like to restart these again as soon as possible.

Last year we cleared the space so the shelter could be erected. Over the summer the area has become overgrown with grass and nettles and we now need to clear it again. If we can clear it again we have someone who will trim the area regularly.

So if you have a pair of gloves and some shears or a strimmer and could you spare us a couple of hours on the morning of **Saturday 23rd September** we would love to see you. The more the merrier! We will meet at The Orchard at 9.30 a.m.



### **Message From All the Staff**

We would like to thank everyone for their gifts and cards at the end of the summer term. They were not necessary but most appreciated.

### **Website**

Don't forget that our school website has lots of information on it and it is continually being updated. So if you are unsure about something it is a good place to look first. The website address is : [www.whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk/website](http://www.whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk/website)

**Clyst Vale Community College**  
**Open Evening for Year 6 students**  
**Tuesday 19th September 2017, from 6 pm**

For more details: <http://www.clystvale.org/new-intake-sept-18/>

# Whimble Primary School Term dates for pupils - 2017/18:

## AUTUMN TERM 2017

6th September to 15th December 2017

Half term - 23rd to 27th October 2017

## SPRING TERM 2018 4th January to 29th March 2018

Half term - 12th to 16th February 2018

## SUMMER TERM 2018 16th April to 26th July 2018

May Day holiday - 7th May 2018

Half term - 28th May to 4th June 2018

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 4th & 5th September 2017, 2nd &

3rd January, 2nd July 2018

# Dates for your diary

September 22nd	Year 5 Sleepover
October 3rd	Willow swimming starts
October 9 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup>	Bikeability (Year 6 – all week)
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	School photos (individual & family photos)
Week commencing October 16th	Parents' evenings
<b>Half term – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>	
November 15th	Theatre Alibi visit 'Apple John'
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – School finishes at 1.30 pm</b>	

**More dates will be added. Whilst we try and give as much notice as possible we occasionally get last minute opportunities which are too good to miss!**

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