

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2025



Whimple Primary School

Issue 8

24.10.25

We've made it! The children and staff have all worked very hard this half-term and are ready for a well-earned break.

Thank you to all of those parents who took the time to attend consultations this week - it was great to be able to feedback how your child is progressing and how we can work together to continue their learning journey.

The children in Oak, Beech and Willow Classes took part in a workshop this afternoon linked to their learning in RE. The Diwali dance workshops were a great and it was a good way to end the week.



Elm Class	Maisie and Roman
Ash Class	Mitchell and Rose
Oak Class	Henry and Freya
Beech Class	Drew and Rosie
Willow Class	Esther and Max St
Lunchtime stars:	
Elm Class	Ava
Ash Class	Harry
Oak Class	Daisy
Beech Class	Toby
Willow Class	Alice S



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



Yesterday afternoon, children from across the federation met on-line with Rev Leon Dundas, to hear about his experiences of growing up in Guyana in South America, before he moved to the UK twenty years ago. He talked about the way that this country gives everyone the same opportunities, regardless of their background, which was encouraging to hear. The children were able to ask him some interesting and insightful questions about his experiences and to learn more about life in Guyana, as well as Leon's experience of moving to London. The final Black History Month poster, 'Their service, our history' is included in this week's newsletters. It focuses on how Black men and women have served our country in the army, navy and air force and showed great courage, loyalty and pride.

EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER [Moorsway schools]

Mr Jolliffe and senior governors have appointed Mrs Leanne Penhallurick to the post of Executive Headteacher of the Moorsway schools from 1st January 2026. She has been Acting EHT since the start of this year and already made a significant impact on the three Moorsway schools. She will continue her role as Head of School at The Erme and will be working alongside Mrs Emma Newman, Head of School at Cornwood, to oversee Shaugh Prior school. Mrs Penhallurick and Mrs Newman meet weekly with Mr Jolliffe and regularly meet with other senior leaders from the Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Penhallurick to this role on a permanent basis and look forward to continuing to work with us as a valued member of the team.

YEAR 5 and 6 Residential Visit

Information about the Year 5 and 6 residential visit is almost complete and will be shared with parents as soon as all the details are finalised. We are still waiting for some final costings for transport before the letters are sent out.

EARLY YEARS INDUCTION SURVEY

Now that Reception children have had their first half term in school, we would like to know more about your experience and how your child has got on in their first few weeks of school. If your child has started in Reception this year, please could you spare a few minutes to complete a short survey? The link is below:

<https://www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk/Reception-Parent-Survey/>

It would really help us to see what has worked well this year and to plan for improvements for next year's Reception children when they start school next autumn.

Support for Families

The Best Start in Life campaign aims to increase awareness of the role of the early years in a child's development, increase parental understanding of things they can do in their child's early years and how early education supports child development. This is why our [Best Start in Life website](#) brings together trusted advice, support and guidance for parents to turn to.



This site has loads of useful practical advice which is easily accessible - take a look.



Bonfire and Fireworks return to Whimple Cricket Club on Saturday 1st November. Fireworks are provided by award winning Sonic Fireworks, and there will be food and drink stalls, live music, bouncy castles and an inflatable ride. This is always a popular night in the village and the school are providing the Guy to go on the bonfire.

Tickets are available online, the link to buy can be found at www.whimplecc.co.uk

THEIR SERVICE, OUR HISTORY

For generations, Black men and women have stood at Britain's frontlines — on land, at sea, and in the air — serving with skill, discipline, and pride. The six lives remembered here reflect a far greater story: one of courage, loyalty, and service that strengthened Britain and earned a lasting place in its history.



WALTER TULL

Professional footballer who became a commissioned officer in the British Army during the First World War. He led his men on the Western Front with courage until his death in 1918.



JOHNNY SMYTHE

RAF navigator in the Second World War who flew hazardous missions over Europe, survived being shot down and held prisoner, and later served Britain in distinguished public roles.



ULRIC CROSS

The most decorated West Indian serviceman of the Second World War, whose RAF missions preceded a diplomatic career that shaped newly independent African nations.



DAVID CLEMETSON

Cambridge-educated Jamaican who served as a commissioned officer in the First World War — a rare distinction at the time. He saw front-line service before his death in 1918.



RICHARD (DICKIE) BARR

Royal Navy veteran whose notable career reflects the long-standing tradition of Black sailors defending Britain at sea and proudly serving with skill across the world's oceans.

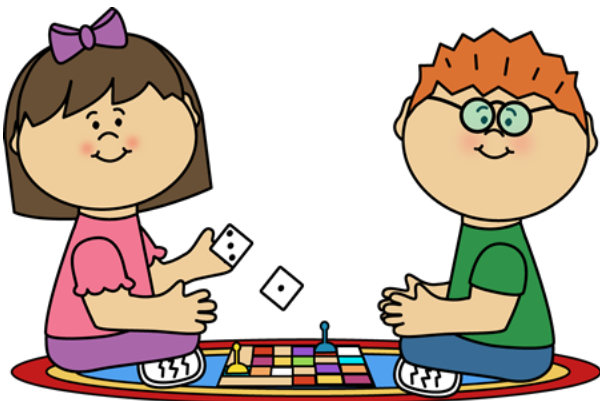


LILIAN BADER

Among the first Black women in Britain's armed forces, she trained as an instrument repairer in the WAAF during the Second World War, keeping aircraft ready for combat.

blackhistorymonth.org.uk

Clubs for Next Half-Term



Games Club

This club will take place in Willow Class on a **Wednesday** after school until 4.30pm. Two of our teaching assistants will run this club. A variety of games will be available to play. The club is open to all year groups and games will be chosen and tailored accordingly.

It will run for 6 weeks at £5 per session. Please book using [this link](#).

Choir Club

Choir will run on a Thursday with Miss Clarke and Mrs Handley in Willow Class. Children will get to learn a variety of songs with the opportunity to also perform at the Exe Valley Federation Carol Service in Cridton if they want to.

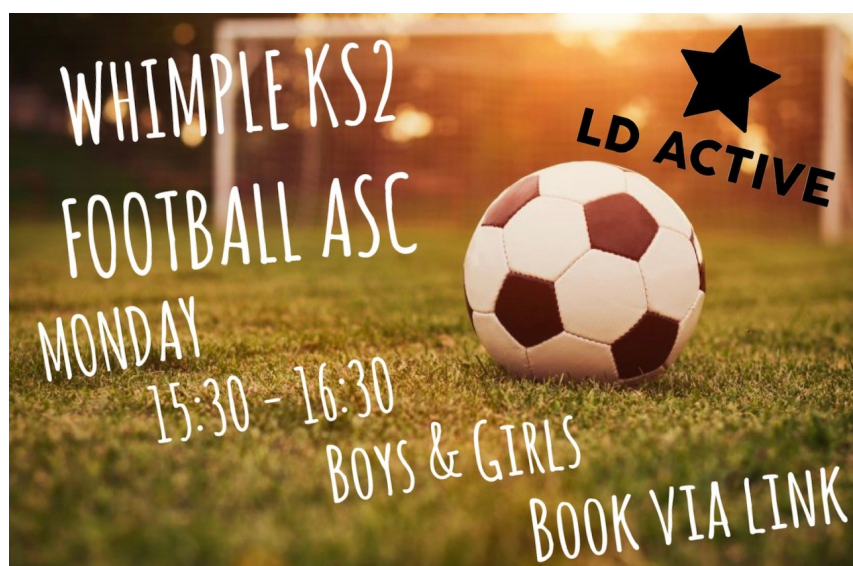
It will run for 5 weeks at £5 per session. Please book using [this link](#).



Football Club

Monday after school at the MUGA
Children in Year 3 to 6.

[Book here](#)



DON'T FORGET:

CHRISTMAS CARDS NEED TO BE ORDERED BEFORE THE 5th NOVEMBER

Dates for your diary

November

Monday 3rd	Start of term
Monday 3rd	Beech Class and Oak Year 4 swimming - session 1 of 6
Monday 10th	Beech Class and Oak Year 4 swimming - session 2 of 6
Monday 17th	Beech Class and Oak Year 4 swimming - session 3 of 6
Monday 24th	Beech Class and Oak Year 4 swimming - session 4 of 6
Thursday 27th	Muft day for Christmas hamper items
Friday 28th	Non Pupil Day

December

Monday 1st	Beech Class and Oak Year 4 swimming - session 5 of 6
Monday 8th	Beech Class and Oak Year 4 swimming - session 6 of 6
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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