

CONTACT

The Newsletter for Whimpe Primary School

Issue 6 - 21

12.02.21

Congratulations!

You have all made it to half-term - whilst I appreciate things may not be too different when we return to school, this has been the longest and hardest half-term on record! Hopefully, with the evenings drawing out a bit more along with some improvement in the weather, things will start to improve for everybody.

We do not know what will be announced by the Government on 22nd February regarding the reopening of school (I have also now given up trying to best guess too!) What we do know is that we have at least two weeks after half-term in the current format.



I have had an increasing amount of requests from keyworker parents for places across the school. Due to the uncertainty of what the Government may decide, I have asked parents to wait until after this before a decision can be made. If the lockdown continues, I will need to re-survey parents and allocate places on a needs basis, due to the numbers of families requesting places now.

Google Meets

Thank you for supporting your children with attending the Google Meets and online assemblies.



Having to accommodate meets for 100 children across 5 classes is no mean feat and has involved teachers using spaces creatively within the school building.

Over the past couple of weeks a few extra meets have been added in to help support children in various ways, including mental health. Whilst we know these are greatly appreciated it is important that teachers are not overloaded and we do have to consider space in school and be mindful of our internet connectivity.

Whilst we are in lockdown school meetings with outside agencies and individuals that are needed to keep the school functioning are unable to be held in person. Many of these meetings are having to be held online and it is important that those involved can have a private space to do this with good connectivity; unfortunately this does restrict the amount of space and time available for Google meets with the children but we are doing all that we can to maximise our communication with those who are home-schooling.

The Google meet timetable for the first two weeks back is attached.

Internet Safety Day (or week in our case)

All classes have had access to some resources linked to Internet Safety. The theme this year was 'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'.

We have taken the opportunity to remind children of how to conduct themselves online and also keeping their personal information and passwords safe.

It is also important that parents monitor children's use of the internet and the sites they access including gaming sites. We have been informed that one of our children has had accounts accessed and information altered.

For more information regarding online safety please see the school website:

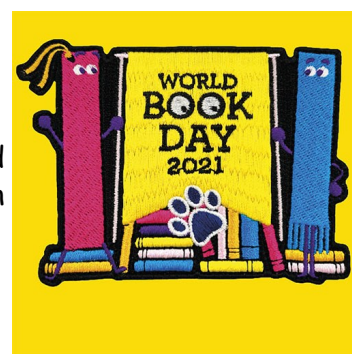
https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/online_safety/378283

Whimble Primary School Online Class

On the classwork tab of the class I have added the Twinkl PowerPoint used in school that you may want to use at home.

World Book Day

It may be worth starting to think of a story book costume. We may hold our World Book Day slightly later in March if we can have all children in school.



Young Devon Wellbeing Toolkit

Tips, tricks and techniques for maintaining good positive mental health throughout lockdown and beyond. Sections include things like worries, sleep and ideas for parents. See the parents tab on the website for the complete booklet.

https://www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk/website/support_during_covid_19/462618

The new 100 Club

We are inviting 100 parents to join our 100 Club.

Here's how it works:

Fifty percent of the money raised by the 100 Club supports the PTA's fundraising activities and the other fifty percent is used as prize money for members. If 100 families take part, the monthly prize is £50 to be divided between 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Each number costs £1.

You will be allocated a number and then we draw the numbers each month at PTA meetings. The winning number for each month is drawn in arrears. Money raised will go towards school equipment, school trips and other added extras that will help support the school and children.

To join our 100 Club, please:-

Complete the membership form below and email it to us at whimble.pta@gmail.com

When you receive an email to confirm, set up a standing order for £1 a month for one year,

beginning 15th February 2021, for each number bought, making sure to put your name as a reference on the bank transfer.

We will then allocate a number to you and enter you into the monthly draw.



Free Online Training! Helping Parents with Home Learning: Getting to Grips with Grammar.

In this session for parents we will explore:

Grammatical terminology. Consolidate your understanding of word classes including nouns, verbs, adjectives, determiners, conjunctions, pronouns and adverbs.

Ways to support your child at home with their understanding of grammar.

This 45 minute session is free to all parents who have children at primary school.

<https://www.dandelionlearning.co.uk/helping-parents-with-home-learning-getting-to-grips-with-grammar/>

Something Different

Mother's Day Competition

Mother's Day is on 14th March this year.

Could you design your own card for your mum? Or write a lovely poem or piece about your mum? Would you like to try and win your lovely mum a bunch of flowers donated by Dilly's Florist and a box of chocolates donated by the Co-op?

Two age groups - Reception/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Card designs to be submitted electronically or post or by hand (letter box in main door).

Closing date 28th February 2021



Newman Prize for English Jueju

If you like word games, poetry, or both, try your hand at this year's Newman Prize for English Jueju, sponsored by the Institute for US-China Issues at the University of Oklahoma. This year there will be a \$500 prize for the best English Jueju in four categories (Elementary, Middle, High School, adult/college, as well as the Best English Jueju from other US States and the UK! There is only one catch — the winning English poem must follow the rules of Classical Chinese Poetry. See the attached document for more details.

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