

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2024



Whimple Primary School

Issue 6

24.05.24

Our internet issues have continued this week; it has made us appreciate how much we use it now, and we have definitely become more creative in how we prepare for each day, as we are never sure when we are likely to be connected. All staff, but especially teachers, have demonstrated problem-solving, creativity and resilience skills over the past two weeks in order to keep delivering good quality lessons, and I would like to thank them for this as it has not been easy at times. Our half-termly curriculum newsletter includes a huge variety of what has been achieved. Beech Class have also shown patience when we have been regularly having to climb a step ladder in their learning space.

I hope you all get to have some sort of break and get to enjoy something outdoors. Don't forget pupils return to school on Tuesday 4th June.

Polite Reminder

Payments for dinners and after school clubs must be paid for in advance. If families have financial concerns regarding payments, please come and speak with us.

Dinner Menu Change for First Week Back

On Thursday 6th June it is National Fish and Chip Day so this will be the meal on that day (green option) - you will not see a change on School Comms as this is a one-off. Cheese and tomato turnover will be the red option.

Holiday Requests/Absence From School

Although holidays cannot be authorised during term unless for very exceptional circumstances, we do appreciate when people are honest. We have had to amend some children's absence when we have discovered the reason given is not true. These absences will be recorded as unauthorised.

Remember children often find it difficult to keep holidays and days out from their peers. Honesty really is the best policy!

Important Information for Parents

Attached with this newsletter is some information from the National Crime Agency/CEOP we have been asked to share with you. This will be of particular interest to those of you with Year 6 and older children.

Next Sweet Sale in the playground will be Friday 24th May.
The Summer Fayre is Saturday 22nd June.
Next Bags2School collection - Wednesday 17th July.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

Last week, the Department for Education published new guidance on teaching Relationship and Sex and Health Education in schools. This is due to become statutory in due course, depending a bit on the outcome of the general election. The new guidance puts age limits on certain aspects of RHSE, so that subjects such as the risks about online gaming, social media and scams should not be taught before year 3 and puberty shouldn't be taught before year 4. Sex education shouldn't be taught before year 5, in line with what pupils learn about conception and birth as part of the national curriculum for science. As the Exe Valley Federation schools use approved teaching programmes for RHSE [either 1-Decision or Jigsaw], any changes to the curriculum will be reflected within the resource subscription content in line with the new guidance as it emerges. At present, the content remains compliant with the current guidance and is unlikely to need to be changed very much. Parents still have the right to withdraw their child from sex education, but not from the essential content covered in relationships education.

More information about our RSE policy can be found on the EVF website and the updated guidance from the DfE can be found at www.educationhub.blog.gov.uk. If you have any concerns or questions about the teaching of RHSE, please do contact your child's Head of School or me, via the school offices.

PARENT GOVERNOR

Following a request for parent governors to join the Exe Valley Federation board, one nomination was received and Hannah Jones-McVey has now joined the board as a parent governor. Hannah's pen portrait can be found on the federation website under 'governance'. The previous parent governor was James Edlin-Benwell.

Beard Shaving for Charity



On Friday the 17th May Mr Ramsdale came into the school for an assembly to talk about his upcoming run in Kenya at the end of June. He spoke about his family's background in the country and what the charity he is raising money for supports out there. The children were very interested, being particularly concerned about the possibility of some of the animals catching up on the run.

After the assembly he shaved off his beard in the playground, raising £30 from those present.



If you wish to donate to his fundraising, the page is still available here

<https://gbp24.supportlewasafarimarathon.com/campaigns/Steve-Ramsdale>



Dates for your diary

June

- 3rd Non-Pupil Day - staff training
9th Park Run at Cranbrook
21st Sports Day (morning only at the Cricket Club)
26th EVF Year 6 transition day
28th Non-Pupil Day - staff training

Key assessment dates for 2024

- Phonics Screening (Year 1) w/c 10th June
Times Tables Check (Year 4) w/c 3rd June

Term dates for pupils - 2023/24:

SUMMER TERM 2024 15th April to 25th July 2024
Half term - 27th May to 31st May 2024
Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 3rd June and 28th June 2024

Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

AUTUMN TERM 2024 5th September to 18th December 2024
Half term - 28th to 1st November 2024

SPRING TERM 2025 7th January to 4th April 2025
Half term - 17th to 21st February 2025

SUMMER TERM 2025 22nd April to 25th July 2025
May Day holiday - 5th May 2025
Half term - May 26th to 30th May 2025
Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 3rd and 4th September, 29th November 2024, 6th January, 27th June 2025

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