

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2025



Whimple Primary School

Issue 2

12.09.25

As we complete our first week back, the children are becoming more familiar with the daily routines and are really trying hard to listen carefully. It is really beneficial to all if we encourage our children to be independent, this is a valuable life skill. As adults we can help by allowing them to do certain things for themselves, for example, carrying their own bag and coat. This also helps them to remember they have one, and what it looks like, so they can take responsibility for their belongings.

Please Please

Label all items of clothing, including coats. At this time of year, jumpers, cardigans and coats tend to be put on and taken off more frequently. Named items can be returned really easily. (Don't forget to check them occasionally as names also have a habit of being washed out or labels fall off).

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.

Forest School

We are really lucky to have our Forest School and MUGA area over at Slewton Crescent. However, because it is off-site we have to have higher adult to child ratios to ensure everyone's safety. If you know of someone who enjoys those types of activities and would be interested in volunteering to help us, please ask them to contact me via the school office. Our sessions for Forest School tend to be on a Friday afternoon and all volunteers are subject to DBS and reference check.

Rock Steady

Rock and Pop band lessons are available in school each Friday morning.

Children can learn an instrument, increase their self-confidence and gain music qualifications. For more details please see attached flyer.

Dates for your diary: The next Bags2School Collection will be on Wednesday 1st October.

Christmas Events: Thursday 11th December KS2 Carol Service (6pm) and Wednesday 17th December Ash and Elm Class nativity (4pm).





Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



You may have heard in the news this week that Ofsted have published their new inspection framework for schools, following extensive consultation during the earlier part of this year. The new framework will give schools a report card covering seven key areas of their work and will judge each one of these on a five-point scale, from 'Exceptional' to 'Urgent Improvement'. Safeguarding will be judged separately as a stand-alone area, as either 'met' or 'not met'. There are a number of other changes to the inspection methodology that will mean that inspectors evaluate the curriculum more broadly, whilst retaining a sharp focus on English and maths.

Senior leaders are fully supportive of the principles of accountability and external monitoring of the quality of education in their schools. Inspections are always challenging for school leaders and governors, because of the extremely high level of scrutiny that schools come under in a 'one size fits all' inspection system. We always appreciate the support and understanding of parents and the wider community during Ofsted visits and value your contribution to the inspections through Parent View.

CHANGES TO FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES

We appreciate that sometimes, family circumstances change, and it really helps us to know about this so that we can respond appropriately. We can offer support to families through signposting to other organisations if you would find this helpful when things change.

If your family circumstances do change whilst your child is at our school, it would also 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 settings if your circumstances do change. 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.

We understand that changes to family circumstances can be very difficult for both parents and children and their wider family networks, so please do contact us if we can help in any way.

Don't Forget

Parent Information Sessions

At the beginning of each school year, we hold parent information meetings 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 in the week commencing 20th October. The dates are on the last page of this newsletter. Times and how to book will be available nearer to the time..

Eco-Award

Big congratulations to our Eco Committee members for their work over the past two years to achieve Green Flag status for Whimble Primary School in 2025-2026. The assessors from Keep Britain Tidy were...

"...delighted by your school's absolutely superb waste reducing and recycling initiatives where you not only set up battery recycling facilities with The Pod but held a Xmas jumper swap shop for your Xmas market, a book swap for World Book Day and also took part in the Packed Lunch Waste Challenge, promoting both reusable bottles and containers, with Recycle Devon and hosted both their waste workshops and Marine plastics workshops.

Marvellous Eco projects that can really help to raise awareness and make a difference."



Skills Builder Gold Award

With your help, we have done it again!

After submitting our evidence at the end of the summer term, we have once again been awarded a Gold Award. So thank you very much.

The Skills Builder Framework has been updated and refreshed recently, so watch out for new icons and descriptors in future newsletters. We really want to continue developing these essential skills in our children to improve their chances in adulthood.

Thank you to the PTA for funding 50% of this great resource for us. It benefits all children.



Congratulations to

Whimble Primary School

We're building the essential skills for success.



Tom Ravenscroft,
Founder & CEO, Skills Builder Partnership
skillsbuilder.org



The new Primary Times—Devon Back To School issue covering from now until mid-October is available in the reception area.

This issue has a big focus on Open Events and transfer procedures for those pupils looking at moving to secondary school, with lots of advice and information both locally and in general, alongside our usual listings detailing general family activities.



THE DEVON Back To School EDITION IS ON ITS WAY TO YOUR SCHOOL

In addition, we are excited to launch our Primary Times Star Awards for 2025, which gives families the chance to celebrate their favourite local businesses in exchange for the chance to win some fantastic prizes.

Join FORCE for local food producers & crafters, refreshments & more.
Telephone Lyndsey: 07964836429 for more info or visit us on the following dates:

OPEN 9.30AM-12.30PM

- ☑ 27th September
- ☑ 25th October
- ☑ 22nd November
- ☑ 13th December

The Institute, Yonder St
Ottery St Mary EX11 1HD

Dates for your diary

September

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

Wednesday 1st	Bags 2 School Collection
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

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