

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2024



Whimple Primary School

Issue 2

13.09.24

Well we have all managed a full week - well done! It is always tricky getting back into routine again so it is great when we can help each other whilst being consistent with what we expect and want to achieve.

Mrs Rowe has been very busy in the office setting up lots of things and sending out a range of forms. First thing in the morning is particularly busy with ensuring all children are in school and meals being organised. She has had to answer the gate many times this week for forgotten items, we appreciate some things are necessary but for items like water bottles we are able to sort this in school. If children forget their drinks bottle please do not worry - children will not go without a drink!

Curriculum Newsletters

Please find attached the curriculum newsletters for each class. These provide information about what is being covered this term alongside things you can do to help at home. These will also be discussed at the 'Meet the Teachers' sessions next week.

Monday 16th: Ash Class 3.30pm and Beech Class 4pm

Tuesday 17th: Elm Class 3.30pm and Willow Class 4.30pm

Wednesday 18th: Oak Class 3.30pm

The newsletters, along with lots of other information are also available on the [school website](#).

Gardening

We have had one wonderful volunteer to help with gardening last year who would like to continue but ideally along with another adult (or more) so it can be a more productive session. This could be just an hour once a fortnight. If you know of anyone who is interested please send them our way. Volunteers are subject to DBS checks.

We are also looking for donations of autumn plants, spring bulbs and compost so we can refresh our pots and flower beds, so if you have any spare please bring them into the school office.





Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



In last week's newsletter there was a reminder about attendance and the standard letter about holidays in term time was sent to all families alongside their school's news. The DfE published new regulations for schools on improving attendance in August this year and Devon County Council have now written an updated letter that we have to send to all parents twice a year, reminding you about the regulations around school attendance. The amount that the local authority fines parents for taking children on holiday in term time has increased to £80 for a first penalty notice if it is paid within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days. All schools are required to follow the regulations for authorising holidays in term time and there are very few reasons for us to allow children to be out of school for this reason. Senior leaders meet monthly to review attendance and monitor both lateness, absences and holidays very carefully. We have to report attendance to governors each term and explain what we are doing to improve or maintain good levels of attendance in our schools.

Under the new regulations, it is extremely unlikely that Heads will authorise avoidable absences such as holidays taken in term time. The term dates, including the two Staff Development Days in November and June, are published on the federation website until July 2026 so that you can plan holidays well in advance. Please help us by not requesting holidays in term time as we cannot authorise them and are required to report these to the local authority who will issue fines.

Secondary school admission applications for September 2025 are now open!

If your child has just started Year 6 you can apply now for their place at secondary school for September 2025.

For most schools in Devon, there is an [admissions priority for children if they live in the school's designated area](#). You can also [explore other schools](#) to find which is the best fit for your child's needs and interests. Don't forget to check with the schools you are interested in to see if they are holding open days/evenings/tours.

It's also important to be aware of the [school transport policy](#) so that you understand who will be responsible for getting your child to and from school before applying for or accepting a place. Once you've chosen a school(s), [use our online application form](#) to express your preference(s). You can name up to three different schools and these are equally ranked preferences, which means you can apply for the schools you most want without affecting your chances of a place at other schools. If you cannot apply online, please contact the Education helpline on [0345 155 1019](#) and ask for a paper copy of the form to be sent to you.

Applications must be made before the national closing date of Thursday 31 October 2024. If you apply after this date, the application will be considered late and may be at a disadvantage. The date that all allocations of school places are announced in England is known as 'Offer Day'. For September 2025 secondary school starters this will be on Monday 3 March 2025.

[Visit our website](#) for more information about applying for a secondary school place, including a [step-by-step guide](#).

School Clubs Starting from Monday 23rd September:



Japanese Club - Year 1 to Year 6

Konichiwa!

Come along to 'Japanese Club' and find out all about Japan. Have a go at origami, using chopsticks or try your hand at calligraphy. Learn to say some words and phrases, to sing a song and how to count in Japanese. Read some traditional Japanese tales and explore some traditional Japanese toys and everyday objects. Learn about Japanese customs, some of the festivals celebrated by Japanese people and even find out how to write your own name using 'Katakana' (one of the writing systems). Plus lots more to explore!

Miss Corwood and Mrs Boyd look forward to seeing you at 'Japanese Club' starting Monday 23rd September. This club will be held in Elm Class so collection at 4.30pm will be from the lower playground outside the classroom.

Please click the following link: <https://forms.gle/gx38ko4zar5pffsk6>

Multisports - Year 3 to Year 6

We are delighted to be able to offer a new KS2 multisports club on a Monday after school. This will involve a range of activities from netball, football, basketball and more and is open to any children in Year 3 or above. The sessions will be led by a fully qualified and trained sports coach and will be supported by Mr Brown. We hope to be able to offer more throughout the year to give a wide range of activities for all the children in our school community.



To sign up, please use the following link which will take you to a booking and payment page and we hope to see your child there!

<https://activities.bookpebble.co.uk/activity/ld-active-whimple-multisports-asc-exeter-f155bcef-aad1-437e-a3fb-faf5fb168c44>

Choir - Year 1 to Year 6

Choir will commence again on Thursday 26th September—this is open to children from Year 1 to Year 6 for this term. For children in Year 1 and 2 this is from 3.30pm to 4.10pm at a cost of £15 (£3 per session) and from 3.30pm to 4.30pm for children in Year 3 to 6 at a cost of £25 (£5 per session.)

Please click the following link: <https://forms.gle/uyJ3ZHVzCYDiapwW6>

We require you to commit to the half termly block.

Online Safety

Our Year 3 children have brought home a copy of the KS2 Acceptable Use Policy for both you and them to sign. We will discuss the content with the children but would appreciate if you could also talk through the main points. Together we can help to support our children to make good choices when online.

Willow Class Swimming

Swimming starts on Monday 23rd September for all children in Willow Class. A form has been sent home - please complete this as soon as possible and return to the school office. Children will be unable to go without them.

Parent Consultations

Dates have been set in advance for parent consultations later this half-term so they can be pencilled in your diaries. This will be a chance for you to meet with the class teacher to discuss how your child is getting on and how you can help them on their learning journey. More details of how to book will become available closer to the dates.

Willow Class: Monday 21st October and Tuesday 22nd October

Beech Class: Tuesday 22nd October

Oak Class: Wednesday 23rd October

Ash Class: Tuesday 22nd October

Elm Class: Tues 22nd October and Thursday 24th October



Dates for your diary

September

Monday 16th Ash Class Meet the Teacher - 3.30pm
Monday 16th Beech Class Meet the Teacher - 4pm
Tuesday 17th Elm Class Meet the Teacher - 3.30pm
Tuesday 17th Willow Class Meet the Teacher - 4.30pm
Wednesday 18th Oak Class Meet the Teacher - 3.30pm
Friday 20th Forest School - Ash Class
Monday 23rd Japanese club starts 3.30pm to 4.30pm
Monday 23rd Sports Club starts 3.30pm to 4.30pm
Tuesday 24th European Languages Day
Thursday 26th Choir starts

October

Tuesday 8th Vision screening - Reception children

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