

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2024



Whimple Primary School

Issue 3

03.05.24

As we head towards a bank holiday weekend, I think we are all hoping to see some sunshine. Beech Class were lucky enough with the weather today and enjoyed a great day of outdoor learning.



Polite Requests

Blue Gates: With more after school clubs and therefore children on site, it is really important that we keep our main gates closed.

On entering and leaving the school via the blue gates after school hours, the magnetic gate system is off so please can you place the top bar across. Many thanks for your cooperation.

The office is handling a lot of requests to collect items from the gate, throughout the morning. We ask that unless an item is essential, for example, a packed lunch, please do not worry about it. For instance, children can still access water throughout the day without needing a water bottle. The office is likely to be unmanned at times, particularly on Fridays, and this would really help us.

Curriculum Newsletters

The newsletters for each class for this term are attached to the newsletter email as well as being available on the relevant class pages on the website. They provide lots of information about what your child will be learning about this term as well as lots of practical suggestions on how to help at home. Also included are reminders about days for PE, homework, etc.

Netball Club

There are still some spaces for children in Year 4 to 6 to play netball on a Tuesday 3.30 to 4.30pm. As with all of our clubs, the cost would be £5/week. If your child is interested, please [sign up here](#).

Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



The Exmoor Challenge is a great opportunity for Year 6 children to work together in teams to navigate around a course on Exmoor, starting at Dulverton School on Saturday morning. There are four people in a team and they have to follow a 16 mile route which is not marked, so following instructions, map-reading, and compass skills are essential. There are a series of check-points along the route and each leg has to be done in a pre-determined time; points are deducted if teams arrive too early or too late. I am delighted that children from Whimple School have joined the other teams this year and wish all the teams well on this exciting opportunity to develop their independence and stamina. Many thanks to Mr Nichols, our Outdoor Learning lead teacher, and the other members of staff who are going to spend Saturday in Dulverton making sure the teams are safe and well. I look forward to hearing how the teams got on, on Tuesday.

PARENT GOVERNOR

We have a vacancy for a parent governor and would welcome a new member of the governors' team to join us. At present we do not have parents from Silverton School so would particularly welcome representation from there but everyone is welcome to apply. If you are interested in finding out more about the role of a parent governor, please do contact Mr Jolliffe via your child's school office. Nomination forms can be requested from Mrs Heidi Last, Clerk to Governors, [hlst@exevalleyfederation.org.uk] and should be returned to her by next Friday, 10th May. Prospective governors will be expected to complete enhanced DBS checks before taking up their role.

PARENT SURVEY

The annual parent survey is your opportunity to help shape the priorities of the federation schools for the coming year and your views are really important to senior leaders as they begin to plan for the autumn and beyond. This year's parent questionnaire includes the questions that Ofsted ask in their parent survey and also focuses on mental health and wellbeing. Please could all parents take a few minutes to complete the online survey over the next two weeks so that we can learn more about your views? The survey will be open early next week and can be found by following this link:

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

So that we can consider all the responses ahead of shaping the new Federation Development Plan, please can you complete the survey by next Friday, 10th May. Thank you very much for your help.



Thank you!
BAGS 2 SCHOOL
collection
raised £100 on Monday

Dates for your diary

May

- 9th Oak Class Outdoor Learning Day
13th Elm Class trip to Drakes Farm
17th Willow Class Outdoor Learning Day
24th Elm Class Outdoor Learning Day

June

- 21st Sports Day (morning only at the Cricket Club)
26th EVF Year 6 transition day
27th Skills Builder Challenge Day
28th Non-Pupil Day—staff training

Key assessment dates for 2024

- Year 6 SATs w/c 13th May
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

May Day holiday - 6th May 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

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk

Website: www.whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk