

# NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024



## Whimple Primary School

Issue 8

01.03.24

Like all schools, we continue to work with pupils and their families to improve attendance. With all your help, the school received a National Attendance Award this week for being in the top 25% for autumn attendance.



This week has been more challenging, as we are aware there are many children suffering with sore throats. Just remember to inform the office by phone message or email (with attendance in the header) by 9.15am, when your child is unwell being clear about the reason for absence.

### World Book Day

We are looking forward to seeing everyone's costumes next Friday - the staff are busy getting theirs sorted too. We will hold a special assembly to see if we can guess the characters and share some books.

### Reception Parent Consultations

Miss Corwood and Mrs Handley will be available to meet with parents of Reception children on Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st March.

Appointments are available to book from Friday 1st March 5.30pm on ESchools. (not school comms)

## Federation News from Mr Jolliffe



You may have heard in the news this week that mobile phones are set to be prohibited in schools across England as part of the government's plan to minimise disruption and improve behaviour in classrooms. Although this is aimed mainly at secondary schools, we know that some primary aged children have mobile phones by the time they are in Year 5 or 6. The new mobile phones in schools guidance backs headteachers in prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day, including at break times. By the age of 12, 97% of children have their own mobile phone, according to Ofcom. Using mobile phones in schools can lead to online bullying, distraction and classroom disruption which, in turn, can lead to lost learning time. This guidance will ensure there is a consistent approach across all schools, although non-statutory, it should be considered alongside the behaviour in schools guidance which supports schools in establishing calm, safe and supportive environments conducive to teaching, and keeping children safe in education.

Schools will be supported to prohibit mobile phone use with examples of different approaches including banning phones from the school premises, handing in phones on arrival at school and keeping phones securely locked away at school. This is the practice in EVF schools, which keeps phones safe and out of use during the day. We know that older children who walk home on their own are safer if they have someone to contact by phone so we don't want to ban them in school altogether. The move will bring England in line with steps taken by other countries who have restricted mobile phone use including France, Italy and Portugal.

### YEAR 3 & 4 RESIDENTIAL VISIT

Parents of children in Year 3 and 4 should have received the information about their residential visit to Okehampton early in the summer term. Children from Newton St Cyres, Silverton and Thorverton will be going from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April and children from Brampford Speke, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Sandford and Whimble will be going on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April. If you have any questions, you are welcome to call Mr Jolliffe at Cheriton Fitzpaine School on 01363 866456 on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March [return calls will be made in the following 48 hours if needed] or email Mr Nichols via your child's school office and he will email or contact you directly. All the information is on the EVF website under 'key information' and 'residential visits'.

The Solihull Approach understanding your child's behaviour has been piloted extensively and has been run successfully several times in the Exe Valley Federation. It encourages parents and carers to identify the most important issues in their relationships with their child/children and to reflect on why sometimes things go well and sometimes they do not. It is then easier for parents and carers to identify how to work together with their child. The sessions also allow time for parents and carers to explore some of the pressures they themselves are under. This in turn will increase confidence and self-esteem in both parents, carers and their children. It is not a therapy group, although parents and carers can be signposted to other groups and organisations that may be helpful to them.

We are pleased to be running this course at Newton St Cyres Parish Hall for ten weeks from Wednesday, 6th March 2024 from 9.30-11.30. If this sounds like something you could be interested in and would like something you could be interested in and would like to secure a place on the course, please email Lin Thresher at [lthresher@exevalleyfederation.org.uk](mailto:lthresher@exevalleyfederation.org.uk).

## Comic Relief

For Comic Relief on Friday 15th March, the School Council have decided they would like children to dress up in any of the following:

- As a character from the Mr Men or Little Miss books
- As a superhero
- Anything that will make another person laugh or smile, could include crazy hair
- Anything red.



Due to smaller numbers going on our Year 6 residential this year, the children are finding ways to help raise funds to help subsidise the cost of the trip. They are going to have a baking session and cake sale will be held after school on Friday 15th March.

We are also asking for donations of cakes and biscuits to add to those our older children will be baking. - 25% of the money made will be kept for the trip with the rest going to Comic Relief.

Donations can be made online or brought into school:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=13946>

## Whimple PTA



The newsletter is attached so please take time to read it. There is a sweet sale today in the playground after school.

Key items include:

- Easy Fundraising
- Bags2School
- Easter Egg Hunt



## Mothering Sunday

*You are warmly invited  
For a 'family' gathering*

**On Sunday 10th  
March at 4pm Whimple Church.**  
*As we remember and celebrate all those who  
have loved us, cared for us and nurtured us  
like mothers during our lives.*

There will be tea, coffee, scones, jam and cream, a reflection on motherhood, some music, three guest 'Mum's in conversation' on the joys and challenges of motherhood, a children's activity, and posies of flowers.

Everyone is welcome.



## Recycle to Read Batteries Collection

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

Our school is recycling batteries to protect the planet (and for a chance to win book vouchers for the school).

We need your help - plus your child could win some fantastic eco-inspired prizes too!

### **How can you help?**

1. Hunt out used batteries at home. We are collecting AA, AAA, C, D, 9V and button batteries.
2. Tape over the contacts of lithium (Li) and button batteries (see below).
3. Put them in a tied plastic bag (preferably reused)
4. Take them to the school's collection point in the School Office.
5. Enter the prize draw at [jointhepod.org/win](http://jointhepod.org/win)

### **Safety first:**

Not only is storing and recycling batteries safely great for the environment, it can also help reduce risks associated with batteries:

- Batteries can cause serious injury or death if swallowed, please keep batteries out of reach of small children and pets.
- Lithium and button batteries need to be taped so their contacts don't touch, as they could short circuit if they do.

*Use sticky tape over the contacts (top and bottom of batteries). Button batteries can be placed in a line between two sections of sticky tape. Lithium batteries can look like any battery, but they will have lithium (Li) written on them.*

Many thanks for your support and happy battery hunting!

To find out more, head to: [jointhepod.org/batteries](http://jointhepod.org/batteries)

**Whimble Primary School ECO Committee**

# Dates for your diary

## March

- 8th Whimble World Book Day  
18th Year 5 Showdown at Barnfield Theatre  
w/c 18th Reception Parent Consultations (more info next week)  
w/c 18th Report go home to parents  
w/c 25th Parent consultations Year 1 to Year 6 if required

## April

- 18th - 19th Year 3 and 4 residential to Okehampton  
29th Bags2School Collection

## 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:

**SPRING TERM 2024** 4<sup>th</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**SUMMER TERM 2024** 15<sup>th</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024

May Day holiday - 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Half term - 27<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

**AUTUMN TERM 2024** 5<sup>th</sup> September to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Half term - 28<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

**SPRING TERM 2025** 7<sup>th</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Half term - 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

**SUMMER TERM 2025** 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025

May Day holiday - 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Half term - May 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 6<sup>th</sup> January, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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