

CONTACT

The Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

Issue 12-20

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Animal Classes



We have had four animal classes back in to school over the past 3 weeks which has been fantastic. We really would have liked to offer more but time and capacity has limited us.

However, it is great to be able to say that over this half term we have invited everyone back at some point and 87% of our pupils have attended at least one week in school. Half of these pupils have accessed over 4 weeks of school - a truly amazing feat.

Thank you for your faith in us and a massive thank you to all the staff in school that have worked very long hours to enable this to happen, whilst continuing to provide lessons/activities for home learning too.



Classes for next year

Classes have been set for next year and emailed out with this newsletter.



Music Tuition Information

In order to support our music curriculum in schools we are lucky to have access to whole class sets of instruments. These are particularly useful at KS2. In order to continue to receive this support we have to complete a survey which involves a range of information. As many children are not in school to ask personally we need your help with some of this information. Information is submitted in numerical form and children are not identifiable. The questions relate to all music events between September 2019 and now.

Please can you read and email us:

- If your child is learning to play an instrument (this does not have to be in school), let us know which instrument(s) and what grade they are currently playing, including whether they have taken a graded exam and at what level.
- If they have taken part in any music event.

All information to be submitted by Friday 17th July please. Thank you.

The 2020 Summer Reading Challenge is here!

The Summer Reading Challenge, presented by The Reading Agency and funded by Arts Council England, encourages children aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading challenge to help prevent the summer reading 'dip'. <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Each year the Challenge, delivered through public libraries, motivates over 700,000 children to keep reading to build their skills and confidence. Last year more than 14,000 children across Devon and Torbay took part.

With the disruption caused by COVID-19 and the impact of social distancing on schools and public libraries, the 2020 Challenge will launch as a digital activity to keep children reading over the summer and support parents and carers with children already at home. The Challenge will run from June to September.

This year, Silly Squad, the Summer Reading Challenge 2020, celebrates funny books, happiness and laughter and features bespoke artwork from award-winning children's author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson (Amelia Fang; Evil Emperor Penguin; I Don't Want Curly Hair). Children taking part in the Challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck in to all different kinds of funny books!

The digital Challenge is free to access, featuring games, quizzes and digital and downloadable activities to incentivise and encourage children and their families to take part in reading-related activities at home. Although our library buildings are closed we have boosted the number of children's books available to borrow via our e-lending platforms which can be accessed from <https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena>. From July we will also be hosting lots of Silly Squad events and activities on our Facebook pages, so look out for those!

Parents to sign up their children up at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Ottery St Mary Library <https://www.facebook.com/otterystmarylibrary> will be hosting lots of Silly Squad digital events throughout the summer.

Summer Holiday Provision

As the Prime Minister confirmed in his announcement on 23rd June, providers who run community activities, holiday clubs, after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school provision for children will be able to operate over the summer holiday with safety measures in place.

On the 1st July the government set out guidance for providers of out-of-school settings, like holiday or tuition clubs, that wish to operate over the summer holidays. They have released [protective measures guidance](#) to help them put measures in place to reduce the risk of infection and transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). When state schools in the local area have closed for the summer term, children of all ages and from multiple schools may attend these settings.

Finding Childcare

The Early Years and Childcare Service have put a list together of those holiday schemes that are intending to open over the summer holidays. There is also [up to date information on Pinpoint](#) which includes Early Years group settings, Childminders and Holiday Clubs.

https://services.pinpointdevon.co.uk/kb5/devon/services/results.action?coronavirusstatus=0&communitychannel=11_10

If you cannot find what you need please complete the [Unable to Find Childcare Form](#) and return it to Pinpoint.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/early-years-and-childcare/devon-family-information-directory/childcare-brokerage/unable-to-find-suitable-childcare>

If you are happy to do so one of the team will contact you to help with finding the childcare you need over the summer holiday period.

Dear Parents/Guardians

There will be a FoWS EGM (Emergency general meeting) the week of the 14th September. Specific date TBC.

The situation is if no one comes forward to take on the role as Chairperson, by the date of the meeting, there will sadly be no other course of action but to disband FoWS as an organisation.

Hopefully this won't happen. If you are interested in the role please get in touch.

Thankyou

Ali Large



Dates for your diary

Tuesday 21st July

End of term - finish time stays the same for each year group with the last pick up at 3.30pm.

Term dates for pupils - 2020/21:

AUTUMN TERM 2020

7th September to 18th December 2020

Half term - 26th to 30th October 2020

SPRING TERM 2021

5th January to 1st April 2021

Half term - 15th to 19th February 2021

SUMMER TERM 2021

19th April to 23rd July 2021

May Day holiday - 3rd May 2021

Half term - 31st May to 4th June 2021

*Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 3rd and 4th September,
23rd October 2020, 4th January, 7th June 2021*

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