

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025



Whimple Primary School

Issue 4

31.1.25

As we say goodbye to January, it was lovely to see some sunshine. This was welcomed by the children in Oak Class and in Year 1 and 2 for their Forest School sessions yesterday.

It was great to accompany the Year 5 and 6 children to the Great Hall, at Exeter University to listen to the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra alongside hundreds of children from other schools. Listening to a live orchestra tends to be a rare event but a really valuable one.

Next Friday, the year 5 and 6 children will be learning some map reading skills and then participating in a walk around the local area. Details of this was sent out earlier this week.

Year 3 and 4 Residential

All the information regarding the Year 3 and 4 residential to Okehampton has been sent with this newsletter. A kit list has been provided along with an overview of the stay. Teachers will talk to the children and answer any questions they have, along with sorting meal and room arrangements. Please take the time to talk through things with them and come and speak with us if you are unsure about anything.

Dance Showdown

Children in year 5 and 6 should have brought home a letter explaining about the EVF Dance Showdown being held at the Barnfield Theatre. This was a great event when we took part last year. Children do not have to take part, it is optional, as we appreciate getting up onto stage is not everyone's idea of fun. Please confirm whether your child is taking part by emailing child's name, school and class to prule@premier-education.com. If your child does not want to take part, I would be grateful if you will email the office to let us know. This will avoid us then contacting you again. There may be tickets available for some of those children to come and watch depending on availability.

Skills Builder Parent Workshop

We have nearly 20 parents signed up for our workshop next Tuesday. That is fantastic! The session will last an hour with an introduction online from our Senior Education Associate, followed by some hand on activities. We look forward to seeing you all there.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

On Wednesday last week we had a school review at Whimble, led by senior leaders from the Exe Valley Federation and our adviser from Devon Education Services. This is a great opportunity for schools to share their successes and for leaders to explore together what to work on next. The school review programme is very thorough and enables us to look at many aspects of the school's work and triangulate planning with children's work, lesson studies and talking to children. It was a real pleasure for me to join the team for the feedback and to hear all the positive reports about different aspects of Whimble's work from Mrs Theedom and Mr Holding [Heads of Cheriton Fitzpaine and Thorverton] and the Lead Teachers for English and maths who work alongside Mr Brown and Miss Clarke. Huge thanks to Mrs Shilston and all the staff who worked so hard to prepare for the day and made the team feel so welcome.

YEAR 3 and 4 RESIDENTIAL VISIT

Information about the Year 3 and 4 residential visit to Okehampton is being sent home with newsletters today. Copies of all the information and a short presentation about the visit can be found on the federation website.

PRAYER ROOM

The next prayer room will be held at Silverton Evangelical Church on Friday, 14th February at 9.30am. Any parents who would like to join us to pray for the work of the Exe Valley Federation schools would be very welcome to join us. More information from Andy Mathers [apmathers@gmail.com].

CREATION STATION HOLIDAY CLUB

Creation Station Holiday Club is running at Silverton C of E School [Coach Road, Silverton, EX5 4JY] on Thursday, 20th and Friday, 21st February from 9am-3.30pm each day.

Suitable for 5-12 years, and 4 year olds are able to do a shorter day 9am-1pm for £17

Children need to bring a packed lunch, snacks and drinks

Art and crafts every day, along with games and free time

Winter-themed crafts

Single day cost is £32 or £55 for both days [discount when paying via BACS: £30 single day, £52 for both]

20% sibling discount

For more details, please contact Kat Howard at The Creation Station Exeter & Mid Devon on 07817955997 or go to the website www.thecreationstation.co.uk or email kathoward@thecreationstation.co.uk.



Hedgelaying Volunteer Days

A good number of people were involved in the two weekends at our orchard site in Slewton Crescent. Over 20 metres of hedge got laid with lots more ready to lay. A dead hedge was created on one boundary and the willow dome has been rewoven. Another working party has been organised for Sunday 16th February.

A big thank you to all of those giving up their time to help maintain our orchard area.

Can you help?

We need colourful leaflets and magazines for an upcoming arts project.

If you have any you have finished with, please put them in the recycling box in the reception area beside the office.

Thank you.

**1ST JOIN
WHIMPLE
CUBS & SCOUTS**

We meet weekly during term time:
Cubs - Mondays - 6.30 - 8.00
Scouts - Tuesdays - 7.00 - 8.30

To find out more or join us, email:

Cubs (age 8 - 10½) - rosemaryhilling@gmail.com

Scouts (age 10½ - 14) - cat.culshaw@gmail.com

Dates for your diary

February

- Monday 3rd Beech and Oak Year 4 swimming lessons (5 weeks, last session 10th Feb)
Tuesday 4th Skills Builder Parent/Child Workshop 4pm in the hall
Friday 7th Year 5 and 6 Map Reading and Walking Day
Thursday 13th Oak Forest School (am); Ash Forest School + Elm Year 1(pm)

March

- Monday 31st EVF Dance Showdown at the Barnfield Theatre (Year 5 and 6)

April

- Wednesday 30th to Thursday 1st May Year 3/4 Residential

June

- Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th Year 5/6 Residential

Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

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): 27th June 2025

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk

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