

# NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025



## Whimple Primary School

Issue 6

14.02.25

We have arrived at half-term - there have been a number of children off with chicken pox, many of them have now returned and hopefully the rest are improving. Squirrels achieved the most team points for this half-term so have enjoyed wearing their own clothes today. I hope you all manage to do something you enjoy next week.

### Oak Class Teachers

After Easter, Miss Dunsford will be returning from maternity leave on a part-time basis, teaching Monday to Wednesday. I am pleased to say that Miss Easterbrook will be staying on to work as her job share on Thursdays and Fridays. This is good news as she has settled in really well and this also helps to ensure continuity for the children.

### School Meal Price Increase

From the start of next half-term, Monday 24th February, the cost of a school meal will be £2.90. This is due to a small price increase made by our supplier linked to their increased costs.

Please remember all school meals for the first week of term need to be ordered no later than Wednesday 19th February.

Staff have been encouraging the children to eat more of their meals as we have a lot of food waste on a daily basis. Please select meals that your child will eat.

### Multisport After School Club

This club will continue to run after half-term. For this half-term it is also open to children in Year 2 who would like to have a go.

Children from Year 2 to Year 6 have the opportunity to try out a range of activities with the club running from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

Children are collected from the top playground. Please sign up using the link below.

<https://activities.bookpebble.co.uk/supplier/ld-active-06986a00-3153-49c4-ba25-107310fa1b6a>

	<p><a href="#">LD ACTIVE - Pebble</a></p> <p>LD ACTIVE is a children's sports coaching service in addition to the hire of sports inflatables.</p> <p><a href="https://activities.bookpebble.co.uk">activities.bookpebble.co.uk</a></p>
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## Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

Earlier this week I attended a meeting with Devon Education Services' governance team to talk about the role of federations and the changing educational landscape in the south-west and in Devon in particular. There have been times in the last few years when the message from the Department of Education to schools has been clearly in favour of multi-academy trusts as the only way of schools working together. This has changed recently and federations are being recognised as a viable alternative for schools to collaborate. The Diocese of Exeter, who look after our four church schools, also talk about 'effective school groupings' now, which includes federations. There are some indications that funding for maintained school groupings and MATs will be evened up too, which would be good news for us. Senior leaders and governors continue to keep a close eye on the future of federations but at the moment, there appears to be more positive recognition of our role in working together to improve outcomes for children and this is very welcome.

### SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS DURING HALF TERM

If you are concerned about the safety of a child in Devon or want to speak to someone, or if you are a child worried about your own safety, you can contact Front Door (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub or MASH) by calling on 0345 155 1071. If a child is in immediate danger please call 999. If you suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused, or you are being abused yourself and live within Devon Local Authority boundaries, please contact us by calling Adult Social Care on 0345 1551 007 (Monday to Thursday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm and Saturday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm). Outside of the hours above or on bank holidays call the Emergency Duty Service on 0345 6000 388. Alternatively, you can email: [safeguardingadultseast-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingadultseast-mailbox@devon.gov.uk) (Exeter, East and Mid Devon).

### Skills Builder Activity Passports

Continuing on from last year, all children across the school have been given a Skills Builder Activity Passport for their year group. This also follows on from the successful parent workshop held last week. Activities have been carefully selected to try and promote the use of these essential skills at home whilst offering some element of choice within the task. Some of the activities can be linked to things at school, but do not have to be. Last year we had nearly 20 children across the school complete their passport successfully. Children bring their passports back to school and then we talk through the tasks they have done in small groups. Achievements are celebrated in a special assembly at the end of the school year.



## World Book Day - Friday 7th March

We always enjoy celebrating World Book Day here in school. We like to encourage costumes linked to particular stories as the real purpose of this day is to encourage the



love of reading and understanding the long term benefits of this vital skill. Six authors have been chosen to promote which hopefully suit all ages of children. We hold a special assembly to enable the children to see all the costumes and guess each other's characters. The costumes do not have to be spectacular, and we really love the home made ones.

The chosen authors are: (any book can be chosen these are just suggestions)

**Jill Murphy:** Whatever Next!, The Large Family, Peace at Last, The World's Worst Witch

**David Walliams:** Slime, Mr Stink, Gangstar Granny, The Midnight Gang

**Jamie Smart:** Bunny vs Monkey, Looshkin

**Dr Seuss:** The Cat in the Hat, Green Ham and Eggs, The Lorax

**Julia Donaldson:** The Gruffalo, Stick Man, Room on the Broom

**Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton:** Storey Treehouse Series

**UK Premiere of 'Embrace Kids'**  
Tuesday 25th February 2025.  
6.45pm at The University of Exeter

Recent studies suggest that 'Body Image' is the number one issue affecting our children and we want YOU to be part of the solution.

It's alarming and heartbreaking that children are being held back by how they feel about their bodies. Imagine giving our children the tools to move, nourish, respect and enjoy their bodies instead. 'Embrace Kids' explores this important subject, which affects us all and what we can do about it.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uk-premiere-of-embrace-kids-tickets-1117515090719?aff=oddtcreator>



## Code Club

Miss Easterbrook has kindly offered to continue Code Club on a Thursday after school for four weeks after half-term. Some children who started this term are continuing but there are now a few spaces for children in Year 3 to 6 if they would like to start. Cost is £20, please book using [this link](#).

# Dates for your diary

## February

Monday 24th Children return to school

## March

Wednesday 5th Colyton Maths Day

Thursday 6th Music Workshop - Elm

Friday 7th Whimble World Book Day

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

## Statutory Assessment Dates

**May** Monday 12th to Thursday 15th Year 6 SATs

**June** w/c 2nd June Multiplication Tables Check - Year 4

w/c 9th June Phonics Screening Check

## Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

### SPRING TERM 2025

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

*Half term - 17<sup>th</sup> to 21st 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): 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025*

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