

# NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026



## Whimple Primary School

Issue 2

16.01.26

Another week has flown by and the weather was kind for our wassail this morning. The royalty did an amazing job - Sully, Esme, Alice and Max, will be involved in the Whimple Village Wassail tomorrow evening starting from the Heritage Centre. Thank you to Emma Palmer and Jim Causley for facilitating the event along with playing the music. The children in Elm, Ash and Oak Classes have taken part in a Chinese New Year dance workshop this afternoon. They had a great time dancing along to Chinese music and learning some traditions.

**Just a few key reminders for everyone this week.**

**Children need to have the following items in school each day:**

- Warm waterproof coat
- PE kits (KS2 with jogging bottoms for outside)
- Reading books
- Wearing suitable footwear for the time of year (shoes should be waterproof)

### Barnfield Theatre Trip

All children across KS2 will be watching the Clyst Vale production of Beauty and the Beast next Friday, we will be leaving at lunch time and should return before the end of the school day. This is a free visit as the PTA have kindly agreed to fund the bus and tickets.

### Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

This visit is for Year 5 and 6 and we will be leaving at lunchtime and should return by 3.30pm (although this will be dependant on traffic). We will email out if there is a delay of more than 15 minutes. For both visits we are using existing medical information—if there is any change to this, please inform the school office by email.

### Information Session for Parents—advance warning

Our children work hard in school, but there are a few things parents can really help with, particularly reading, spelling and learning number facts. With this in mind, we are going to hold an information session for parents in Elm and Ash Class. This will include looking at our phonics teaching and ensure the correct pronunciation in order to support with blending sounds to read and segmenting to spell, ideas to strengthen vocabulary and comprehension skills, and an introduction to our Number Sense and how number facts are taught.



## Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

As the federation has grown, the way that governors support the strategic development of the schools has also changed. We now have three hub meetings with governors who are linked to each school, as well as federation governors, who are members of the board that oversees the work of the whole school group. The hub meetings give governors an opportunity to talk to Heads of School about their school and to discuss the head's report, which is shared with them two weeks in advance. Hub governors are expected to submit questions in advance to the Heads, so that we have time to find the right information to share with governors. This system ensures that school governors still have a close link to their school and know it really well. This term's hub meetings start on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January and are hosted by each school within the hub in turn.

### YEAR 3 and 4 RESIDENTIAL

The Year 3 and 4 residential visit this year is to Dartmoor Zoo, where children will have the opportunity to spend the day with the animals, before spending the night in the accommodation area. We can take up to 60 children at a time, so we have split the visits up into three groups;

- Sandford, Bramford Speke and Cheriton will be Snoozing at the Zoo from Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Pick up and drop off will be at Cheriton Fitzpaine School, within school hours.
- Thorverton and Newton St Cyres will be Snoozing at the Zoo from Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April. Pick up and drop off will be at Newton St Cyres, within school hours.
- Whimple and Silverton will be Snoozing at the Zoo from Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May to Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May. Pick up and drop off will be at Silverton School, within school hours.

More information and a presentation about the visit will be sent home within the next couple of weeks. Transport costs are still being confirmed, but the price for the two day visit is likely to be around £110. Help with funding the cost of the visit is available.

### SANTA RUN

On behalf of Exeter Leukaemia Fund, thank you for taking part in the ECCT Exeter Santa Run as part of Team ELF on 7<sup>th</sup> December and well done for raising a mighty £1,737.11. We are very grateful for your continued support of Devon Haematology patients.

Thank you for raising this incredible total! We look forward to the Santa Run each year and it was great having you all on the team. There was such a great buzz amongst all the Federation runners, and I hope that you enjoyed taking part! ELF had its largest number of participants in the Santa Run 2025 and collectively you raised an incredible £6,689.11 (plus Gift Aid) in support of families affected by blood cancer in Devon. An amazing result! Thank you for your significant contribution to this total, which will make a real difference to the patients and families in ELF's care.

Clyst Vale Community College Presents

Disney  
**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**  
Disney  
JR

Music by  
Alan Menken

Lyrics by  
Howard Ashman and Tim Rice

Book by  
Linda Woolverton



**Barnfield Theatre**

Thursday 22nd January at 7pm, Friday 23rd January at 7pm,  
and Saturday 24th at 2pm & 7pm

Tickets £14 adults, £12 children/concessions. Available from [exeternorthcott.co.uk](http://exeternorthcott.co.uk)

Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* is presented through special arrangement and all authorized materials are supplied by  
Music Theatre International, 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019



# Dates for your diary

## January

Friday 16th	School Wassail KS2
Friday 23th	KS2 Barnfield Theatre - CVCC Beauty and the Beast
Friday 30th	Year 5 and 6 Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Exeter University
Friday 30th	Year 3 and 4 Forest School

## February

Wednesday 4th	Singing Workshop - Oak and Ash Class
Friday 6th	Beech Class Forest School
Friday 13th	Oak Class Forest School
w/c Monday 16th	Half-term

## May

Tuesday 5th to Wednesday 6th May	Year 3/4 residential
Monday 11th	KS2 SATs week

## June

w/c Monday 1st	Multiplication Tables Check - Year 4
w/c Monday 8th	Phonics Screening - Year 1
Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th June	Year 5/6 residential

## Term dates for pupils - 2025/26:

**SPRING TERM 2026**      **5th January to 2nd April 2026**

*Half term: Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026*

*Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026*

**SUMMER TERM 2026**      **20th April to 22nd July 2026**

*Half term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026*

*Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026*

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