

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2025



Whimble Primary School

Issue 15

19.12.25

We have all made it! It has been a long term and we have managed to fit lots of things in, particularly over the past two weeks. Thank you to all you who have supported any of our Christmas events, these things could not happen without you.

The staff would like to thank everyone for their kind gifts and cards and we wish everyone a Happy Christmas. We encourage you all to do something you enjoy, whilst also finding some time to have some rest.

PTA Updates



Last week's Christmas fayre raised £372.21, thank you for all your support.

Particular thank you to Catherine Evans-Martin— she has worked extremely hard organising the raffle and putting together the hampers.

The hamper winners were:

Diane Schofield
Sophie Lawson

Mrs Shilston
Calandra

Stef Garwood

Susan Pearce

Winners of the Celebration/Hero Tubs were:

Holly Williams

Carrie Villiers

Rich Harker

Lacey Dorliac

Total raised from ticket sales was £443.



Charity Fundraising



A grand total of **£961.94** was raised which will be split between the two charities. Thank you very much to all those who have donated and volunteered their time over the last few weeks!





Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

The value for many of the federation schools for this half term has been 'Community' and we have been thinking about what makes a community work well and how each of its members can contribute to it. Whimble School has its own set of values, linked to the Skills Builder programme, but building a strong community using those skills is at the heart of the school's work too. Village schools are at the heart of their communities and play an important part in connecting children and families with local churches, community groups and businesses. As a growing group of village primary schools, we seek to find ways of building community together, and one of the ways in which we do this, is by performing together. On Monday evening the Elastic Bands joined with soloists and parents and friends of the schools to perform at Crediton Parish Church at our Federation Carol Service. The bands are led by the amazing Alison Golby, and I am very grateful to her for the hours that she gives to rehearsals and performances, giving children a real sense of community as they play music together. The last newsletter of 2025 comes with my thanks to all the parents who have supported their children's schools this year and with best wishes from my wife, family and me to you for a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

SANTA RUN

I just wanted to take a moment to say a very heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in the Exeter Community Trust Santa Run! The incredible support and encouragement you continually show our school community is awesome!

The response to the Santa Run has been truly amazing. Thanks to everyone's generosity—both financially through donations and through the many kind words of encouragement shared along the way—we had 120 runners take part and have raised just over £1,700. It has been so uplifting to see how many people came together to support such a meaningful cause. I also wanted to pass on some wonderful praise from Andy at ELF, who said:

"ELF supporters raised an incredible £6k in the Santa Run this year! Please pass my sincere thanks to the Federation for their significant contribution to this amazing total, which will make a huge difference to families living with blood cancer this Christmas time."

This is something we can all be incredibly proud of. The support, generosity and positivity from everyone involved has made a real and lasting impact and it simply wouldn't have been possible without the collective efforts of our whole community. Thank you once again for everything you do. It is genuinely appreciated and has made such a difference. Same again, next year!

With very best wishes,

Mr. Jack Hookway, NSC Class 2 Teacher

MRS JULIE LIVINGSTONE

Today we are saying a heartfelt 'thank you' to Mrs Julie Livingstone, who is hanging up her apron at Cheriton Fitzpaine's kitchen after many years of service. Children at both Cheriton and Silverton have enjoyed her cooking over the years and appreciated her willingness to go the extra mile to make sure everyone enjoys school lunches. We wish her every happiness in the future and all that retirement holds for her.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY

Our next professional learning day is on Monday, 5th January and all the federation schools will be closed to children for the day. Teachers will be working at Silverton School in the morning and at their own schools in the afternoon. The spring term starts on Tuesday, 6th January 2026.

TERM DATES

Spring term 2026

Monday 5th January 2026 to Friday 13th February [Staff Development Day 5th January]

Monday 23rd February to Thursday 2nd April

Summer term 2026

Monday 20th April to Friday 22nd May

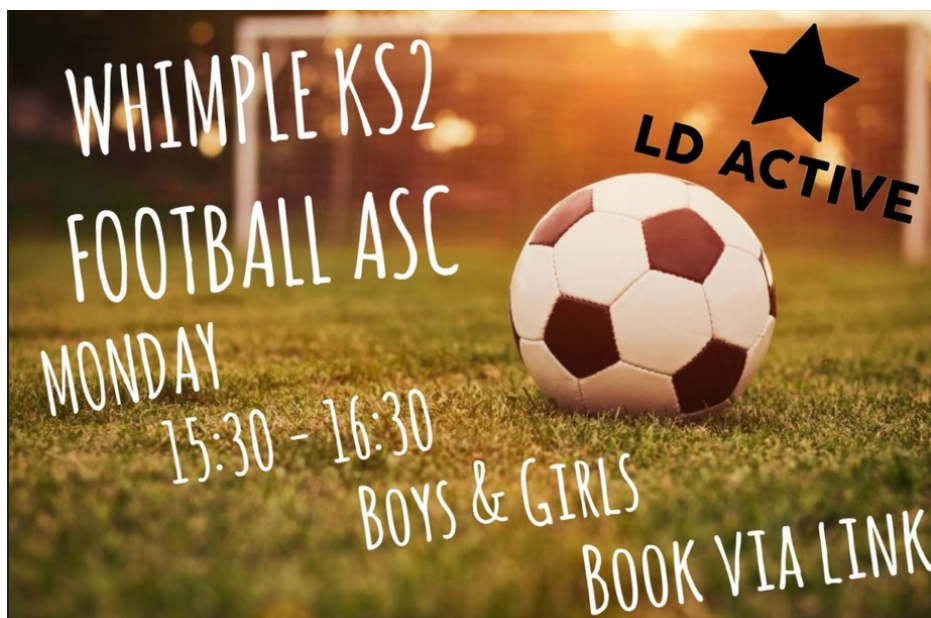
Monday 1st June to Wednesday 22nd July [Staff Development Day 26th June]

YEAR 5 AND 6 RESIDENTIAL VISIT

The slideshow with more information about the Year 5 and 6 residential visit to Bath and Bristol is now on the federation website under 'Residential visits'. Please could parents complete and return the register of interest slip by today so that we can finalise numbers.



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



Lunchtime stars:

Elm Class	Edie-Anne and Isla	Otto
Ash Class	Ella and Corey	Emily
Oak Class	Flo and Isla CT	Isla H
Beech Class	Wilf and Rosie	Matilda
Willow Class	Henry and Matthew	Max S



Hall and Scott Christmas Card Competition

A number of our children entered card designs into this competition. Ellie in Ash Class won the competition with her Christmas Card design—she was presented with some cards to keep and use, along with a book token. She also won £100 for the school. Well done Ellie!

Dates for your diary

January

Tuesday 6th	Start of term for children
Friday 16th	School Wassail
Friday 23th	KS2 Barnfield Theatre
Friday 30th	Year 5 and 6 Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Exeter University

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): 5th 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): 26th June 2026

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