

CONTACT

The Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

Issue 8 - 21

5.03.21

Reminders

We are looking forward to welcoming back all of our pupils. It is great to know that all children are expected to be in school but it is vitally important that we remember that all other precautions and procedures continue to be in place. The Government have listened and reopened schools first as they value the importance of education, however, we need to be careful to ensure Covid rates continue to reduce - currently figures are where they were at the start of the November lockdown.

Schools have been asked to remind parents of the following:

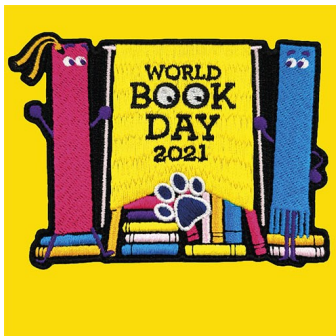
- ♦ Face coverings must still be worn at morning drop off and collection at the end of the day.
- ♦ Social distancing continues with only ONE parent to collect.
- ♦ No social gathering is permitted.
- ♦ At present you are only able to meet one person from another household outside.

We continue to request that you:

- ♦ Park at the Thirsty Farmer - DO NOT park on the road outside of school or in the village hall car park.
- ♦ Follow the one way system to drop off and collect children.
- ♦ To collect children from the playground and NOT wait outside the school gates. Please leave dogs at home.
- ♦ To leave toys, bikes and scooters at home - only bring essential items into school.
- ♦ Do not arrive before 3.30pm for collecting children in KS2 as this prevents parents with younger children entering. Please wait on the coloured spots or wait distanced on the steps.
- ♦ Order school meals online.

Children are expected to wear their school uniform - if for any reason this is not possible, please let them wear something sensible. We appreciate that buying items like school shoes is particularly challenging at the moment. If you have any concerns, please contact me as there may be ways we can support you.

Breakfast Club and After School Club continue to be for parents of keyworkers only for wrap around care until Easter. After that, we may be able to offer some alternative after school provision.



World Book Day - Thursday 1st April

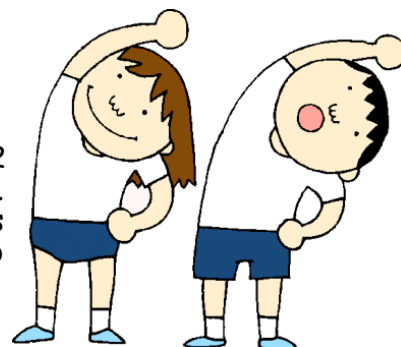
Hopefully, you have started to think about your costumes.

World Book Day tokens will be sent home with the children next week and we will also let you know about a photo opportunity for all children to participate in.

Reading Books and PE Kits

Please return all books including library books to school so we can change them for you. All books will be quarantined in the usual way.

Don't forget your PE kits—lots of exercise is planned. Key Stage 2 need to include jogging bottoms for going to the MUGA on colder days. If children in Key Stage 1 and reception could bring a pair of shorts and trainers to leave in school that would be great as they are going to be doing some different PE sessions as well.



Free school meals, holiday support and funding

All children automatically get free school meals if they're in reception class, year 1 and year 2. However if you get certain benefits, your child could also be entitled to additional support such as [supermarket vouchers during the school holidays](#) and other free activities such as holiday club as well as free school meals beyond year 2.

Don't miss out on this additional support. Make a quick application, where your eligibility can be assessed and an outcome given instantly, [on our website](#). Alternatively, please call our education helpline on 0345 155 1019.

Any child that is found to be eligible for free school meals will also get additional funding for their school, this is known as pupil premium funding, which can be used to support your child in school or with the costs of uniforms or trips. Pupil premium funding can't be paid directly to parents or carers, but it makes a big difference to schools and eligible pupils.

Parents Protect

Parents Protect have produced two handy guides, helping you understand the sexual development of children under 5 years of age and those aged 5-11. They have used a traffic light framework to help you in identifying if a behaviour is GREEN, AMBER or RED . Available on the school website

[Welcome to Whimple Primary School \(whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk\)](https://www.whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Max's Big Camp Out

You may have seen Max on the television. He would like the support of others - see the attached flyer. (promoted by DCC)

A big thank you to those who supported the bag collection at the Thirsty Farmer yesterday.



We anticipate that we are still going to be socially distancing over Easter so have decided to create another "Whimble Walk" for the Easter break. The theme is "Bee Positive"!

We are inviting the primary school children (with support from their grown-ups) to create a bee-friendly planter to be displayed in the front garden. As with the Scarecrow Festival, we encourage anyone in the village to join in and create a display!

You can use any kind of planter...plant pot, wooden box, wheel-barrow, old bucket... to contain plants that you have grown or sourced, preferably ones that the bees like.

Please interpret the theme as you wish, you could even add a little spring creature like a bunny or chick hidden within your display.



Pots should be placed out in front gardens on **Friday 2nd April** and be on display until at least Sunday 18th April 2021.

We will create a map of displays which will be available for a donation of £3.

Please email your name/child's name and address to **whimble.pta@gmail.com** by Friday 21st March 2021 so we can put you on the map (please note that there won't be any names on the map – this is just for our use).



Dates for your diary

March 2021

Monday 8th March All pupils return to school

Friday 19th March Comic Relief

April 2021

Thursday 1st April World Book Day for Whimple

Thursday 1st April last day of spring term



Your Fire Service needs YOU!



As we are still unable to visit our schools for the annual fire safety talks, we still want households with children to be aware of the importance of having working smoke alarms.

If you don't have working smoke alarms then you can call
0800 05 02 999 to request a **free HOME SAFETY CHECK**
(quote code : 294)

And if you or someone you know answers "yes" to at least one of these questions:

- is over 65 years old?
- finds it difficult to move around?
- can't hear things very well?
- smokes?
- doesn't have one smoke alarm for each level of their home?
- has NO smoke alarms?

They can also request a free **HOME SAFETY CHECK** by calling **0800 05 02 999**

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk

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