

# NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023



## Whimple Primary School

Issue 13

8.12.23

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Carol Service on Tuesday, the children were amazing. The Christmas Fayre went really well, the children absolutely loved it. I want to thank all those parents who have helped to put this fabulous event together.

### Exe Valley Federation Carol Service

Unfortunately, due to a lack of children (for various reasons), the choir will no longer be attending the EVF Carol Service at Crediton Church on Monday 11th December.

The choir will still be singing at the KS1 nativity on Wednesday 13th at 4.15pm.

Families are of course still welcome to attend the Federation service if they wish to.

### Parking

Just to remind you that we discourage parents from using the village hall car park for parking for drop off or collection. Some of the spaces are for doctors/nurses at the surgery. The disabled parking spaces should also be kept clear.

The Thirsty Farmer kindly allows parents to park in its car park to help manage school drop off and collection.

### Christmas Cards

The school Christmas post box is still open until Friday morning. Our older children will act as posties and will sort and make regular deliveries to class. Please encourage your child to use this to send their cards, this then means all children should receive cards and they can open them at the same time so no one is left out.

### What Parents and Carers need to know about Disney +

Attached to the newsletter email, is a useful guide for keeping Children safe when watching Disney +.





## Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

This week has seen the start of the Christmas events in our schools and there is a huge amount of activity around nativity plays, Christingle and carol services and Christmas meals and parties. I have had the privilege of seeing Silverton's nativity play, 'Wriggly Nativity', this week and really enjoyed seeing the children, some of whom have only been in school since September, performing with confidence. I also know that these events can only succeed if parents are involved too, whether that is in making costumes, practising lines or rehearsing songs. Thank you all for your contribution to these events, which make so many precious memories for everyone. I am also very aware that all the excitement and changes to routines can be challenging for some children and if you feel your child is particularly struggling to hold everything together next week, please do let class teachers or Heads know so that we can make the necessary adaptations.



## EXE VALLEY FEDERATION CAROL SERVICE

The federation carol service is taking place on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm at Crediton Parish Church, [Church Street, Crediton EX17 2AH]. All parents are welcome to join us for this event, which is the first time we have been able to bring all the schools together for several years.

## FULL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING REPORT

The FGB met at Brampford Speke School on Tuesday evening (05.12.23) for the second strategic meeting of the term. Governors welcomed Hannah Jones McVey to the board; Hannah is linked to Newton St Cyres.

Link governors had the opportunity to meet their respective Heads to discuss their termly Self-Evaluation Form that included data analysis, school action plan and a school effectiveness summary. This is a valuable exercise for governors to get to know their link school well. Governors generate questions from the report to demonstrate support and challenge.

The Federation Development Plan is an essential document which sets out the priorities for the academic year. Governors and Heads are allocated sections to monitor throughout the year and each term progress with these objectives is recorded to ensure the continuous drive for school improvement and enhanced outcomes for children.

The EHT gave governors an update on this term's activities with Ofsted reports and action plans shared.

The Finance Business Manager shared the latest budget monitors and finance audit report and governors discussed the infrastructure improvements required at schools to reduce energy costs and gain a carbon neutral classification. Lead governors for attendance and safeguarding gave their half-termly updates, reports were shared and policies approved.

The Chair ended the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and thanking them for their ongoing support and dedication for the EVF.

## TERM DATES

This term finishes on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December and the spring term starts for children on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January is a non-pupil staff development day).



## Christmas Raffle

There is still time to buy your raffle tickets! The draw will be held after the weekend so get your tickets by midnight on Sunday! Your support helps to fund these lovely events for the children. We have some fantastic prizes and thank you to all who have donated. A few to get you motivated... A £50 pipers farm voucher, cotley farm hamper, courtneys cider gift, dance lessons!, escot tickets, waitrose goodies, £30 in vouchers for The Fountain, £20 vouchers for whimple stores, membership for two for the cricket club for a year, tickets to the 12th man festival, 3 x PT sessions at Oliver Joseph, a family portrait session with Nova Wedding Photography, 10 pasties from Oggy Oggy pasties, a cook book from Jack In The Green, lovely treats from Tropics and lots of other goodies!



Payment for tickets can be made by bank transfer quickly and easily...

Payment to Whimple Primary School PTFA

Lloyds bank

Sort Code 30-94-36

Account number 01582240

Tickets are £1 each or £5 for a strip of 5. If you're paying by BACS please put the ref as 'raffle/surname'. Then use 'messenger' to contact Catherine Evans Martin with your name, how many tickets you have paid for and your telephone number. We will then message you your numbers!



## Christingle Celebration 2023

Special All Age Service

Sunday 10th December

St Mary's Church Whimple  
at 4pm

A magical candlelit celebration, loved by children and adults, to help the whole family share in the Christmas message together in a fun and interactive way.

Making our library accessible to everyone

OTTERY LIBRARY  
RELAXED SESSIONS

**Who is this for?**

Anyone worried about coming to the library, whether due to autism, ADHD, anxiety... All ages are welcome to attend these sessions and you can book for yourself or your family group

To book contact the library on: 01404 813838 or [ottery.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:ottery.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk)

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# Dates for your diary

## December

Monday 11th	Rock Steady Concert (morning - invited parents only)
Monday 11th	Federation Carol Service (Crediton Church)
Wednesday 13th	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 13th	KS1 Nativity 4.15pm
Friday 15th December	Last day of term, 1.30pm finish

## January

4th Start of term for all pupils

## Term dates for pupils - 2023/24:

### SPRING TERM 2024

**4<sup>th</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

*Half term - 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024*

### SUMMER TERM 2024

**15<sup>th</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

*May Day holiday - 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024*

*Half term - 27<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024*

*Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September, 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024*

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