

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025



Whimple Primary School

Issue 3

24.1.25

Another week has flown by and the children in Beech and Willow ended it by taking part in our school wassail over at our orchard site.

On Wednesday, we had our school review which is run in a similar format to Ofsted but involves our advisor from Devon, alongside other federation heads and English and Maths leads. All of these people spent the day looking at our curriculum planning, children's books, observing some teaching and most importantly talking to many groups of children about their learning across the subjects taught. The children all spoke clearly and positively about their learning whilst recognising the journey they are on. The overall feedback was very positive and the information has given us some minor things to tweak so we can continue to improve.



PARKING

Due to the requirements of the start and end of the day, schools by their very nature end up causing congestion around them. It is important, particularly in villages with narrow roads, like Whimple, that we all do what we can together to help minimise the impact of this for the locals who live here.

We have had reported a number of near misses with cars and children, particularly in the hall car park but also, from older children walking home. We want to keep all our children and families safe so it is up to you to help with this.

How you can help:

Reduce your speed - do not zoom across to park beside the road near to the school.

Parents are asked **not to** park in the hall car park as this is for hall users and the doctors surgery. The Thirsty Farmer continues to support the school by allowing parents to park there - please do this with consideration for others.

Be considerate of pedestrians - look around, especially when opening car doors.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

FROM MR JOLLIFFE

The new Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation governing board met for the first time on Tuesday this week to set up their new structure for the future. The federation board now comprises 15 governors with strategic responsibility for all ten schools in the new organisation. There are also three hub boards, East Exe Valley, West Exe Valley and Moorsway, who will meet during the first half of each term, alternating with the federation board meetings. New members were welcomed to the board and the statutory roles, such as safeguarding, attendance and SEND lead governors were confirmed. Jackie Enright was voted in as Chair of the federation, with Sheryl Margesson as Vice Chair with Louise Parry. The hub boards are due to meet over the next two weeks and will be focusing on the school improvement work of their member schools. Heads all write a report two weeks before the meetings and governors then submit questions during the following week. This gives them time to research their responses, which are shared at the board meetings. This gives governors an opportunity to challenge and support senior leaders in their role and ensures that a smaller group of governors stay in close contact with each of the Heads and are familiar with their schools. This connection between governors and each individual school is an important principle for us and will be increasingly important as the federation continues to evolve in the future.

PARENT GOVERNORS

The following parent governors have been elected with effect from 22nd January 2025:

Hannah Jones McVey
Kate Wotton

The previous parent governors were Hannah Jones McVey and Josh Jeffery [Exe Valley] and Ronnie Haynes and Sadie Frost [Moorsway]. Both Moorsway governors have joined the new board as co-opted governors and Josh Jeffery is now a school governor for Newton St Cyres.

CREATION STATION HOLIDAY CLUB

Creation Station Holiday Club is running at Silverton C of E School [Coach Road, Silverton, EX5 4JY] on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st February from 9am-3.30pm each day.

- Suitable for 5-12 years and 4yr olds are able to do a shorter day 9am-1pm for £17.
- Children need to bring a packed lunch, snacks and drinks
- Art & Crafts every day, along with games and free time
- Winter themed crafts
- Single day cost is £32 or £55 for both days [discount when paying via BACS: £30 single day, £52 for both]
- 20% sibling discount

For more details, please contact Kat Howard at The Creation Station Exeter & Mid Devon on 07817955997 or go to the website www.thecreationstation.co.uk or email kathoward@thecreationstation.co.uk.

Family Skills Builder Workshop - You're invited!

Come and join us on **Tuesday 4th February from 4.00-5.00pm in the village hall**, to learn more about the essential skills and how they unlock learning in the classroom, boosting academic outcomes, perseverance and self belief.

The session will involve a brief introduction followed by some fun activities to complete alongside your child/ children. Come along and have a go! Light refreshments will be available.

Please click on this [link to register your interest](#).



Achievement Assembly

This was held on the last day of term before Christmas and I had forgotten to put it into the first newsletters after. These awards celebrate effort and success for progress in key curriculum areas across each term.

The Governor Cup was presented to the school by an ex-chair of Governors to be presented to a child, who has actively demonstrated our 6Rs throughout the school day.

The cup is given out on a termly basis and, this term it has been presented to Alice C, in Year 6.

The following children have been presented with a small trophy, (to keep for a term - please look after them and keep them safe) and a certificate. Trophies can be kept for the term so keep them on show somewhere in your home and then return them at the end of this term.

Elm Class

Most improved reader	Ella	Most improved writer	Nelly
	Most improved mathematician	Oscar	

Ash Class

Most improved reader	Mitchell	Most improved writer	Ronnie
	Most improved mathematician	Elsa	

Oak Class

Most improved reader	Calum	Most improved writer	Issy
	Most improved mathematician	Daisy	

Beech Class

Most improved reader	Esther	Most improved writer	Freddie
	Most improved mathematician	Matilda	

Willow Class

Most improved reader	Avery	Most improved writer	Matilda
	Most improved mathematician	Kelsey	

We continue to present our learning certificates on a weekly basis, linked to our half-termly skills focus. These are displayed in the board by the double doors of the main building for a week before children can then bring them home.

Forest School

Apologies for the confusion last week as the sessions planned were postponed.

The children in Ash and Oak will be participating in Forest School activities on **Thursday 30th** January. Children in Oak can come to school in their own clothes for this but will need their uniform to change into. Children in Ash will need to bring their forest school clothes in with them.

Can you help?

We need colourful leaflets and magazines for an upcoming arts project.

If you have any you have finished with, please put them in the recycling box in the reception area beside the office.

Thank you.



Hedgelaying Volunteer Day **Saturday 25th January** **10am to 4pm**

Learn the traditional craft of hedgelaying with an East Devon District Council Countryside Team Ranger at Whimple Primary School Orchard.



All tools provided - for more information and to sign up please email: pollyluscombe@gmail.com



Dates for your diary

January

- Saturday 25th Hedge laying Volunteer Day 10am to 4pm - School orchard
Monday 27th Beech and Oak Year 4 swimming lessons (5 weeks, last session 10th Feb)
Thursday 30th Oak Forest School (am); Ash Forest School (pm)
Friday 31st Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Great Hall, Exeter - Year 5 and 6

February

- Tuesday 4th Skills Builder Parent/Child Workshop
Friday 7th Year 5 and 6 Map Reading and Walking Day

March

- 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

Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

SPRING TERM 2025

7th January to 4th April 2025

Half term - 17th to 21st February 2025

SUMMER TERM 2025

22nd April to 25th July 2025

May Day holiday - 5th May 2025

Half term - May 26th to 30th May 2025

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 27th June 2025

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