

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2022

Whimble Primary School

Issue 6

7.10.22

Autumn is definitely here now, the mornings are cooler and the weather more unpredictable, so jumpers and coats need to be brought into school.

Drop Off

Please remember that children should not be arriving at school any earlier than 8.45am and that younger children must have an adult with them until the member of staff on duty comes out. A number of our older children are arriving earlier and earlier, and although I do not want to see them wandering the streets, we are unable to take responsibility for them.

Reading and Little Wandle (not just for KS1)

After introducing Little Wandle, our new phonics and reading scheme in September, the children are doing really well and becoming 'super blenders'. The Little Wandle website has lots of resources to support parents. The phonics section is an area where you can listen to how each sound is pronounced to ensure your own pronunciation is correct. The useful video section includes how tricky words and blending are taught. On the books coming home tab details of the difference between the Reading Practice and the Sharing Book is clearly explained. The evidence of improved attainment across all areas of schooling (and life) has been proven to be linked to having had books read to them as well as reading books themselves. Did you know? Just one book a day for the first five years of a child's life is a massive 1800 books. These do not have to be different stories, many can be repeated, imagine the amount of language and vocabulary that involves - it is clear to see why there is such a link.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

There is also a section called 'Everybody Read!'. Here you will find a range of ideas and resources, including recommended reads for children of all ages.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/my-letters-and-sounds/everybody-read/book-recommendations/>

Attendance and Illness

As a school we have to carefully monitor children's attendance and be clear for reasons of any absence. Over the last two years, school attendance has been badly affected by lockdowns and illness and we are keen to improve our attendance rates this year. We have planned two Staff Development Days in the autumn and summer terms so that families can have a long weekend away, rather than having unauthorised absences. Please make use of these weekends rather than risk having an unauthorised absence and a Penalty Notice or summons. Attendance figures are reported termly to Governors who question any patterns of absence.

<https://www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk/website/attendance/624664>

Please find attached a new poster which includes helpful and clear information regarding childhood illnesses.

Anti-bullying

Classes took part in the Big Anti-Bullying Assembly this week. There were many good messages included alongside a reminder of what various types of bullying can feel and look like. There was a pledge to stop bullying with an encouragement to write nice things to others to share positivity.



Parent Consultations

Final reminder to those parents that haven't booked an appointment yet. The dates and times are below. Booking is via ESchools App, any issues please contact the office next week.

Elm Class:	Tuesday 18th 3.40pm - 5.45pm
	Thursday 20th 3.40pm - 5.15pm
Ash Class:	Tuesday 18th 2.20pm - 6.00pm
Oak Class:	Tuesday 11th 3.40pm - 5.40pm
	Tuesday 18th 3.40pm - 5.50pm
Beech Class:	Tuesday 18th 2.30pm - 6.00pm
Willow Class:	Tuesday 11th 3.30pm - 5.15pm
	Tuesday 18th 3.30pm - 5.15pm

Spare Clothing

We are delighted to continue to offer Forest School to all children across the school again this year. We are updating our resources at this time, and would like to make a polite request to any families of children in Key Stage Two, who may have long sleeved t-shirts or tops that are no longer needed. We understand that the cost of living has increased recently, and want to support all of our children to be able to access Forest School provision with suitable clothing. If you feel in a position to donate at this time, please ask your child to bring them to school and give to Mr Brown. Many thanks!



PTA

It's good news! We have had some volunteers come forward for the roles and have the required number of trustees so can continue to function as a charity.

Please find attached with this newsletter an update with regards the position of the PTA and how to support them and events going forwards.

Current Vacancies

We are currently looking to appoint:

- Clerk to Governors
- Mealtime Assistant
- Teaching Assistant/Mealtime Assistant— deadline is Sunday 16th October
- Catering Assistant

Please look on the website for more details:

<https://www.whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk/website/vacancies/620557>

All vacancies are subject to safer recruitment procedures.

Dates for your diary

October

Friday 14th and Friday 21st	Forest School Oak Class
Wednesday 19th	Apple Picking (tbc and weather dependant)
Monday 24th to Friday 29th	Half Term
Monday 31st	Staff training day (no pupils)

November

Tuesday 22nd	Individual School Photographs
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Term dates for pupils - 2022/23:

AUTUMN TERM 2022

5th September to 16th December 2022

Half term - 24th to 28th October 2022

SPRING TERM 2023

4th January to 31st March 2023

Half term - 13th to 17th February 2023

SUMMER TERM 2024

17th April to 21st July 2023

May Day holiday - 1st May 2023

Half term - 29th May to 2nd June 2023

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 1st and 2nd September, 31st October 2022, 3rd January, 30th June 2023

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

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