

# NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025



## Whimple Primary School

Issue 11

28.03.25

This week has been a very creative week. The sun has been shining and children have been dancing and performing acrobatics in the playground. A group of year 5 and 6 children performed their 'Men in Black' dance to the school on Thursday afternoon. They will be performing this in the Barnfield Theatre on Monday too. Then to end the day, Miss Clarke and I went to watch a number of our pupils, both present and past, perform in The King of the Golden River at Talaton Village Hall. It was a great privilege to see them all - they were amazing!

### Parent Meetings

Parents of children in Years 1 to 6 should have all received their annual report. Times to meet teachers for those having consultations, have been sent out via email.

### Dance Showdown

Parents have been asked to provide the name of the adult collecting their child from the theatre on Monday evening—if you haven't done this yet, please can you do so as soon as possible.

### School Garden

Beech class have been working on the renovation of the school garden over the winter. We have planted bulbs now flowering in the tubs around school and cleared a lot of weeds to get the growing area ready for spring. We have planted vegetable seeds recently - peas, runner beans, chard, sweetcorn and beetroot.

If you are planting seeds and growing on plants at home we would love to have any spare plants you have - flowers in particular. We will try to get as much colour into the school garden as possible.

Thank you from Glen Taylor gardening volunteer.



### Trophy Return

It is the time in the term where we celebrate children's successes for the term. Please can those children who received a 'Most Improved trophy' at the end of the autumn term, return the trophy to school ready for their next recipients. Please drop them into the school office by Tuesday 1st April.



## Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

This week we have had an Ofsted inspection at Silverton C of E school and welcomed two inspectors on Tuesday and Wednesday to the school. As you may have heard in the news, the way that inspectors report their findings to parents is due to change in the autumn, with the introduction of a 'report card' that covers more areas of the school's work and gives different grades from the system that is currently in place. It was interesting to see that some of these changes are already starting to be included in the conversations between senior leaders and the inspection team and to see how these might impact on schools that are inspected after September 2025. We will receive a draft report from the inspector early next term and then share it with you once the quality assurance process is complete, which is likely to be around the beginning of May.

### TERM DATES

The spring term finishes next Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and the summer term starts immediately after Bank Holiday Monday on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Half term starts on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May and schools come back after the break on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025. The final staff training day of the year is on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June and term ends on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

The **National Education Union** is currently balloting its members on pay and funding. As the workplace rep, I want to take this opportunity to share some information with you all. Should you have any questions or want to discuss how you can support us, please contact [carolin.vanmontfoort@neu.org.uk](mailto:carolin.vanmontfoort@neu.org.uk)

#### It's not about the pay. It's about doing the best for your children.

The most recent Government pay offer is **unfunded**. This means that money would need to come out of schools' existing budgets.

But the trouble is, schools simply can't afford any more cuts. There are no more efficiencies to be made. We are already struggling to fund the rise in National Insurance: the cost of this for our Exe Valley Schools is £96k, yet we have only received £72k in our budget to fund it.

**More schools in the UK are in deficit now than at any point since at least 2010.**

As a country we have the **highest primary class sizes in Europe** and the **highest secondary class sizes on record**. More than a million pupils are taught in **classes of over 30**.


#### Impact in **Central Devon** Constituency

44% of schools have faced cuts to per pupil funding.

**-£1.1M**

Cuts since 2010/11 

**-£120**

Cuts per pupil since 2010/11 

The numbers speak for themselves. The data above relates specifically to **our constituency**.

(Data shows real term cuts relating to inflation. More information available at [schoolcuts.org.uk](http://schoolcuts.org.uk))

### Job Vacancy

The Executive Headteacher and Governors of the Exe Valley Federation wish to appoint a **Kitchen Assistant** to support the Kitchen Manager at Newton St Cyres Primary School and then transport and serve meals daily at Sandford School. (Own transport required). For more details follow the link to the advert below.

<https://www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk/Kitchen-Assistant/>

# Dates for your diary

## March

w/c 31st March Parent consultations  
Monday 31st EVF Dance Showdown at the Barnfield Theatre (Year 5 and 6)

## April

Thursday 3rd Exmoor Challenge Practice Walk (some Year 6)  
Friday 4th Rocksteady Concert for parents 9.30am  
Friday 4th Last day of term, 1.30pm finish, PTA Sweet Sale

Tuesday 22nd First day of summer term  
Thursday 24th Exmoor Challenge Practice Walk (some Year 6)  
Friday 25th School Art Display  
Wednesday 30th to Thursday 1st May Year 3/4 Residential

## June

Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th Year 5/6 Residential  
Saturday 21st School Summer Fair

## Statutory Assessment Dates

May Monday 12th to Thursday 15th Year 6 SATs  
June w/c 2nd June Multiplication Tables Check - Year 4  
w/c 9th June Phonics Screening Check

## Term dates for pupils - 2024/25:

**SPRING TERM 2025** 7<sup>th</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**SUMMER TERM 2025** 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025

*May Day holiday - 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025*

*Half term - May 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025*

*Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025*

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