

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025



Whimble Primary School

Issue 8

07.03.25

World Book Day is always a highlight of the term. Although the thought of it sometimes fills us with dread, the costumes that the children come dressed in, are always amazing. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support with this (your heart probably sinks too, however, you all come up trumps and the children absolutely love it!)

Our next challenge, (sorry March is a bit like that), is Comic Relief, which is celebrating 40 years on Friday 21st March. We ask that children dressed up in something colourful or funny of their choice. Children can colour their hair and wear face paints if they wish. Donations for this charity can be brought in on the day or can be given online (link will be available in next weeks newsletter). The children will be participating in some challenges throughout the day to raise awareness for this charity.

As the weather gets warmer, please can names be written in school clothing, especially jumpers.

Devon Library Services - Design a Mug Competition

Schools from across the county have been taking part in our World Book Day 'Design a Mug!' competition, children designed a mug depicting their favourite book or character from a book. They had some brilliant entries and we were delighted to hear that one of our pupils was a winner.

Charlie received his design printed onto a mug, a book token, and some free books for our school library.

Year 3/4 - Charles, Whimble Primary School



Charles's design



Charles's winning mug



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

This week, senior leaders from the Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation met with leaders from South Hams Federation at Loddiswell Primary School to work together as a team of 14 members. We were able to explore in depth some of the current educational opportunities and challenges facing small schools such as ours and to discuss how to move our schools forward. Leaders shared their knowledge and understanding of Emotional Based School Absences, explored how SIAMS inspections work and learned about how whole school culture supports high expectations and challenge for all pupils. This was a valuable opportunity to share good practice and for us to share and learn from a wider group of schools. The Management Partnership Steering Group is meeting at the end of the month to consider whether or not to recommend to governors that we move into a consultation period to re-federate with South Hams from the start of next year.

SHAUGH PRIOR OFSTED INSPECTION

Shaugh Prior school, which is a small school on Dartmoor and part of the Moorsway Hub, was inspected by Ofsted before Christmas and the report has now been published. The inspector said in his report that pupils are safe and that they had an adult to talk to if they had any worries. He also spoke positively of the leadership roles that they hold and how visits to the local church and participation in village events, help pupils to build links with the local community. He also noted that pupils know how to treat others with tolerance and respect, which had been an improvement point from the last inspection, which took place in July 2022.

However, the report also recognised that the school has not improved quickly enough in the last 2½ years and that more needed to be done to improve the quality of education provided by the school. Since the inspection was conducted, senior leaders have worked together to bring about improvements at pace and have replaced the existing curriculum with one that has been used by Exe Valley Federation schools. Senior leaders from across the federation and from South Hams Federation are working together to secure rapid changes in the quality of education at Shaugh Prior.





Dates for your diary

March

Friday 21st	Comic Relief
w/c 24th March	Annual reports home to parents
Thursday 27th	Elm Class
w/c 31st March	Parent consultations
Monday 31st	EVF Dance Showdown at the Barnfield Theatre (Year 5 and 6)

April

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

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

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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