

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023



REFLECTION



REASONING



RESPONSIBILITY



RESOURCEFULNESS



RESPECT



RESILIENCE

Whimple Primary School

Issue 6

13.10.23

We were lucky to invite a visitor from The Dogs Trust into school yesterday. After an assembly to the whole school she also completed some workshops in class. There was a lot of really helpful information (more will be placed in the curriculum newsletter next week but ask your child and see what they can remember).

Thank you to those parents who have signed up for their parents evening slots next week - there are a few families who have yet to do so. If you have any issue re. booking please contact the school office.

Year 6 Secondary School Choices

Just a quick reminder that the secondary school application deadline is the 31st October. Please select more than one school so you keep your options open.

School Dinners Update - read carefully



School Lunch

After a lot of investigation we are moving over to Fresha for our school dinner provider starting after half-term.

A new menu will be available from early next week; we will let you know when the booking goes live on the School Gateway App. One change is that the dessert also has to be ordered, this will be a choice of the main option or yogurt/fruit. There is also a wider choice, including possibility to order a baguette.

School dinners will have to be ordered **further in advance** (they cannot be ordered on the day, we have been very lucky to have had this facility). Meals will have to be ordered **by the Thursday prior to the week of the meals** as we have to send the order through before the start of the week.

Due to half-term, we **need your order by Thursday 19th October** ready for the children's return on Monday 30th October.

If you have any queries/issues, please contact the school office.

Annual Apple Pick

Weather permitting, all the children will participate in our annual apple pick at the orchard site next Friday. Children can wear old clothes to school that would be suitable for forest school, e.g. long trousers and long-sleeved top. They will also need to bring a pair of wellies to put on and if possible a pair of gloves, although this is not essential. Children can also bring a small bucket or bag to collect apples in.





Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

The world of education is constantly evolving and it is important that teachers keep up to date with the latest developments in pedagogy and teaching practice so that what we do with children continues to get better and better. One of the benefits of being part of a bigger family of schools is that we can tailor our Continuing Professional Development to fit with what we are doing in small village primary schools and ensure that the time that teachers spend out of class is used as effectively as possible. We have a programme of team days for Year 5 and 6, Year 3 and 4, Year 1 and 2 and Early Years teachers which are led by Mr Akhurst, Deputy Executive Head. There is one day in the autumn term for each teacher, the Staff Development Day in January and a half day in the summer term for teachers to develop their professional practice, in addition to the other four Staff Development Days and staff meetings after school on Wednesdays. These days are incredibly valuable to teachers and have a positive impact on their teaching and help to move children's learning forward. I know that some children find not having their class teacher every day, unsettling but this is a carefully considered and very important part of our work and it really does make a positive difference to teachers and children.

EVF FULL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING REPORT

Governors met for the first full governors meeting this school year at Whimple school, on Tuesday evening. The meeting included safeguarding training, with an update on changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education. The training reinforced that the safeguarding of children is everyone's responsibility. The Executive Head Report generated varied questions from the governors, with answers presented by the Executive Head. The lead behaviour governor reported back to the meeting about the impact of pupil behaviour with current school data. All the governors agree the annual parent survey is extremely useful to assist with monitoring behaviour across the EVF and developing future plans.

Governors welcomed Lisa Price as a new co-opted governor. Lisa is a parent at Thorverton and is excited to help steer the strategic aims of the exe valley federation to ensure that the children obtain the maximum benefit from their time in the school environment.

PRAYER ROOM

Every half term a group of parents meet to pray for the federation schools and everyone is welcome to join them. The next prayer room is on Friday, 20th October at 9.30am at the chapel in Brampford Speke. For more information, please contact Andy Mathers [apmathers@gmail.com]



Other Important Updates:

Parent Consultations

For consultation times prior to 3.30pm, please use the intercom on the main blue gates and after signing in you will be asked to wait in the reception area. You will be collected by your child's class teacher.

Day	Class	Meeting held in:	Please wait
Monday 16th	Willow	Willow Class, main building	Library main building
Tuesday 17th	Elm	Elm Class, left mobile	Under shelter, lower playground
	Ash	Ash Class, right mobile	Under shelter, lower playground
	Oak	Apple Room, main building	In reception area, in main building
	Beech	Beech Class, main building	Library main building
	Willow	Willow Class, main building	Library main building
Wednesday 18th	Oak	Apple Room, main building	In reception area, main building
Thursday 19th	Elm	Elm Class, left mobile	Under shelter, lower playground

Reading Books

As a school, and with the support of the PTA, we have purchased a lot of reading books over the past year or so. All books are precious, and unfortunately we have had to spend a reasonable amount of money replacing books that have not been returned. We are now going to monitor more closely the return of reading books and will have to charge parents for unreturned copies. We appreciate children can forget to bring their book back initially so we will remind them for a week but then we will be contacting the parents by email. If lost we will put a charge on your school gateway account, to enable us to replace the lost copy.



This is particularly important for the books that belong to sets that are used for our children in Ash and Elm Class. Having one missing from a set means that the next time that book is used someone has to go without or the whole set of books is not used.

Bikeability

Next week the children in Year 6 are undertaking their Bikeability training, this means we have a lot of bikes on site so it would be really helpful if other children could leave their bikes and scooters at home. Thank you for your cooperation.



World Mental Health Day

The aim of World Mental Health Day is to help people learn about mental health and understand what it is and how they can look after it. World Mental Health Day also encourages people to talk about their feelings.

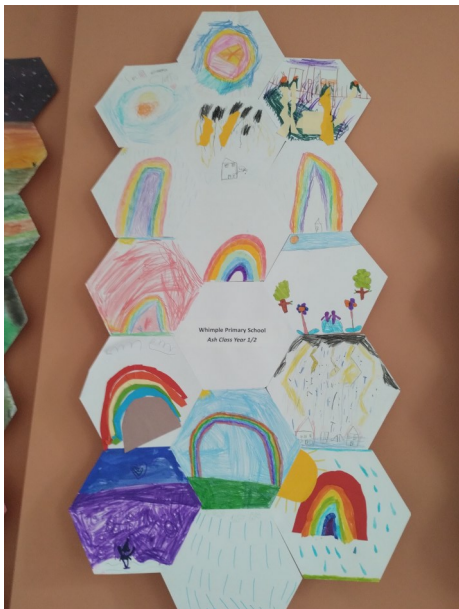
Through assemblies and other activities in class this week, children have had the opportunity to talk about both physical and mental health. They have explored how throughout the day; they can experience a range of different emotions. Some of these emotions can make them feel good and some of them can make them feel uncomfortable, but also that it is OK to feel different emotions. Children are encouraged to talk about their emotions and talk to an adult they can trust if they have concerns or if they feel uncomfortable feelings.

There are things that people can do in their daily lives to feel good on the inside and look after their mental health. Just like with our body, it is important that we do things to help our minds to be healthy, be in good condition and feel well. There are things we can do to look after our mental health and wellbeing. This may include spending time doing things we enjoy, making sure we get enough rest/sleep, eating well and spending time outside.

Hopefully, this will help them to understand how mental health affects how they handle things in their daily lives such as the choices they make, how they treat others, how they behave and how they deal with different situations.

Sidmouth Science Week

Sidmouth Science Week events have finished for this year today but the art display will stay up on display till the end of 14th October. Thank you to all those who took part and well done to Beech Class who were awarded a sought after 'Highly Commended' for the whole class montage of Whimble Weatherosaurus (designed by George Luscombe).



Cranbrook Community SEND Group

Waiting lists are currently very long before children are getting assessed. Its been reported families are struggling with lack of support and their mental health has a impact on their children's learning.

With this in mind, we would like our FREE support services shared with as many parents and carers as possible so we can support and signpost them if appropriate to services they can get the extra support they so desperately need.

We have support from Cranbrook Medical centre, Devon Information Advisory Service (DIAS) & Parent Carer Forum and often liaise with them to advise.

Our contact details are at the bottom of the blue poster.



Ambassador Volunteer



Hi, my name is Sam. I have trained as an Ambassador Volunteer.

An Ambassador Volunteer is intended to be a link for their local community available to signpost families to information, advice and support, particularly around special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and to also ensure the voices of parents are heard.

As an Ambassador Volunteer, I will be building links within my own community and connecting to a network across Devon. I will actively cascade information in my own community network from: Devon Information, Advice and Support Service (DIAS) and the Parent Carer Forum Devon. I will also be a link in our community to help ensure the voices of our parents in our area are heard and can influence changes to policy and practice.

My passion and motivation comes from my personal experience in our SEND journey. My son was diagnosed with Autism at 6yrs old, after a battle with professionals. I fought to keep him in mainstream and with the right support, he gained 5 GCSEs and is now attending Exeter College. My 15yr old daughter has complex needs; Autism and high profile selective mutism are only 2 of her diagnoses. I did her ECHP myself and when she was out of education for 10 months, I fought again to get her in alternative provision. She finally settled and is working towards her GCSEs.

With the help and support of a nurse from our GP practice, I am the coordinator of Cranbrook SEND group. We meet regular to support families in Cranbrook and surrounding areas.

For more information please contact-

cranbrooksendproject@btinternet.com



07359067788



Cranbrook Community Send Group

For more information about the Ambassador Volunteer Project: If you are interested and would like to know how you could find out more about the project or become an Ambassador Volunteer, please get in touch! Sarah Lord, Ambassador Volunteer Coordinator, sarah.lord@devon.gov.uk, 07815490088

DIAS
Devon Information
Advice and Support
for Special Educational Needs and Disability

Working together to support the development of
the Parent Carer Forum Devon



Parent Carer Forum
Devon

CRANBROOK COMMUNITY SEND PROJECT
WE ARE ALL IN IT

CRANBROOK COMMUNITY SEND GROUP

For further information
on sessions, meeting dates
please CALL OR TEXT
07359 067788

Meetup dates

- 1st Tues of EVERY month
@Cafe143 9.30-10.30
- 3rd Fri of EVERY month@
5Alive (Wellbeing hub)

Pop in and join us for family support meetings. Members welcome. No fee necessary.

Cranbrook Community SEND Project for families with special needs children aim to provide a support group in a safe place where parents can meet other parents, share their experiences, and talk with others in a similar situation.

Together we can support each other, offer emotional support, and learn strategies to help with the challenges faced in everyday life.

We want you to feel valued and included in the lovely Community of Cranbrook and surrounding villages.

Information, Resources and Advice
Activities and Social Events
Guest Speakers to Educate and Inform
Receive Signposting to Local, National Services, Organisations and Groups
Participate in Shaping Local Services

CEC Meetings for Disabled People
Emotional & Peer Support

Sam Wells Ambassador Volunteer / Nurse Naomi Cranbrook Medical Practice

@ cranbrooksendproject@btinternet.com
f Cranbrook Community Support Project
i Cranbrook Community Support Project
v WhatsApp Cranbrook Community SEND 07359 067788
☎ Arrange a call back by leaving a message with 01392 462013

National Sleep Helpline

At any given time up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with their sleep. Yet in a recent survey, almost 60% of adults felt there was a lack of support for sleep issues. Sleep problems can leave people feeling isolated and lonely.

Our free helpline is run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. We can talk to young people directly, or parents (we can also talk to adults, including older people, about their sleep issues).

The helpline is open 5 times a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, and Monday, Wednesday mornings 9-11am. The number is 03303 530 541.

You can read more here: <https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/national-sleep-helpline/>

Please also see attached leaflet. (attached to email)



Want to know more about sleep?

ASK US THE QUESTIONS YOU WANT ANSWERS TO

03303 530 541
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am

Libraries Unlimited

MON 23 OCT
10.00 - 11.30
12.00 - 13.30
Ottery Library
Free

Libraries Unlimited presents

NATURE DOODLES

With Megan Dowsett

How do you Doodle? Join local artist Megan Dowsett and explore how to doodle with Nature in this interactive family friendly workshop. This workshop uses an extensive array of seed pods, sticks, leaves and cones to create temporary artworks, known as Nature Doodles.

Book your place by contacting
Ottery Library on 01404 813838



librariesunlimited.org.uk/events
Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity 1170992.
To donate, please visit librariesunlimited.org.uk

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ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

EXETER
LIVE BETTER

Dates for your diary

October

Monday 16th	Willow Class Parent consultations 3.30pm to 6pm Bikeability starts for year 6
Tuesday 17th	Elm Class Parent consultations 3.40pm to 5.40pm Ash Class Parent consultations 2.30pm to 6.30pm Oak Class Parent consultations 3.40pm to 6pm Beech Class Parent consultations 2.30pm to 6.30pm Willow Class Parent consultations 3.30pm to 4.45pm
Wednesday 18th	Oak Class Parent consultations 3.40pm to 4.45pm
Thursday 19th	Elm Class Parent consultations 3.40pm to 5.40pm
Friday 20th	Annual Apple Pick
Monday 30th	Vision Screening - Reception only

November

Friday 3rd November	Year 5 Sleepover
Tuesday 21st	Individual photographs

Term dates for pupils - 2023/24:

AUTUMN TERM 2023

6th September to 15th December 2023

Half term - 23rd to 27th October 2023

SPRING TERM 2024

4th January to 28th March 2024

Half term - 12th to 16th February 2024

SUMMER TERM 2024

15th April to 25th July 2024

May Day holiday - 6th May 2024

Half term - 27th May to 31st May 2024

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

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk

Website: www.whimple-primary.devon.sch.uk