

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026



Whimble Primary School

Issue 11

27.03.26

As we head into the final week of the spring term, the children's spirits are high and they are completing many units of work as the term draws to a close.

You should have all received your child's annual report, (with the exception of our reception children, who will receive theirs later in the summer term). If you would like to meet with your child's class teacher(s) to discuss the report or any concerns you may have, then please email the school office at admin@whimbleprimary.co.uk



Over the past few weeks, the Federation have been busy recruiting to fill three vacant Head of School positions. Mr Brown has been part of this process, and we would like to congratulate him on being appointed Head of School at Silverton School from September 2026. He has been a great asset to the Whimble team for over 10 years and I am sure he will continue his good work at Silverton.

After 15 years of dedicated service here at Whimble, Caroline Wall has decided to retire. In her time here, she became our Forest School Lead, been our 'expert' in RE, supported children with their mental health and been a valuable, hardworking Higher Level Teaching Assistant across all classes. She has been an asset to the team in so many ways. It has been a pleasure to work with her and she will be really missed. We are making a collection for her, so if you would like to contribute in any way, please drop it into the school office in a labelled envelope.



Thank You

With a number of staff changes both here, and across the federation, Mr Jolliffe and I will work together to look at staffing, and will let you know what is happening next term.

Most Improved Trophies/Governor Cup Return

Please can all trophies be returned to the school office by Tuesday 31st March so we can hand them out in our next achievement assembly at the end of term.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

During the first three days of this week we ran a very thorough recruitment programme to appoint new school leaders for Brampford Speke, Silverton and Cornwood, three of our four church schools. I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have appointed Mrs Lily Nichols to the post of Head of School at Brampford Speke and Mr Matt Brown to the post of Head of School at Silverton. Both of them are well known to their new schools already through their work as subject leaders and through working at Thorverton and Whimble respectively. Regrettably we were not able to make a good appointment for Cornwood, so we will be re-advertising this post in the first half of the summer term. Congratulations to Mrs Nichols and Mr Brown and I look forward to working with them as they turn their vision for their schools into reality in the coming months.

I know that Mr Brown's departure from Whimble will be a real loss to the school and that he will be very much missed by parents, staff and pupils. Mrs Shilston and I are working on a plan to replace him from September and ensure that the excellent work he has done over recent years continues.

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

On Monday evening this week, a group of parents from the East Exe Valley Federation schools listened to Jennifer Powers from PAPAYA talk about the challenges that access to smartphones poses to children under the age of 11. Jennifer spoke about the persuasive design of technology and its potential impact on children's mental health and well-being. This was backed up by research evidence and balanced with practical suggestions about how to manage children's access to smartphones. We will be offering this talk again to parents across the wider federation in the summer term, so please look out for more information about this in the newsletters.

If you would like to join the Smartphone free childhood campaign, the link to the parent pack is as follows: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/parent-pact>

TERM DATES

Next Thursday, 2nd April, is the last day of the spring term. The summer term begins on Monday, 20th April 2026 and ends on Wednesday, 22nd July. Half term is from Monday, 25th May to Friday, 29th May.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

WIN A GIANT THORNTON 650g EASTER EGG

Whimble PTA are pleased to be supporting the school by holding a Easter Egg Raffle.

Choose a number on the board for a chance to win a giant 650g chocolate Easter egg... and at the same time help raise money for Whimble Primary School.

It's just £1 a square, numbers 1–100, and someone will be going home with a very impressive Easter treat!

Tickets will be on sale in the top playground from Friday 27th March until Wednesday 1st April, at pick-up.

Good luck everyone... and thank you for supporting such a great cause as always.

The raffle will be drawn Thursday morning to enable the lucky winner to take it home for Easter.



Lots of interesting places to go, things to do and some offers too! Copies available in reception area.



THE CREATION STATION'S CREATE CLUB

Art & Craft Easter Holiday Club

Held at Silverton Primary School

Thursday 9th April 'Easter'

Friday 10th April 'Wacky Pets'

Thursday 16th April 'Spring'

Friday 17th April 'Game Makers'

portal.thecreationstation.franscape.io/class-overview/9584

- 9am-3.30pm daily -Suitable for 5-12years
- Art & Crafts every day, along with games and free time
- Children need to bring a packed lunch, snacks & drinks
- Different themes each club day
- £32 single day or £55 for 2 days (please contact Kat who will apply the discount)
- 10% Sibling discount

Dates for the entire school year available to book now



CALL OR EMAIL KAT TO BOOK

07817 955 997



kathoward@thecreationstation.co.uk

www.thecreationstation.co.uk

The Creation Station Exeter & Mid Devon

Dates for your diary

March

Saturday 28th PTA Easter Egg Hunt

w/c 30th Parent consultations

April

Thursday 2nd End of term (1.30pm finish)

Thursday 2nd PTA Sweet Sale

Thursday 23rd Exmoor Challenge practice walk—Killerton

Friday 24th Bags2School Collection

Friday 24th Art Display 3.30pm to 4.30pm

May

Tuesday 5th to Wednesday 6th May Year 3/4 residential

Monday 11th KS2 SATs week

June

w/c Monday 1st Multiplication Tables Check - Year 4

w/c Monday 8th Phonics Screening - Year 1

Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th June Year 5/6 residential

July

Friday 3rd Sports Day (pm)

Term dates for pupils - 2025/26:

SPRING TERM 2026 5th January to 2nd April 2026

SUMMER TERM 2026 20th April to 22nd July 2026

Half term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 26th June 2026

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk

Website: www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk