

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026



Whimple Primary School

Issue 4

30.01.26

Another eventful week of weather has passed. I would like to thank you for your understanding with regards school closure on Tuesday. Many of our staff live a significant distance away, and with a number of major routes closed and other minor routes completely flooded, it made it impossible for a number of us to get into school. These decisions are never easy, but we try to make them as early as possible, in order to provide time for parents to make alternative arrangements. Fingers crossed that February brings a weather alternative (although hopefully not snow!)

After enjoying the Beauty and the beast theatre event last week, the children in Year 5 and 6 had the pleasure of listening to the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra this Friday. This was partly funded through the Music Hub and, for the past month or so, the children have learned two songs so they could join in with the orchestra, singing and doing body percussion.

Devon Library Changes

As you may have heard, Devon County Council have launched a 12-week public consultation into the future of Devon's libraries.

Financial pressures, alongside the way people use Council services, are driving this consultation. Libraries Unlimited are commissioned to run the libraries by the council. We have been using our charitable reserves over the last few years to plug funding gaps, but we can no longer continue to do this. This consultation will help Devon County Council understand how people use library services and how they'd like to see things develop in future years.



The consultation documents are online and the survey can be completed by visiting <https://devon.cc/your-libraries>.

There is also a survey for children and young people to have their say here: [Have Your Say Today - Survey for young people - Shaping Devon's Library Service](#)

We're sure you'll agree that libraries are an essential community resource and are crucial for young people to have access to.

The consultation is open until 22nd February 2026. Please help us spread the word so we can make sure everyone has their say.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

The weather this week has presented some real challenges for families and staff, and some of our schools were literally cut off for quite a large part of Tuesday. Thank you so much for your understanding about our decision to close the schools because travel for staff was going to be so hazardous. I really hope this situation doesn't arise again, but if it does, we will contact parents by text message and email, so please do let your child's school office know if you have changed either of these recently, so that we can keep you up to date with what is happening.

YEAR 3 and 4 RESIDENTIAL

The Year 3 and 4 residential visit this year is to Dartmoor Zoo, where children will have the opportunity to spend the day with the animals, before spending the night in the accommodation area. The cost of the two-day visit is £102. Help with funding the cost of the visit is available. Please return response slips to your child's school office by Friday, 27th February 2026.

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

We have booked an online talk with Nicola MacDonald from PAPAYA about the use of technology on Monday, 23rd March at 7.00pm. Nicola is a Resilience Coach and Author of Resilient Teen. She runs resilience workshops and specialises in mindfulness, tech addiction, youth mental health and conscious parenting. Please do put the time and date in your diaries.



Let's talk about our kids and their tech

ONLINE PARENT TALK WITH NICOLA:

EAST EXE VALLEY FEDERATION
MONDAY 23rd MARCH 2026 — 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

JOINING LINK:

ACCESS VIA THE TEAMS LINK [HERE](#)



Nicola MacDonald

Nicola MacDonald is a Resilience Coach and Author of the non-fiction book, Resilient Teen. She is the Founder of My Resilient Mind and Co-Founder of The Digital Detox Club. She runs resilience workshops and talks for schools, parents, and adults in the workplace. She specialises in mindfulness, tech addiction, youth mental health and conscious parenting.

Nicola is an empowering and uplifting speaker who shares her knowledge in a non-judgemental way linking to her own experiences of parenthood and her own previous struggles with teen anxiety.

[East Exe Valley Federation — Papaya Parent Talk with Nicola MacDonald | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)



Helping families to thrive in a digital age

Parenting in the **digital age** has never been more complex, with issues surrounding screen time, social media use, and gaming.

Many parents are concerned about their children's mental health, especially the impact of screens on it.

In this interactive talk, Nicola unpacks some of the **complex issues** surrounding smartphone use and, in a **non-judgmental** manner, aims to help you find solutions that work for your family.

Topics

- The link between mental health and wellbeing and spending too much time online
- Strategies for delaying the smartphone
- Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology
- Question and discussion time

"The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it."

— Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.

This is the last one on offer:



The poster features a dark blue background with colorful paint splashes in green, pink, and light blue. At the top left is the Cornwall & Devon School Age Immunisation Service logo, which includes a stylized map of Cornwall and Devon. The NHS logo is in the top right. The central text 'Flu Vaccination' is inside a pink splash. To the right, 'School Age Reception - Year 11' is in a blue splash. The main title 'Drop In Clinic' is in large white letters. Below it, the date and time are in white on an orange background. The location is also in white on the orange background. A QR code is on the right with a pink arrow pointing to it. Contact information is at the bottom right.

CORNWALL & DEVON
School Age Immunisation Service
Provided by Kernow Health CIC

NHS

Flu
Vaccination

School Age
Reception -
Year 11

Drop In Clinic

Complete
your
consent
form here

Saturday 7th February 2026
11:00 - 13:00
Riverside Community Centre
Station Road
Bovey Tracey
TQ13 9AW



For more information
please speak with a
member of the team

Call us on
01392 342678
kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net

Dates for your diary

February

Wednesday 4th	Singing Workshop - Oak and Ash Class
Friday 6th	Beech Class Forest School
Friday 13th	Oak Class Forest School
Friday 13th	PTA Sweet Sale
w/c Monday 16th	Half-term

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

Term dates for pupils - 2025/26:

SPRING TERM 2026	5th January to 2nd April 2026
	<i>Half term: Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026</i>
	<i>Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 5th January 2026</i>
SUMMER TERM 2026	20th April to 22nd July 2026
	<i>Half term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026</i>
	<i>Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 26th June 2026</i>

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk

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