

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026



Whimple Primary School

Issue 5

06.02.26

It's really hard not to talk about the weather, but wasn't it lovely to see and feel the sunshine this afternoon! The children in the hall wanted the curtains pulled so the sun was not in their eyes, which I understand, but I said what a shame, let's make the most of it. I also noticed this morning that our first daffodils are also out

Monday 9th February

The Reception/Year 1 information session on Monday is going ahead at 3pm and 4.30pm. The 3pm session will be held in the library so we ask that you come to the office and sign in so we know who is on site. The 4.30pm session will be held in Elm Class. If you haven't signed up but find you are able to come, just pop in, it will be great to see you all.

Starting after half-term, we are asking our parents of Elm Class to **not** bring their child into the cloakroom or class. It is causing a number of issues which we need to address. If children are a bit 'wobbly', a member of staff will be beside the EYFS shelter to take your child into class.

Available from the office reception area

This edition features lots of activities, including things to do during half term, staycations, free things to do and much more, as well as competitions and discount codes.



Devon
**primary
times**
**FEBRUARY
ISSUE**
IS OUT NOW!



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week, and promoting a positive approach to mental health is an important part of our work in schools. One of the messages we want to get across is that good mental health and wellbeing doesn't mean always being happy or unaffected by our experiences, but poor mental wellbeing can make it more difficult to cope with daily life. Our mental health and wellbeing can be affected because of situations we're in, things we're doing and things beyond our control, including other people, our physical health, and even the weather and world events.

It is important to normalise conversations about emotional and mental health and wellbeing in school – creating environments where pupils, staff, and the wider school community feel comfortable to talk, not just about when things are hard, but also about things that are going well and the ways we keep ourselves well. Across the federation schools, there is a lot of work going on to support children's mental health and we have a number of staff who are able to help children to talk about how they are feeling. If you think your child would benefit from some support in this area, please do speak to your child's Head of School, who will be able to help.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

More information about children's mental health and how to support children and young people in different ways may be found at [Devon Schools Wellbeing Partnership - Children's Mental Health Week Special Edition](#). There is also information on the EVMF website under 'key information' and then 'information for parents'.

PRAYER ROOM

Every half term, a group of parents meet to pray for the federation schools. The next prayer room will be on Friday, 13th February at 9.30am at Silvertown Evangelical Church [School Road, Silvertown EX5 4JH]. Please contact Andy Mathers [apmathers@gmail.com] for more information.



Whimble School PTA Needs Your Help!



**Your level of involvement can be flexible
to suit your availability**

Joining the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

Introduction

The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) plays a vital role in supporting schools, enhancing the educational experience for pupils, and fostering a strong sense of community among parents, teachers, and staff. If you are interested in getting involved and making a meaningful contribution to your child's school, joining the PTA is a brilliant way to do so.

Why Join the PTA?

- Support Your School: Help organise events, raise funds, and contribute to school improvement projects.
- Build Relationships: Connect with other parents and staff, fostering a collaborative environment.
- Have Your Say: Be involved in discussions and decision-making processes that affect your child and the wider school community.
- Gain New Skills: Develop leadership, event planning, and teamwork skills through volunteering.

How to Join the PTA

- Express Your Interest: Contact your school's office or speak to a current PTA member to let them know you'd like to get involved.
- Attend a Meeting: Most PTAs hold regular meetings which are open to all parents and carers. Attending a meeting is a great first step.
- Get Involved: Once you've joined, participate in events, planning sessions, and other PTA activities.
Your level of involvement can be flexible to suit your availability.

What to Expect as a PTA Member

- Participate in regular meetings to discuss school matters and upcoming events.
- Volunteer for events such as school fairs, fundraising activities, and community projects.
- Collaborate with other parents, teachers, and staff to promote a positive school environment.
- Share your ideas and opinions to help shape the future of the school.

Contact Information

To join the PTA or find out more information, please contact the school's main office or email, whimble.pta@gmail.com

By joining the PTA, you're making a positive impact on your child's educational journey and helping to build a thriving school community.

**Our next PTA Meeting is taking place on Wednesday 25th February
at 7pm in the New Fountain Inn. Everyone is welcome!**




FUNDRAISER
FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2026
SILENT
DISCO
7.00 PM TIL LATE
 FEATURING:
JAMES HARRIS
ON THE SAXOPHONE



TICKETS £12
SCAN QR CODE
OR PURCHASE ONLINE

LICENSED BAR
RAFFLE AND AUCTION
@WHIMBLE CRICKET CLUB

LAND OF THE PHARAOHS  University of Exeter **The Bill Douglas CINEMA MUSEUM**

Egypt on Screen

FAMILY FUN DAY

Monday 16th February
 10am-12 noon & 2-4pm

Free drop-in kids' creative activities inspired by the Land of the Pharaohs Exhibition

Make your own Egyptian-inspired film props and much more!

Suitable for all ages.
 Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Bill Douglas Cinema Museum
 The Old Library
 University of Exeter, EX4 4SB
 bdcmuseum.org



Dates for your diary

February

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

Half term: Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 5th January 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

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