

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026



Whimple Primary School

Issue 6

13.02.26

We finish the half-term with some colder weather and glorious sunshine - hopefully we will see more of this next week,

New website

The school has now moved across to the Exe Valley Federation website:

<https://www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk/Whimple/>

It is work in progress, but there is a lot of information on there already. Although our other site continues to work at the moment, it will be turned off soon.

Curriculum newsletter

Our curriculum newsletter includes an overview of some of the things each class have been involved in this half-term. (attached with this newsletter) Take a look to find out more.

World Book Day - Friday 6th March

We always enjoy celebrating World Book Day here in school. We like to encourage costumes linked to particular stories as the real purpose of this day is to encourage the love of reading and understanding the long term benefits of this vital skill. Six authors have been chosen to promote, which hopefully suit all ages of children. We hold a special assembly to enable the children to see all the costumes and guess each other's characters. The costumes do not have to be spectacular, and we really love the home made ones.

The chosen authors are: (any book can be chosen these are just suggestions)

JK Rowling – Harry Potter Series

Robin Stevens – Murder Most Unladylike

Terry Deary – Horrible Histories

Katie Kirby – Lottie Books

AF Steadman – Skandar (unicorns, dragons)

Roger Hargreaves – Mr Men



If you have another great idea for a costume linked to a character written by another author, just go for it!



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

During the second half of the spring term we are hoping to recruit two new Heads of School to lead Brampford Speke and Cornwood schools from September 2026. The advertisements are now on the federation website and on Devon County Council's job vacancies website. Governors and senior leaders will be interviewing over two days in late March, with one day at the schools, followed by a second day of interviews and selection tasks. I will let you know how the process evolves over the coming weeks.

SAFEGUARDING DURING HALF TERM

If you are concerned about the safety of a child in Devon or want to speak to someone, or if you are a child worried about your own safety, you can contact Front Door (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub or MASH) by calling on 0345 155 1071. If a child is in immediate danger please call 999. Anyone who is concerned about a child's safety or well-being can contact the Front Door.

If you suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused, or you are being abused yourself and live within Devon Local Authority boundaries, please contact us by calling Adult Social Care on 0345 1551 007 (Monday to Thursday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm and Saturday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm).

Outside of the hours above or on bank holidays call the Emergency Duty Service on 0345 6000 388.

Alternatively, you can email: safeguardingadultseast-mailbox@devon.gov.uk (Exeter, East and Mid Devon).

PARENT SURVEY

Every year we ask parents for their views about their child's school and we use this information to help shape our development plans for the coming year. This year, we have made a much shorter survey, with ten questions and two free text sections, in the hope that more parents will be able to contribute their views. The survey will go live after half term and we would like to have responses back by Friday, 20th March.

Safer Internet Day

All classes have spent some time this week using some of the resources to support this year's message which was 'Smart Tech, Safe Choice—Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'

AI technology is increasingly part of all our lives, so this Safer Internet Day was about starting the conversation about how to use it safely and responsibly. Whilst our younger children may not be ready yet to use the internet independently, there are a number of top tips to start good online habits now that will keep them safe in the future. Use [this link](#) for some really helpful advice and support.

BBC Bitesize also has some great resources for KS2 children.

**Safer
Internet
Day 2026** | **Tuesday
10 February**

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

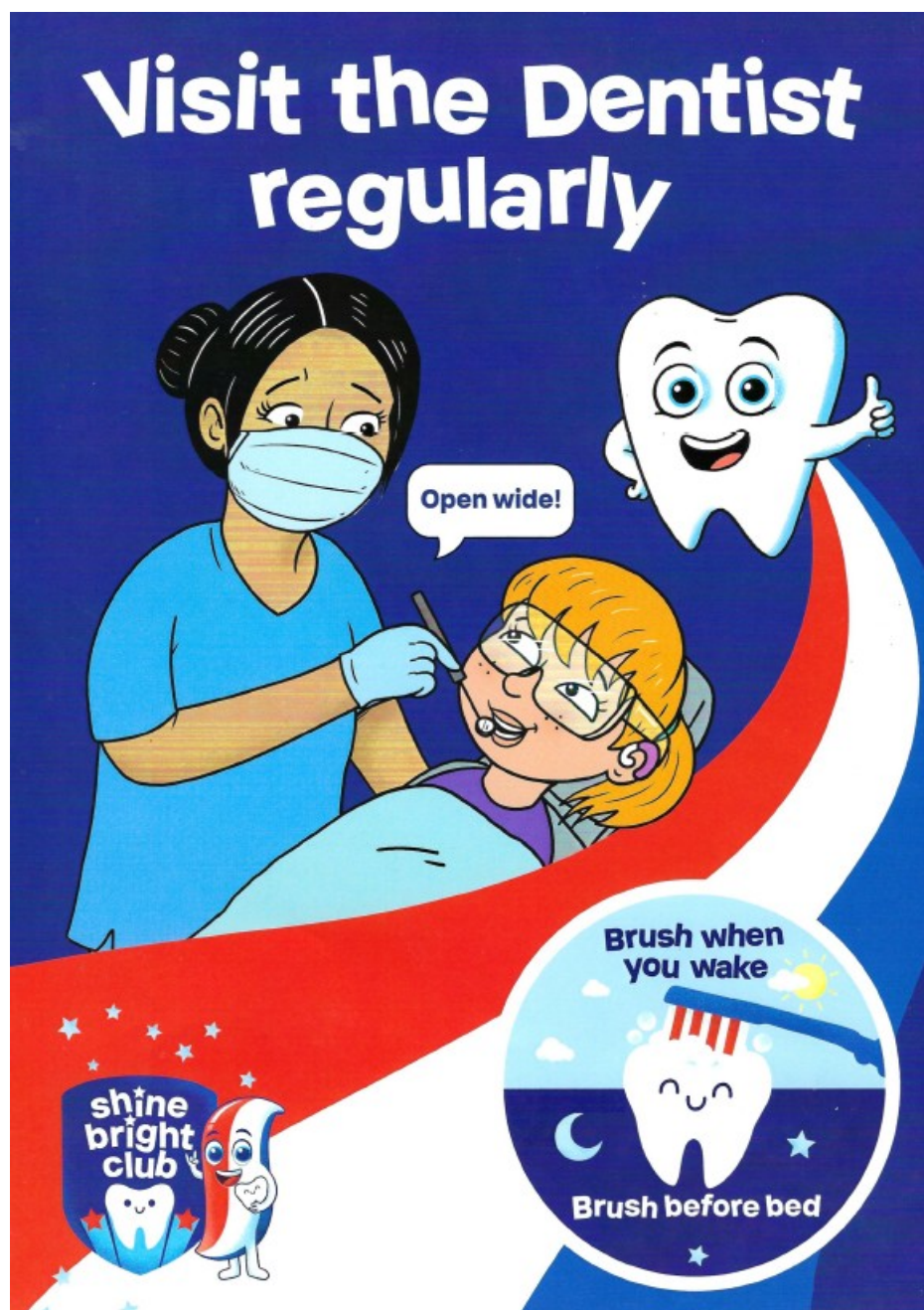
We are pleased to invite all parents and guardians across Devon to a **free NHS-funded Oral Health Webinar** taking place on **Saturday 28th February at 10:00am**.

This session is suitable for families with children aged **0–12 years**, and it provides practical, evidence-based guidance on supporting good oral health at home.

This opportunity is open to **all families**, whether or not your setting currently takes part in our supervised toothbrushing programme.

🔗 Webinar link: [Big Brush Club Webinar - Saturday 28th February at 10am - For Parents and Caregivers of young children](#)

We hope this will be a useful resource for your families, and we appreciate your support in sharing it widely. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.





Dear Parents and Carers,

We're excited to let you know that our school has joined [The Hidden Treasure Hunt](#) – a fun, national recycling challenge that helps children learn how to responsibly manage old, unwanted or broken tech and electricals, while working together as a community to win tech for their school.

The Hidden Treasure Hunt is a UK-wide call to action for schools and families. Children are learning that old electrical items aren't rubbish – they contain valuable materials that can be reused, rather than wasted. By taking part, families help bring this learning to life at home, reduce electrical waste, and support our school at the same time.

How it works

Taking part is simple, and every family can join in.

Step one: Rummage

Have a hunt at home for old, unwanted or broken tech and electricals. Anything with a battery, plug or cable counts – from old chargers and toys to phones, tablets, laptops and small appliances.

Step two: Recycle

You can recycle your electrical items at your nearest Curry's store or at one of over 30,000 local recycling points, which you can find by searching '[Recycle your electricals](#)'.

If you take your electrical along to a Curry's store you'll receive at least a £5 discount voucher when you spend £25 or more. Some items, such as laptops, tablets, mobiles or consoles, may be worth more through Currys' trade-in scheme – just ask in store.

Please remember to back up and remove any personal data before recycling. It's easy to do - visit '[Recycle your electricals](#)' to find out how. Any tech you drop off at Currys will also be safely data wiped to UK Government standards.

Step three: Register

To earn a planet care point for our school*:

At a Curry's store, scan the QR code in store to register your recycling

At a local recycling point, visit hiddentreasurehunt.org to register your items

* Terms and conditions apply – see hiddentreasurehunt.org for details.

What's in it for our school and families?

Schools compete on a national leaderboard to win Currys' vouchers for Microsoft tech!

Top prizes include £10,000, £3,000 and £2,000 in tech for schools

Every participating school is entered into termly prize draws for £1,000 in tech

Families who register their recycling are entered into termly prize draws to win £100 Currys' vouchers for Microsoft tech

This is a brilliant opportunity for our whole school community to learn, take action together, and make a real difference – locally and nationally.

You can find full details at: hiddentreasurehunt.org

Let's start hunting for hidden treasure and recycling for a better future.

Best wishes,

The ECO Committee

Dates for your diary

February

w/c Monday 16th Half-term
Monday 23rd Children return to school
Friday 27th Year 5 and 6 Compass Skills and walk

March

Friday 6th World Book Day—Non Uniform Day

April

Friday 24th Art Display

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

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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