

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026



Whimple Primary School

Issue 7

27.02.26

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term. I hope you all managed to do something you enjoy over half term. It has been great having some drier weather this week, it certainly helps with everyone's morale.

Morning Drop Off and Collection at the End of the Day

We have had a few mornings recently where children have been collating outside of the school gates or along the pavement in small groups. In order to ensure the safety of all, children need to be in the top playground so the entrance is clear. Children should not be in school prior to 8.45am.

We are having increasing numbers of adults being late to collect children at the end of the day. Whilst we understand unexpected things can happen or the traffic is bad, we are noticing regular patterns or days, signalling that this is not a rare unexpected event. Please ensure to allow enough time to get to school.

Craft/Games Club

This club will run again for the rest of this term.

The club is open to all ages, please use this link to book by Tuesday at 3pm so we know our numbers and can prepare.

<https://forms.gle/kK4jZT7o9EsJhLH66>

World Book Day - Friday 6th March

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

The Schools' Bill has been published by the government this week and has been widely reported in the press. There are some significant changes planned for SEND and three tiers of support for children. There is also an expectation that all schools will be part of multi-academy trusts, but the details of this are unclear. Federation senior leaders and governors will be working through the implications of the Bill and carefully considering how to prepare ourselves for the changing educational landscape over the next few years.

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

A reminder that 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 if you haven't already done so.

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

PAPAYA

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.

PAPAYA

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.



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

March

Friday 6th World Book Day—Non Uniform Day

April

Thursday 2nd End of term (1.30pm finish)

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

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

Telephone: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimpleprimary.co.uk

Website: www.exevalleyfederation.co.uk