

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026



Whimple Primary School

Issue 8

06.03.26

It was fantastic to see the wonderful selection of World Book Day costumes today, we are also impressed by the thought and effort that goes into this, especially the 'home produced' costumes, so thank you very much for your support with this.



Village Hall Car Park



I have been asked to remind parents that the use of the village hall car park is for staff and users of the doctor's surgery. It is **not for dropping off** or collecting children from school. The Thirsty Farmer have kindly offered their car park if users park respectfully. This is to ensure the safety of your children, car parks are tricky places to navigate and we do not want an accident to occur. Parents of younger children are walking through at this time to take their children to pre-school.

Reports

Annual reports are currently being written, if you require more than one copy for any reason, please email the office to let us know.

EVMF 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 QR code is below, which takes you straight to the survey. The survey will be open until Friday, 20th March. Thank you so much.





Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

On Tuesday this week, senior leaders from the Exe Valley, Moorsway and South Hams schools met to begin to co-write our Strategic Plan for the next five years. The last plan was written in 2021, when the effects of lockdown were still being felt by everyone. Five years later a lot has changed and the White Paper's proposals have been included in our outline plan. We will be making a video presentation of the draft plan to share with parents, ahead of a consultation meeting on line in the summer term.

SHAUGH PRIOR CONSULTATION

Devon County Council is formally consulting on the proposed closure of Shaugh Prior Primary School from 31st August 2026. The consultation report is attached to this week's newsletters and can be found on the EVMF website. The deadline for representations to be made is 2nd April 2026.

OUR GREEN SCHOOLS

We want to create an opportunity for parents and teachers to come together to share best practice from across the federation and discuss ideas to "green" our schools, in the widest sense of the word.

We are fortunate to live in an area where children can connect to the food system, cutting-edge conservation projects, and stunning natural landscapes right on our doorstep. These remarkable resources can offer powerful experiences that help build context and connection in the complex and changing world our children are growing up in.

From farm visits and outdoor learning to using nature as a brain break, to reducing energy consumption and improving our school grounds, all of these approaches can enrich children's experiences while benefiting both our school environments and the natural world. All federation schools now have a Climate Action Plan, and many are already doing great things. However, schools are under significant pressure, and in many areas, from sharing experience to school grounds projects, parental involvement and engagement can make a real difference.

As a federation, we have a valuable network that allows us to share ideas and learn from one another. In this meeting, parents and teachers from across our nine schools will be invited to:

Gain insight into the wider national picture on opportunities to connect the classroom to farming, nature, and sustainability.

Share examples of great work already happening across the federation

Explore ideas for the future and discuss how parents and schools can work together to "connect the dots," greening our children's school experiences wherever possible

The meeting will be held online from 8-9pm on the 28th April. We are asking people who are interested in attending to fill out a form so we can get an idea of the level of engagement from each school. We will also be recording the meeting and making it available, as we recognise it's a lot to ask of teachers to attend at the end of the school day and that it may not be an easy time for everyone who wants to engage to attend. If you can't attend but are interested in seeing a recording can you fill in the form as well.

[Greening our schools Parent and Teacher Meeting – Fill out form](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=5lEnRCy2p0W1WtFjIjVhUeuJ7LqcbtMqssEGaoZ7NVUOUU0VVcyUVQ3OU00Nkg2M1paSkozWkQyUi4u&route=shorturl)

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=5lEnRCy2p0W1WtFjIjVhUeuJ7LqcbtMqssEGaoZ7NVUOUU0VVcyUVQ3OU00Nkg2M1paSkozWkQyUi4u&route=shorturl)

[id=5lEnRCy2p0W1WtFjIjVhUeuJ7LqcbtMqssEGaoZ7NVUOUU0VVcyUVQ3OU00Nkg2M1paSkozWkQyUi4u&route=shorturl](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=5lEnRCy2p0W1WtFjIjVhUeuJ7LqcbtMqssEGaoZ7NVUOUU0VVcyUVQ3OU00Nkg2M1paSkozWkQyUi4u&route=shorturl)



Comic Relief - Friday 13th March

Children have been asked to come to school either dressed in red or something funny. If you want to contribute to this charity you can either use [this link](#) or bring in cash to the school office.



Origami Sale

A group children from Beech Class have been making a variety of origami items to sell. This will be after school next Friday under the shelter in the top playground. All donations and funds raised will go to **Comic Relief**.



Whimble Cricket Club: 2026 Season

We're gearing up for another exciting season at Whimble Cricket Club, and there are plenty of opportunities for young people to get involved in cricket this year. For 2026, we'll once again be running the England and Wales Cricket Board programmes for younger players:

- All Stars Cricket (ages 4–8)
- Dynamos Cricket (ages 8–11)

You can register your interest now via the ECB website, at www.ecb.co.uk.

We Need Your Help

To keep junior cricket thriving in Whimble, we urgently need parental volunteers to help run our junior teams. In particular, we're looking for:

- A manager for our Under 11 girls team
- A manager and coaches to support our Dynamos cricketers this summer, as they develop into junior players for future season

You don't need to have cricket knowledge or coaching experience to be a team manager, just a little time and some basic admin support. Without volunteers, we aren't able to run junior cricket effectively. If you're able to get involved or would like to find out more, please contact: James Woollam, jameswoollam@gmail.com, 07989 234372, or visit www.whimblecc.co.uk

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE TIME WITH FRIENDS

THURSDAY MORNINGS AT WHIMPLE CHURCH



Parents with or without children are very welcome to drop
in for breakfast on Thursday mornings

9.00am - 11.00am in the children's corner.

No charge but donations welcome

If you want to find out more contact Helen on 07779 722421



**Come and
celebrate**



Mothering Sunday



**Sunday 15th
March**



9.30am at Whimble Church

A special service for all the family with



**posies for the mums
plus, tea, coffee and
cakes during the service**



Dates for your diary

March

Friday 20th Rock Steady Concert
Friday 27th Year 4 Colyton Puzzle Day
Saturday 28th PTA Easter Egg Hunt

April

Thursday 2nd End of term (1.30pm finish)
Thursday 2nd PTA Sweet Sale
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

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

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