

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2026



Whimple Primary School

Issue 1

24.04.26

Welcome back, I hope you had a good Easter break - the weather was reasonable but there has been a keen wind to remind us we are still in April.

There is a fantastic display of children's art in the hall today, so please come along and take a look if you are able.

School Meals

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your patience with regards to our school meal service this week. Just before Easter, Fresha, our school meals provider, went into liquidation. The federation business manager has managed to secure another provider, but for a number of reasons, no hot food could be provided. Next week will also be a packed lunch style offer with a choice of sandwiches, crisps, dessert and fruit.

You will now have received an email with the new dinner menu, please would you ensure you have ordered your child's dinner by Tuesday 28th (Midnight).

We are also **looking for a Catering Assistant** to collect and serve our school meals. For more details about the role and how to apply please use [this link](#).

Just a few other reminders:

Water bottles - children need to have a water bottle in school, especially as the weather warms up. This bottle should not be larger than 500ml and should ideally be plastic or light metal (and not too expensive).

Birthday Food - With an ever increasing number of children with food allergies, we are unable to give out cakes/sweets, etc. to children in school on behalf of children or their families. If you wish to provide a cake or something as a gift to children linked to a birthday, please feel free to do so in the playground at pick-up time where the children's parents can then decide whether this is something they are able to eat.

PE Kits - these should ideally be in school all week.

Reading Books - for those children in Ash and Elm Classes, books should be returned on a Monday so they can be reallocated to other reading groups as we only have one set of each book title.

Forest School - Ash Class will have a Forest School session on **Friday 1st May**—children need to bring in a long-sleeved top, trousers and sturdy footwear. A raincoat may be needed if it looks like showers.



Federation News from Mr Jolliffe

Welcome back to school and to the start of the summer term. There are always lots of exciting events taking place in our schools during the last term of the school year, including all the rites of passage for our Year 6 leavers. Before that though, there are SATs to think about and the DfE has published some useful information about what parents need to know about the tests and answers some questions you may have, as well as dates for the different tests. This can be found on the DfE Education Hub by following this link [KS2 SATs 2026: What parents need to know – The Education Hub](#).

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

Schools are required to send a letter about attendance from Devon County Council twice a year. This letter is attached to this week's newsletter. Overall, attendance levels at federation schools have been broadly in line with county attendance but we don't want this to slip as we come into the summer term. There is a Staff Development Day on Friday, 26th June which gives families an opportunity to have a long weekend away, so please take advantage of this rather than taking days out of school.

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD TALK

A copy of the Papaya talk on Smartphone Free Childhood is available from the school office at Silverton if you would like to watch it. We are planning to have another talk by Papaya about the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign later in the term or early in the autumn term. Please email silvertonadmin@exevalleyfederation.org.uk if you would like to view the recording.

YEAR 3 and 4 RESIDENTIAL VISITS

The first of this year's residential visits take place next week. There is a reminder below about our visit to Dartmoor Zoo below:

Whimble and Silverton

We will be leaving from Silverton School [Coach Road, EX5 4JY] on Tuesday, 5th May at 9.15am. We will then be going to collect Whimble children from Whimble at 10.00am. We will be returning to Whimble at 2.00pm and Silverton at 2.30pm on Wednesday, 6th May. Mr Jolliffe will be leading this visit with Ms Montfoort, Miss Easterbrook, Mrs Little, Miss Clarke and Miss Dunsford.

The bus will now go to Whimble as well as to Silverton, so Whimble parents do not need to come to Silverton for drop off and pick up.

If your child is not staying for the night, please make sure that their teacher knows this and collect them at 7.00pm from the front gate of the zoo. Children coming for the second day of the visit should meet at the front gate at 9.00am.

Dates for your diary

May

Friday 1st Ash Class Forest School

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

July

Friday 3rd Sports Day (pm)

Term dates for pupils - 2025/26:

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

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