

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2026



Whimple Primary School

Issue 2

1.05.26

Another week has flown by and we head into a bank holiday weekend. Hopefully, we can all enjoy the extra day. Attached with this newsletter, is a letter from me explaining some changes, so please take the time to read it. I would also like to wish our nine Year 6 children participating in the Exmoor Challenge at Dulverton, the best of luck. I am sure they are up for the challenge and will do us all proud.



I have encountered many of our older children out on their bikes around the village. Whilst it is great to see children out in the fresh air, it is important that they do this safely, and wearing a helmet. I have spoken with them in assembly today, but would appreciate if you would also remind them about how to ride safely on the roads. Unfortunately, the roads in the village are narrow and windy. They are also busy and have limited visibility in places too. I am sure we are all in agreement that we do not want one of our children injured, or as drivers to be involved in a collision.

School Meals

After a lot of organisation, we are back to hot meals next week supplied by EduCatering. The deadline for the dinner ordering will now be Mondays at midday for the whole of the following week. Many thanks for your patience and cooperation.

Curriculum Newsletters

Please find attached to this email the curriculum information for each class for this term. The newsletter for parents with children in Reception is for this half term and another one will follow in June. The new format will hopefully help parents to understand what is being taught and how support children at home. Any feedback on this would be appreciated.

Year 5 and 6 Residential Visit

Due to changes in the plans for the residential visit, the coach is now able to pick up Year 5 and 6 pupils from the **Cricket Ground in Whimple at 8am**, rather than Silverton School on Wednesday 17th June. This location has been picked in order to reduce congestion at the road outside the school which gets very busy during this time. The coach will return to the same location at **3.00pm** Friday, 19th June 2026.



FROM MR JOLLIFFE

This week we have had the first of our residential visits, with Year 3 and 4 pupils going to Snooze at the Zoo at Dartmoor Zoo. The first two visits have been very successful indeed and the children have behaved extremely well during both visits; they are a real credit to their families and schools. The children who have been so far have gained a huge amount of knowledge about endangered species and how zoos work to preserve them for the future, as well as seeing lions, a tiger, leopards and many other animals. I am very aware though, that the increasing costs of accommodation and transport are making residential visits very expensive, so we will be reviewing the residential visit programme for 2027 to make sure that the costs are kept down over the four years that children are in Key Stage 2. If you didn't comment on this in the recent parent survey, but would like us to hear your views, please do let me know via email to your child's school office in the next few weeks.

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

A letter from Mrs Shilston is attached to this week's email. Please do take a minute to read what she has written to all parents.

RESIDENTIAL VISIT LOST PROPERTY

Mr Jolliffe will bring any lost property from residential visits to Silverton School afterwards. Please contact the school office [01392 860677] if your child has lost anything on this year's visits and items will be returned to your child's school. Unclaimed property will be disposed of five school days after the visits end.

REPORT FROM FGB MEETING 28TH APRIL 2026

At the Full Governing Board (FGB) Meeting on 28th April Governors from across the Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation (EVMF) met at Chudleigh Knighton Village Hall.

Governors ratified the new Head of School appointments at Silverton and at Brampford Speke. From 1st September 2026 Matt Brown will be the new Head of School at Silverton and Lily Nichols at Brampford Speke. Update reports were received and discussed on safeguarding, behaviour, attendance and SEND. Governors also received an update report from Heidi Last, School Business Manager, regarding school finances. As reported following the last FGB meeting, the Federation continues to face challenges in managing its budget. This is mirrored nationally as schools continue to face financial pressures.

Mr Jolliffe updated Governors regarding the Management Partnership with the South Hams Federation. The formal Management Partnership has come to an end, but it is hoped that collaborative work will continue in an informal partnership as this is mutually beneficial to both Federations.

Governors had the opportunity to discuss the Federation Strategic Plan 2026 – 2031. The last Federation Strategic Plan was written in 2021 at the end of the pandemic. Five key aims have been identified that will shape the strategic direction for EVMF for the next five years: Sustainability and Growth, Educational Excellence, Inclusion and Well-being, Our Community, Our World, Our Future, Outward facing collaboration and Sustainability and growth. Other stakeholders (staff, parents and children) will have the opportunity to discuss the Strategic Plan in due course.

Children remain central to the work of Federation Leaders and staff and the focus of their work is to ensure that children across the Federation receive the best possible education.

CORNWOOD HEAD OF SCHOOL

Governors will be advertising internally for an Interim Head of School for Cornwood C of E School this week. Interviews will take place in the week before half term and we will let parents know about leadership arrangements there as soon as they are confirmed.



FROM MR JOLLIFFE continued

Our Green Schools – New Date

Due to availability, our online meeting has been rescheduled to 14th May, 8-9pm

This session will bring parents and teachers together from across the federation to share ideas and practical ways to make the most of the green spaces in and around our schools and to look at ways to become greener schools in every sense of the word, from increasing outdoor learning and providing farm visits to reducing energy use and using nature to support wellbeing.

We're fortunate to live in an area where our children can connect to food, farming, conservation and the natural world on their doorstep. These experiences can play a powerful role in helping them understand and navigate a complex, changing world. All federation schools now have Climate Action Plans and many are already doing great work, but with growing pressures on schools, parent involvement or engagement can make a real difference. This is a chance to find out more about an important part of your children's education and, if you'd like to, understand how you can support the way it's shaped at your child's school.

This will be a parent led session supported by Mr Jolliffe. The parents who have bought this session together are:

Hannah Jones McVey – Federation parent governor and policy lead at The Country Trust. Hannah has supported the development of the grounds at Cheriton Fitzpaine School, including the annual School Force Day and the Eco Council.

Alice Miall – Landscape architect at Forestry England, specialising in play spaces. Through her volunteer work as a Climate Ambassador, Alice has supported Thorverton School and led soil- and Earth Day-themed sessions.

Becca Brendell – Head of Clinical Trials for a national charity. Becca has worked with parents and teachers at Newton St Cyres Primary to enhance the school grounds, creating a series of wildlife-friendly outdoor learning areas.

This is a chance to:

- Hear about national developments and opportunities to connect learning with nature, food and sustainability
- Share and celebrate examples of what's already happening across our schools
- Explore ideas for the future and how parents and schools can work together

We are really keen to make sure someone is there from each of the federation schools. There is no expectation of any further engagement if you do attend, this is an informational meeting as much as one to share ideas and discuss possible next steps. Please sign up via the form to attend or receive the recording if you're unable to join.

[Greening our schools Parent and Teacher Meeting – Fill out form](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=5lEnRCy2p0W1WtFjIjVYhUeuJ7LqcbtMqssEGaoZ7NVUOUU0VVcyUVQ3OU00Nkg2M1paSkozWkQyUi4u&route=shorturl)

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=5lEnRCy2p0W1WtFjIjVYhUeuJ7LqcbtMqssEGaoZ7NVUOUU0VVcyUVQ3OU00Nkg2M1paSkozWkQyUi4u&route=shorturl)

[id=5lEnRCy2p0W1WtFjIjVYhUeuJ7LqcbtMqssEGaoZ7NVUOUU0VVcyUVQ3OU00Nkg2M1paSkozWkQyUi4u&route=shorturl](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=5lEnRCy2p0W1WtFjIjVYhUeuJ7LqcbtMqssEGaoZ7NVUOUU0VVcyUVQ3OU00Nkg2M1paSkozWkQyUi4u&route=shorturl)

Dates for your diary

May

Tuesday 5th to Wednesday 6th May Year 3/4 residential

Monday 11th KS2 SATs week

Friday 15th Willow Class Forest School

June

w/c Monday 1st Multiplication Tables Check - Year 4

w/c Monday 8th Phonics Screening - Year 1

Saturday 13th School Summer Fayre

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

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

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