

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2026



Whimple Primary School

Issue 10

03.07.26

Another busy week has been completed - it is like running a marathon at sprint speed!

Firstly, thank you for all the help and support which enabled our sports day to run smoothly. For some it may seem strange that we have to lay out things in such a way—this is done to support our risk assessments which we have to complete for any event outside of school, and to ensure every child is safe whilst in our care. Holding school events in public places always adds an extra challenge and means our staff have to be extra vigilant of what is going on.

On that note I would like to thank Mr Brown for organising and running the event, and for all the staff, who ensured the children were in the correct places at the right time. Didn't all the children do well! It was a fantastic way to end the week.



Prior to the start of our sports, 28 children attended Clyst Vale Community College to participate in the transition orchestra project. Around 100 primary pupils were involved from three schools. Our children played various instruments, some only learnt how to play them in the last couple of weeks! They played two pieces and did an amazing job, so well done to all of them.

A big thank you to Miss Clarke and Mrs Palmer, who have both helped me with all the instrumental practices squeezed into the school day in the past week or so. Thank you to the PTA for funding the transport in order for us all to attend.

Thursday evening saw some of our Year 6 pupils attend Isca College to accept their Devon and Torbay Civic Awards. All of our Year 6 children have achieved this award and we are extremely proud of all their efforts.

The receipt of the Year 6 SATs has been delayed by the DfE due to technical issues. We will advise you about the updated arrangements for this next week.

Our Sea Safety assembly on Wednesday was excellent. This is something we do every year to support our children when they are near the sea. Our children were very knowledgeable and we asked them to pass the information onto you. Due to the number of recent tragedies linked to water this summer, we also talked about freshwater and how to keep safe when swimming in rivers and lakes. There will be leaflets linked to this sent home with the children next week.

Finally, a huge personal thank you for my card and flowers presented to me at the start of the sports. It was a lovely surprise that was very appreciated.





FROM MR JOLLIFFE



The DfE announced earlier in the year that the PE and Sport Grant that had been in place since the 2012 London Olympics was going to be scrapped. This has funded a large proportion of our PE and sporting opportunities for pupils, including Lords Meadow for the Exe Valley Federation schools. The replacement grant, PE and School Sports Grant [PESSG] will pass on 20% of funding to schools, with the rest having to be used to fulfil specific criteria. These look like they are going to be focused on water safety skills and sporting opportunities through the National Delivery Partner, which will start work next year. The new grant has more restrictions around its use, but ultimately has the potential to improve the offer schools are able to make for PE and sporting opportunities.

HEAD OF SCHOOL AT WHIMPLE

The governors are delighted to be able to tell you that Mr Andrew Wootton has been appointed to the post of Head of School in September. Mr Wootton is an experienced school leader who is currently Headteacher of Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School in Wellington. He is looking forward very much to joining the federation in September and will be working with Mrs Shilston and the staff team at Whimple over the next few weeks to get to know the school and its community.

GOVERNING BOARD

Many thanks to Sarah Butler, who is coming to the end of her time as a Whimple governor, and also Kate Wotton and Sarah Blomley, who are leaving the board. All of them have given a huge amount of time over the years to this role and we are very grateful to them for everything they have brought to the federation and their link schools. Governors are now able to welcome Stuart Mather to replace Kate Wotton as a parent governor.

PARENT GOVERNOR

The following parent governor has been proposed by Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation parents: Stuart Mather. As there were no other nominations, Stuart Mather has been elected to the role of parent governor from 26th June 2026. The previous parent governor was Kate Wotton.

PRAYER ROOM

Every half term, a group of parents meet to pray for the federation schools. The next prayer room will be on Friday, 10th July at 9.30am at Silverton Evangelical Church [School Road, Silverton EX5 4JH]. Please contact Andy Mathers [apmathers@gmail.com] for more information.

TERM DATES

The summer term ends on Wednesday, 22nd July 2026 and the autumn term will begin for pupils on Monday, 7th September 2026. Thursday, 3rd and Friday, 4th September are Staff Professional Days.

CHERITON FITZPAINE AGE RANGE CONSULTATION

The Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation is consulting on a proposal to change the age range of Cheriton Fitzpaine Primary School from 2-11 to 4-11 years of age with effect from September 2026. The Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation is consulting on the provision changing to a Governor run Pre-School for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Transition to a Governor run Pre-School and Nursery would be smooth and would ensure that the provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds is monitored and supported by school staff. Its current location, timetable and daily systems for the children would not be affected by the change proposed.

We welcome responses on this proposal by the closing date of 22nd July 2026 by emailing clerk@exevalleyfederation.org.uk or sending a letter to Mrs H. Last, Cheriton Fitzpaine Primary School, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Devon EX17 4AN.

This consultation will run from 2nd July to 22nd July 2026. Following the end of the consultation period, the full Governing Body will meet to consider all the responses to the consultation and make a decision as to whether or not to change the age range of the school from 2 to 11 to 4 to 11 years. More information is available on the EVMF website under the Cheriton Fitzpaine tab.

Dates for your diary

July

Tuesday 7th	Elm Class Trip—Drakes Farm
Wednesday 8th/Thursday 9th	Clyst Vale Transition Days
Thursday 9th	Move on morning—meet your teacher
Monday 13th	Beech Class Trip—Donkey Sanctuary
Wednesday 15th	Oak Class Trip—RAMM
Friday 17th	Rock Steady Concert for Parents 9.15am
Friday 17th	EVF Cross Country Event—Blundells School
Monday 20th	Staff Leaving Event—Cricket Club 4pm onwards
Tuesday 21st	Leavers Assembly for Year 6 parents 2pm
Wednesday 22nd	Last day of summer term

Autumn term 2026

Thursday 3rd September to Friday 23rd October [Staff Development Days 3rd and 4th September]

Monday 2nd November to Friday 18th December [Staff Development Day 27th November]

Spring term 2027

Monday 4th January to Friday 12th February [Staff Development Day 4th January]

Monday 22nd February to Thursday 25th March

Summer term 2027

Monday 12th April to Friday 28th May

Monday 7th June to Friday 23rd July [Staff Development Day 2nd July]

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