

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2026



Whimble Primary School

Issue 11

10.07.26

After completing another round of interviews, I am pleased to say that Mrs Catherine Newcombe has been appointed to work with Mrs Handley in Elm Class teaching our Reception and Year 1 children. We welcome her to the Whimble Team; she will be in class on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Miss Budden and Mrs Newcombe were in their classes yesterday as part of our 'move-on' morning for all children to get familiar with their new classes and classmates.

Mr Wootton will be spending some time with us next week so he can introduce himself to everybody and start to familiarise himself with the school.

Elm Class had a great day at Drakes Farm and came back full of things they had seen and done. Thank you to the class teachers and teachings assistants for supporting the children throughout the day, enabling them to get the most out of their day.

A Librarian from Ottery St Mary library came into school to talk to the children about the Summer Book Quest. Ask your child about it.

HLTA's leaving at the end of term

After over 20 years of service at Whimble, Mrs Vanstone has decided it is time to retire. Being a HLTA, she has regularly helped to cover classes and has taught computing to many cohorts of children over the years.

Mrs Ley will also be finishing at with us at the end of this term. Thank you both for all their hard work.

Most Improved Trophy

Please can our cups and trophies be returned to school next week so we can get ready to present them to other children in our achievement assembly at the end of term.





FROM MR JOLLIFFE



At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to some members of staff at Whimble who have been there for many years and have seen many children start on their learning journey through life. Mrs Shilston and Ms Norton have both been at Whimble for well over 20 years and have made an invaluable contribution to the school over that time. Mrs Corwood is also leaving Whimble at the end of the term and many children have cause to be grateful to her for the start she has given them in their first years at the school. All three of them will be very much missed and the school will have an opportunity to say 'goodbye and thank you' to them at the end of term. Mrs Sheevaun Manning has been leading Cornwood School since the start of the year and she is also leaving at the end of the term as planned. I am very grateful to her for all the work she has done at Cornwood this year and wish her every happiness in her new venture.

EXE VALLEY & MOORSWAY FEDERATION STRATEGIC PLAN

A presentation that explains a bit more about our strategic vision for the next five years can be found on the EVMF website by clicking this link: [Exe Valley Federation - Strategic Plans](#). Mr Jolliffe would really like to hear your thoughts on the five strategic aims that we have identified for the next five years. Please do email me via your child's school office or join one of the online meetings in the coming week. More details about how to do this may be found at the end of the presentation.

FEDERATION BOARD MEETING

The Full Governing Board met on 30th June 2026. Heidi Last provided an update on the budget which has now been submitted to Devon County Council and will be reviewed again in September. Budgetary pressures remain and the Board are closely monitoring developments. The Board also discussed changes to sports grant funding, which will continue to be monitored with the aim of continuing the level of sport provision across the Federation. The Board thanked outgoing governors for the service, and also confirmed and congratulated those individuals taking up new leadership roles across the federation in September. Jackie Enright also thanked the senior leadership team for their input into these new appointments and for their ongoing support for colleagues moving into new roles. Governors responsible for the three statutory reporting areas of behaviour, attendance and SEND provided a summary of progress and challenges, with positive progress made across schools. It was confirmed that Shaugh Prior school will close at the end of this term and Jackie Enright thanked all involved in supporting the school during this challenging time. Finally, Governors heard feedback and action points following recent Ofsted inspections, with a focus on areas of development for next academic year.

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 and nursery for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. This transition 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. More information is available on the EVMF website under the Cheriton Fitzpaine tab.

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.

Dates for your diary

July

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 3.30pm finish

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]

Libraries
Unlimited

Upcoming Events

Ottery St Mary Library

July
11

Summer Book Quest Launch Day
 Sign up for the Summer Book Quest & join in our Saturday Special Lego Club.

July
11 – 25

Treasure Hunt
 Can you solve the clues and find the hidden treasure?

July – Sept
27 – 5

DIY Craft
 Every week there will be a different craft activity for you to make in the library.

July
30

Dr Bike*
 Bike repair session. Free!

July
31

Smoothie Bike
 In need of a refreshing drink? Make your own using pedal power.

August
03

Fun Science*
 Join Edd from Fun Science for a fascinating look at the science of vehicles – rockets, hovercrafts and more.

August
17

Author Event*
 Meet author Becca Rogers as she takes you on a writing journey based on her latest book "Scamp Saltbrance and the Tidal Clock".

August
24

VR Session*
 Virtual Reality experience in the library.

*Booking essential. Some events incur a small cost
Contact the library to find out more!

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