

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2026



Whimple Primary School

Issue 12

17.07.26

As we complete our last full week in this school year, it has been another busy week. Beech Class had a great day at the Donkey Sanctuary on Monday, followed by Oak Class, who travelled by train into Exeter, to visit the Royal Albert Memorial Museum. They discovered lots of exciting facts. Thank you to all the teachers and teaching assistants that organised and supported the trips.

At the start of the week, Mr Wootton spent some time in school and introduced himself to the staff and children, and he is hoping to pop in again next week.

Today started with our four Rock Steady Bands performing to their parents—despite a few nerves, they all did extremely well. It was clear to see the improvement not only in their playing ability, but also their confidence, so well done to them.



If any others are interested in learning an instrument in a band next term, feel free to talk to some of the parents whose children are involved or look at their website: <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/> for more information. Contact them directly if you would like to sign up for a place.



A number of those children then joined some others and were taken to Blundells School in Tiverton to represent the Whimple in the EVF Cross Country Championships. Despite the hot weather, our children did amazingly in their year group races, with some achieving a podium place. The teamwork skills were amazing as they cheered and supported each other, regardless of where they came. A BIG THANK YOU to the parents who helped to transport, or who came along to support the children (including bring ice lollies!); it was really appreciated and a great way to end the week.



FROM MR JOLLIFFE

Over the last few weeks, our Year 6s have been taking in part in a range of different events that will prepare them for the next stage of their education. As they leave their respective primary schools this week, each one of them should be able to look back on all that they have achieved with real pride. The end of Year 6 assessment tests [SATs] tell a story about the progress that children made academically, but it does not show all the ways that they have progressed as young people, all the kindness that they have shown to others or the countless other ways that they have contributed to their schools and communities. These characteristics and strengths count for so much more, and this is what will sustain them as they move to secondary school. All the staff, children and governors of the Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation join me in wishing them every success and happiness in the future.

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

If you are concerned about the safety of a child in Devon or want to speak to someone, or if you are a child worried about your own safety, you can contact Front Door (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub or MASH) by calling on 0345 155 1071. If a child is in immediate danger please call 999. Anyone who is concerned about a child's safety or well-being can contact the Front Door.

If you suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused, or you are being abused yourself and live within Devon Local Authority boundaries, please contact us by calling Adult Social Care on 0345 1551 007 (Monday to Thursday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm and Saturday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm). Outside of the hours above or on bank holidays call the Emergency Duty Service on 0345 6000 388. Alternatively, you can email: safeguardingadultseast-mailbox@devon.gov.uk (Exeter, East and Mid Devon).

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.

NEWSLETTERS

This will be the final newsletter of this school year as schools close for the summer holidays next Wednesday.

This is my final weekly newsletter as Head of Whimple Primary School. (There will be a half-termly curriculum newsletter to follow next week).

I started here in 1999 as the Reception/Year 1 Class teacher, and now nearly 27 years later, I am entering my final few days here. I have taught many children and been involved with their parents/carers and grandparents. It has been a privilege to be involved and witness their personal and academic achievements, and it has always been lovely to catch up with them again, as they have got older, to find out what they are doing.

The journey hasn't always been smooth, and I have many tales to tell. There have been many lessons, events, occasions and dramas, both with and without children - I could write a book!

I have also been very lucky to work with some amazing staff throughout my time; they have made coming to work each day much easier. Many staff, past and present, have supported me through the good and bad times, and for that I am extremely grateful.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure, (well, most of the time!), to be part of the whole Whimple community and I have many memories that I will treasure.

Thank you all for being part of that journey and I wish you and your children all the best for the future.

Most Improved Trophy

We still have a few of our trophies unreturned. 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.

Dates for your diary

July

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

September Children's first day back to school—Monday 7th September

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

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!

THE SUMMER BOOK QUEST

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