

CONTACT

The Newsletter for Whimble Primary School.

Number 189

13.01.17

Happy New Year!

Hopefully you have all had an enjoyable break and are ready for all that 2017 brings. Well done to those who have already applied the three resolutions given in the last newsletter to help your children - it has been noticed, keep it up!

We started the term talking about New Year resolutions in assembly and all the children have been asked to make one which will have an impact on their learning this term. These will be put on a display inside the double doors to help remind them of what they are and we will see if they can keep them.

Heritage Centre Visit



As part of their history and geography curriculum the children in Ash and Elm classes have been learning about the village, it's features and history. The children completed this with a visit to the Heritage Centre. After listening to a talk from Dr Roger Smith about some of the village features including the school, the church and the number of streams and farms here, they were able to explore the contents of the building. They were particularly interested in the models especially, the cider factory.



A train named after Whimble





A Way With Words

Hopefully by now you have all had the chance to read some of the great pieces our children have produced recently. The idea behind the book was to help children appreciate the reason for writing by seeing it in print whilst giving their work a wider audience. We also wanted you all to be able to read and share some great stories and articles.

Some stories will also be occasionally selected to read out in an assembly and we hope to produce another one towards the end of this term.

If you have not had one there are a few copies left, ask at the Office.

We will be encouraging children to participate in '500 words' - Chris Evans' short story writing competition for kids which is being launched on Monday.



More Literacy

Part of the writing journey includes grammar, punctuation and of course spelling.

Love it or hate it spelling is an important part of writing; it is just unfortunate that the English language is so complex and complicated with, of course, many exceptions to the rule.

The new National Curriculum has increased the expectation in many areas, spelling being one of them. It is often the one area that can let a child's writing down; parents have been very supportive over the years but our main concern is that we continue to see children scoring well in their tests but not actually then using their knowledge in their writing.

Teachers spent time on the non-pupil day looking at and reviewing our current system of spellings and we have had a revamp.

New lists have been produced for each year group to learn, linked to the expectations of the new curriculum.

These are focusing on children knowing a core of spellings rather than giving them lots of words with common spelling patterns. Spelling patterns continue to be taught and learnt through our morning phonic sessions.

Each child will continue to have a weekly spelling test but will only have 10 words to learn. You will notice they may get the same words on several occasions; this is to help embed the spellings so they then apply them regularly in their writing. We continue to recommend practising them little and often throughout the week. It is also worth looking to see if they are spelling them correctly when completing any writing too.

Spelling is
~~diffecolt~~
~~challengeng~~
hard.

Key Changes:

- Only 10 spellings to learn each week.
- Spelling words will be repeated regularly.

Advance Notices:

World Book Day is on Thursday March 2nd and this year we want everyone to join in and dress up. The theme is significant authors and the children have chosen the following: Beatrix Potter, Jacqueline Wilson, J K Rowling, Roald Dahl, Cressida Cowell and the Oxford Reading Tree - many of these have celebrated recent anniversaries of their works. This will also be used to launch our 'Readathon' - a sponsored read, supported by Julia Donaldson. (More details to follow in later newsletters.)



In response to the questionnaire provided at the KS2 SPaG information evening we are offering some more information sessions specifically for parents - put the dates in your diary, parents will be able to sign up nearer the time.



Thursday 2 nd February	KS2 maths information evening
Wednesday 8 th March	Safer Internet Assembly
Wednesday 22 nd March	KS1 Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation evening
Tuesday 28 th /Weds 29 th March	Willow drama production

Music Clubs

Choir, recorders and guitar club will re-commence next week with ARC recorders on Mondays 3.30 - 4.30 pm, choir on Tuesdays 3.30 - 4.30 pm and guitars and beginner recorders on Thursday lunchtimes.

Choir is open to children from Year 2 upwards and is currently open to new members, please contact Emma Palmer on empalmusic@gmail.com prior to your child starting.

Exeter Chiefs teach maths

Yes, you have read that correctly. One of their community players team came in to work with Beech class, yes to teach some rugby skills but first to solve some maths problems. In one activity they had to buy items from the gift shop totaling them up and then working out the change. The scoring system of rugby was introduced, 5 points for a try, 2 for a conversion and 3 for a penalty - scenarios were given to total and then they had to reverse the skill and calculate back from a score to work out what might have happened in the game.



Fantastic Fridays

We have started our next cycle of our Friday afternoon curriculum. This half-term the activities will run in a slightly different format.

Year 5 and 6 will alternate between outdoor education and drama. When involved in the outdoor activities children need to bring in wellies, trousers, a long-sleeved top and a waterproof (preferably coat and trousers) to change into prior to walking to The Orchard. If children do not have the appropriate clothing they will be unable to participate as we need to ensure their safety. (Year 5 - 6th, 27th and 10th February; Year 6 - 13th January, 3rd February). *Please note there is no outdoor education on Friday 20th January.*

Year 3 and 4 are swimming at Middlemoor.

Year 2 children will be trying out some craft activities whilst children in **Year 1** will be participating in Relax Kids and learning some First Aid. This will be for 3 weeks and then Year 1 and 2 will swap around.

Please keep an eye on contact just in case of any changes - just occasionally something happens which prevents us from running all the activities.

Safeguarding Information

Please remember if you have moved house recently to update your contact details at the Office.

We have noticed on some occasions children are arriving to school early and being left. Children cannot be brought to school and left unattended until a member of staff is on duty at 8.50 a.m. We appreciate there are rare circumstances where children need to be dropped off earlier but in order to guarantee your child's safety this must be agreed prior to the morning.

You must sign your child in at the Office if you arrive after 9.10 a.m., so that our registers are up-to-date in case of fire and other emergencies.

Please help us to take care of your children.



School Closure in Bad Weather

It is that time of year where the weather may possibly change and cause us all travel problems. Snow has been regularly mentioned this week on the weather forecasts.

Wherever possible we will endeavour to stay open, although this is dependent on the number of staff who are able to make it into school. It may be worth considering sending your child to school with a packed lunch if the school is partially closed due to bad weather, as you are all aware our meals are not cooked on site and have to be delivered from Cranbrook.

Our main aims are to keep your children safe and to inform you as soon as we can.

If for any reason we have to close completely we try to get information to you as soon as possible via our website (latest news) and parent email.

Information should also be available on BBC Radio Devon and Heart Radio.

Dates for your diary

Thursdays from January 12 th	Exeter Chiefs' maths and rugby skills (five sessions)
Thursday January 19 th	Singing session with children in Oak
Thursday January 26 th	Tag rugby Y5/6
Thursday 2 nd February	KS2 maths information evening for parents
Tuesday 7 th February	FoWS meeting 7.30 pm at The Thirsty Farmer
Friday 10 th February	Reception reports home to parents

Monday 13th – Friday 17th February – Half-term holiday

Week commencing 20 th February	Parents evening for Reception (dates tbc)
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day
Thursday 2 nd March	Start of 'Readathon'
Wednesday 8 th March	Safer Internet Assembly for parents
Wednesday 22 nd March	KS1 Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation evening for parents
Friday 24 th March	Reports home to parents - KS1 and KS2
Tuesday 28 th March	Willow drama production
Wednesday 29 th March	Willow drama production
Week commencing 27 th March	Parents evening KS1 and KS2 where requested (dates tbc)
Friday 31 st March	End of spring term – 1.30 pm finish

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