

CONTACT

The Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

Issue 2-19

18.01.19

It is the time of year where the weather is very changeable and often cold. Please can you ensure children bring their warm coats to school as where possible we try to get them outside for some fresh air regularly.

Any information on school closure due to snow will be posted on the school website and emailed out to parents as soon as a decision has been made. We will obviously endeavour to do this as early as possible but key decisions on adequate staff availability linked to pupil numbers have to be considered in order to ensure the safety of all involved.

Other Website Updates

Curriculum Newsletters

This terms class newsletters are now on the class pages of the school website for you information - take a look on the Learning tab and scroll to your child's class.

<https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/learning/93203>

What to Expect When - EYFS

This is guidance from the Department of Education to support parents in reception. Go to the learning tab and scroll down.

https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/home_learning/93205

Keeping Children Safe Online

A new guidance has been published to help parents with young children keep them safe online as more mobile and voice activated devices are used in the home. See the 'Keeping your under 5 safe online' guide on the school website. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the links.

https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/online_safety_tips_/186422

Guitar lessons

These lessons start on Thursday 24th January. Don't forget to take guitars to the ICT suite and leave in a sensible place please, NOT under the stairs.

Spring After School Clubs:

Sporty Stars are offering the following clubs this term, to book go to:

<http://www.sportystars.co.uk/after-school-clubs/>

Monday	Multisports - invitation only	Hall	Year 1-2
Tuesday	Gymnastics	Hall	All Years
Wednesday	Dodgeball	Hall	Year 3-6
Thursday	Basketball	Playground/ MUGA	Year 3-6
Friday	Football	MUGA	All Years

Children are to meet in Willow class where a register will be taken BEFORE changing. The coach will decide who changes where depending on age and numbers of children involved.

All clubs run from 3.30pm until 4.45pm.

With dark nights children to be collected from hall or from under the shelter if outside.

For more information please follow link below to school website page.

https://whimble-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/clubs_activities/93206

Reading

This is a great time of year, with dark cold evenings, to hear your child read. We recommend reading on a daily basis for 10 minutes with younger children and slightly less but longer sessions for children in key stage 2. We have found children make the best progress with the 'little and often' approach and this helps to maintain their interest and pleasure of reading.

It is always good to share and read a book to them, one they wouldn't be able to read themselves or just would not necessarily choose as this widens their knowledge and comprehension skills whilst broadening their genres. We are looking to support parents in this by providing some suitable lists and suggestions from our school library. We will of course be celebrating World Book Day again this year. More information soon.

If you have an hour to spare on a weekly or fortnightly basis, or know someone who does, we are still looking for adults to hear children read across the school. Please call in at the school office for more details, (all volunteers are subject to DBS checks).

Spelling Shed

All children in Year 1 to Year 6 now have access to Spelling Shed. This is a new online resource which we are also using in school to help children practise and improve their spelling. Each child has an individual username and password and if you could support them at home, that would be fantastic. If you have any queries please speak to your child's class teacher.

Don't Forget

- To send children in with warm, waterproof coats.

Dates for your diary

Monday 21st January	Year 6 SATs information evening 3.30pm
Wednesday 30th January	Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra visit
Wednesday 30th January	Year 3 & 4 Multiskills CVCC
Monday 18th - Friday 22nd February	Half-term
w/c 11th March	Science Week activities
w/c 25th March	Parent consultations
Monday 1st April	M&M Theatre visit - Wizard of Oz
w/c 1st April	Year 6 Drama production—dates and times to be confirmed
Monday 13th May	KS2 SATS week
Friday 7th June	Provisional sports day date (to be confirmed)
Monday 8th July	Year 6 Residential Week

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Website: www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk

Other Events and Activities:

STEM Returners programme with Babcock in Plymouth

Have you taken a career break from an engineering or a technical sector and wish to return? Are you working below your experience in a different sector? Do you have an engineering or technical degree that you aren't using? Do you just wish to transfer sectors but don't have any experience? If so this could be the opportunity for you! We are currently sourcing candidates for the Babcock 'STEM Returners' programme, a 13 week, fully paid and supported return to work programme starting in April 2019 in Plymouth. All candidates will also have the opportunity to obtain a permanent role at the end of the programme. No career break is too long, register to return to STEM today! For more information please visit www.stemreturners.com or email hello@stemreturners.com.

More information on the programme is also available here: <https://www.stemreturners.com/2018/12/20/babcock-seeks-stem-returners-join-career-programme-devonport/>

Easter programme from the Buckfast Abbey Education Department.

Threads of Easter (aimed at KS2 pupils but can be adapted for any age).

An unusual way to explore the Easter Story and the ideas which come from it.

This tour with a member of our Education Department takes pupils around the Abbey Church at Buckfast. As well as the physical journey around the building, the journey also takes the form of a thread which each pupil carries.

At each stop along their journey pupils hear the Easter Story from Palm Sunday to Easter Day and are encouraged to explore for themselves their own responses and experiences.

For each idea a bead is added to the thread of our journey making an attractive souvenir for each person to take away with them.

'Silence beads' are also added to the thread at appropriate points to encourage pupils to recognise those times when it is important to be quiet and still. (But don't worry, we know this doesn't always happen!)

Cost £2.90 per pupil which includes the tour and stained glass craft session. Each pupil gets their Easter Thread and stained glass decoration to take home.

The Donkey's Tale (aimed at KS1 pupils)

An interactive storytelling workshop led by a member of our Education Department which explores the events of Easter through the eyes of the donkey who carried Jesus into Jerusalem.

Pupils will receive their own cuddly donkey to help them interact with the story which starts with Jesus' triumphal entry on Palm Sunday and finishes with Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day.

Pupils hear a new side to the Easter Story as well as getting the opportunity to reflect on some of the ways that this powerful story might impact their lives.

Cost £3.60 per pupil which includes the storytelling and stained glass craft sessions. Each pupil gets a cuddly donkey (VERY cute – see photo on our website!) and stained glass decoration to take home.

Extraordinary Eggs (adaptable for all pupils)

Hunt giant Easter eggs which contain activities relating to Easter themes. £1.50 per pupil.

For more information on either of these programmes or to make a booking please call 01364 645517 or email education@buckfast.org.uk

This year our Easter programme will run from 4th March to the end of term. We will of course also still be offering our normal education menu all year. You can find out more about that by viewing our film for teachers which can be found at http://www.buckfast.org.uk/introduction_152.html