



Newsletter

SUMMER 2017 – NUMBER 4 – FRIDAY 30TH JUNE

Dear Parents and Carers

Goodbye, farewell ..

The end of the school year is always full of changes and goodbyes. This year we say goodbye to the following colleagues:

Mrs Upston has been working with Whipton children for eighteen years as both class teacher and special education needs coordinator. We are indebted to her for the support and advocacy she gives the children but also the guidance and leadership she has provided for her colleagues. We wish her well in her new post.

Mrs Maxwell is leaving after twelve years' service. She has taught classes across the juniors as well as providing specialist teaching in RE. Not only this, but she has committed herself to improving the health and wellbeing of our children by taking the lead on Food for Life and gaining Bike-It status for the school.

Ms Harvey is definitely one of our longest serving members of staff, who is signing off after an amazing quarter century spent helping, playing with and cleaning up our youngest children. I estimate that getting on for 2000 children have been given a great start in life by Ms Harvey's gentle approach, kindness and sense of fun.

Miss Snell has used the past two years as teaching assistant in the junior school to come to the decision that she enjoys working with children enough that she wants to become a teacher! We wish her well in her teacher training.

Mr Hawley, our federation counsellor, will be leaving us after three years of providing confidential and much needed support for children who have struggled with a range of difficulties. We wish him all the best for the future.

Ms Holmes has been with us since the beginning of the spring term and we have been very grateful for her work with our Y2 children. We wish her well with her new adventures which may or may not include yoga and Portugal.

Ms Doyle has been teaching Miss Laker's old class this term and has already made an impact. I know she is very fond of her class despite only being with us a short time and will miss them when she moves on.

Miss Grimes and Miss Saunders have not been with us long and were always due to leave at the end of term. We would like to thank them for the work they have done with children in years one and two.

I would like to thank all our colleagues above, who have had one thing in common: a real commitment to doing the best by your children. Best wishes and good luck!

Other staff changes

As you know both from a previous newsletter and by being observant, Mrs Wills is expecting her second baby. She will be starting her maternity leave at the end of September. To cover her leave and to maintain consistency in our staffing, Mr Norman will be taking on the temporary role as head of school in the infants. Not only will this maintain consistency (we won't have to employ someone who doesn't know our school), it will give Mr Norman an even better insight into what goes on before our children transfer to the junior school. Stepping into his role as temporary Head of School in the juniors, is Miss Hardinge. Miss Hardinge is keen to maintain her teaching role, so I will be taking on a few of Mr Norman's responsibilities for the duration of Mrs Will's absence.



Year Six Dartmoor Trip

Last week Miss Clear, Miss Cordwell, Mr Norman and I took twenty children up on the moor for some proper camping. This will be part of the Whipton Barton calendar now, so all children in the federation will eventually get the opportunity. The children carried their own kit, cooked their own food, used water from a stream and generally had a great time. I was impressed by their resilience and stamina and by how well they got on and helped each other out. Here are a couple of examples of what they got up to.



Leia's Garden

A group of year five children attended the opening ceremony and shared their memories of Leia. They were joined by some of Leia's family. Those present released pink balloons as a sign of remembrance and to mark what would have been Leia's tenth birthday next month. I would like to thank the PSA for donating money to the garden and to the PSA and our site staff in ensuring that the garden was ready for the ceremony. The bench, a focal point of the garden, was created by artist Michelle McQuinn and children in years five and two.



Key dates for the rest of term

- 6th July – Transition day
- 11th July – EYFS Pirate Day
- 12th July – Sports Day and picnic
- 13th July – Sports Day (reserve)
- 18th July – Reports home to parents
- 18th July Farmers Market 2.30-4.00 on the field
- 20th July – Drop in Parents evening to discuss reports
- 21st July – Summer Fayre
- 24th July – Final celebrations assembly – Juniors: 9.00am. Infants: 10.00am
- 25th July – Y2 moving on assembly – 10.00am
- Y6 Leavers assembly: 25th July at 1.45pm

Ripple Effect and Exeter Green Partnership

Members of this worthy organisation have asked us to invite you to join them in a community initiative to tidy up your local area. All volunteers are welcome – just turn up and help for as long as you are able. All support will be greatly appreciated.

- What: Litter pick and tidy up
- Where: Hamlin Lane Playing Fields and George's Close Play Area
- When: Tuesday 4th July, 10:00 – 13:00

For further information or if you want to give any feedback about events you'd like to see at the park, please get in touch: exetergreenpartnership@gmail.com

PE kit in lessons and clubs

I have noticed recently that too many children are not wearing PE kit in lessons or clubs. Please help us out with this. PE kit should be in school all week and can go home on Friday to be washed. We do have spare kit which we will give to children to wear if they don't have their own. It's not the nicest, so please make sure your child has black shorts, a white top and appropriate trainers.

Snap-chat update



You might not have heard recent police warnings about Snapchat Maps. This function has recently been introduced and enables users to see each other's locations. Clearly there are some real risks in this, particularly as we know that a good number of our children use Snapchat and often talk to people they do not know. You may feel that this is OK and that your child will make the right choice but I can say to you that in our federation and my last school I have dealt with cases where these issues have arisen and the parental response has, without fail, been: I didn't think my child would do that. To overcome this, the app can be switched to "ghost mode". I'd advise you to talk to your children about this.

Farmer's Market

Our Farmers' Market will be held on Tuesday 18th July from 2.30pm on the field. It will be organised by KS1 and everyone is welcome. If you would like to contribute with some home-made produce such as bread, cakes, jams, chutneys etc, you could either run a stall or donate produce. Please see Mrs Grogan or Mrs Wills for more details.



Infant School Facebook page has now been taken down. It is no more! You should now 'like' the Whipton Barton Federation page for up to date information about what is going on in school. If you never see a photograph of your child on our page and you would like to, then pop into either school office and check that you have given consent for us to publish photos of your child.

PSA News

Whipton Barton Federation

Summer Fayre

Friday 21st July

2.30-4.30pm on the school field.

Lots to see and do for all of the family at pocket-money prices.

Come along to support your school and enjoy the fun!

The PSA are busy organising but need your help for a successful fayre. You can help by donating prizes, cakes and Jolly Jars. See below for details:

- Tombola prizes and Jolly Jars to be handed in by Wednesday 19th July
- Cake Donations to be handed in by Thursday 20th July to either the family room at the infant school or your child's classroom
- Non-uniform for the Summer Fayre Friday 21st July