



West Exmoor Federation

'Passionately pursuing educational excellence with our children and community for their lifetimes'

June 2009

Dear Community,

Wren Music

The federation has been fortunate enough to be offered the chance to work with music professionals to create an ensemble. The federation is just one of three 'Wider Opportunities' pilot projects being run across the Local Authority. This exciting opportunity has been extended to all children in years 4 and 5. Wren will initially work with the children at their own school before bringing the children together to fine-tune their ensemble skills. The federation music group, who have yet to decide upon a name, will perform at a range of events throughout the summer term and beyond.

Farm Visit

Last month, KS1 children from across the federation visited Bumsley Farm near Parracombe. During the course of the day the children learnt about life cycles and day-to-day farm life. Despite a rather grey start to the day the weather was kind to us and the children had a wonderful time. Thank you very much to everyone at Bumsley Farm for making the day such a resounding success.

Federation open Day

On Thursday 18th June we will be holding a Federation Open Day to which all members of the community are invited. During the morning the children will be working in key stage groups, focusing upon specific extended opportunities. Key Stage One will be based at Kentisbury using the outdoor environment to engage in Forest School type activities. Lower Key Stage Two will be working at Parracombe, honing their dance skills for a performance just prior to

lunch and Upper Key Stage Two will be based at Lynton, working upon a Multi-Media Arts Project. At each school there will also be external agencies putting on a display of their work and offering advice. At Kentisbury there will be a number of the multi-agencies that we use, eg, Transform, the police, the school nurse, education welfare, etc. At Parracombe there will be a focus upon transition to secondary school with specific support services from Ilfracombe College attending, and at Lynton there will be a number of agencies associated with children at and below statutory school age, eg, SureStart. The day will culminate at Parracombe with our first ever Federation Sports Afternoon. Other afternoon events will include the first public performance by our WREN music ensemble; the cutting of a federation cake made by our three kitchen managers; and a BBQ run by the PTFAs of each school. If you would like any further information about the Open Day please contact your local school. We very much hope that you will be able to come and join us for at least part of the day.

Lundy

Next week Year 6 children from across the federation will, weather permitting, be enjoying a trip to Lundy. This has become an annual event and is a wonderful way of blowing away the cobwebs following the stresses and strains of SATs. Look out for their report in the next federation news update.

Life Education Bus

This month the Life Education Bus will once again be visiting the federation. Each year group will take part in a specially constructed session that is appropriate to their

age and needs. The sessions are delivered by Steve, a Life Education trained Educator who uses a life-skills approach so that each year children increase their knowledge, skills and confidence to make informed health choices. Topics covered include: how the body works, the importance of healthy diet and exercise, safe use of medicines, the risks of tobacco, alcohol and non-prescription drugs and emotional wellbeing (including bullying). Emphasis is placed on teaching in a fun and interactive manner using music, sound and light effects as well as interactive technology and Life Education's life-sized illuminated model of the human body. The Education Centre will be open to parents/carers and other members of community on Monday 1st June between 2.40pm and 3.00pm – please do come along and have a look at the work that is being done.

String Instrument Demo

Last month children from across the federation were fortunate enough to enjoy a variety of stringed instruments being demonstrated by the Collingham sisters, who play and teach a variety of musical instruments. The children very much enjoyed this and came away from the sessions buzzing. As a result of this we now have a growing number of children learning musical instruments within all of the schools across the federation and this can only help to build upon our current focus on music through the WREN project.

Kind Regards,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

'Together we love learning'