



West Exmoor Federation

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

May 2009

Dear Community,

Deputy Headteacher

I am delighted to be able to tell you that following an extremely rigorous round of interviews, Clare Cooke has been appointed as the substantive Deputy Headteacher of the federation. The interview process included a lesson observation, management task, presentation and formal interview and Clare stood head-and-shoulders above the other candidates.

Goodbye

It is with much sadness that we say goodbye to Teresa Jenkins. Teresa has been both a parent governor and a lunchtime supervisor at Lynton for over 5 years. Now that Teresa's children have moved on to Ilfracombe College she has decided that the time is right to explore new pastures. She will be greatly missed by both staff and children.

Eco-Schools Assessment

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that at the end of last month Kentisbury was awarded the Green Flag Eco-Schools Award. This is a wonderful achievement for the school and is the highest Eco-Schools award possible.

Theatre Trip

At the end of last term the children of the federation enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Queen's Theatre to see the West End musical Joseph. It was lovely to see the children really getting into the spirit of a live musical by clapping and singing along.

Singing Celebration

Children from Lynton and Kentisbury recently visited Ilfracombe College to take part in a

Learning Community singing celebration. All of the participating schools sang three songs together before each school performed an individual song that had been prepared especially for the event. It was wonderful to see so many children enjoying the pleasure of singing together.

Children Meet PM

The children in year 3 and 4 thoroughly enjoyed their action packed residential trip to London. The first stop on their adventure was the British Museum where they visited the Egyptian Rooms to support recent work in history. The children were particularly captivated the process of mummification. They also enjoyed participating in many of the workshops at the museum that enabled them to handle a variety of historical artefacts.

Next was a trip to the Rainforest Cafe to refuel with a hearty dinner before heading off to the Apollo Theatre to see Wicked! The musical was brilliant with stunning stage sets and effects; it certainly kept the children sat on the edge of their seats throughout.

The night ended with a short drive to Docklands where the children stayed in a hotel adjacent to the Excel Centre – they were fascinated by the high level of police presence given the imminent arrival of Barack Obama for the G20 Conference.

The following day the children enjoyed a walk along the embankment of the River Thames before visiting the Houses of Parliament where they participated in workshop about Guy Fawkes. They also met Nick Harvey, who talked to them about his role in Parliament. Following this they were met by a guide who took them

into Portcullis House in order to start a tour of Westminster Palace. It was here that Gordon Brown emerged on his way to Prime Minister's Question Time. As he walked towards the children he waved and then stopped to chat with them briefly, asking them where they had come from and what they thought of Portcullis House. The children were somewhat taken aback by this impromptu addition to their schedule but I am sure it is a meeting they will always remember, especially given the political enormity of the day. Most of the children were quite impressed that he had just had breakfast with Barak Obama! The tour of the Palace of Westminster continued with the children walking past the Robbing Room, through the Royal Gallery and then into the Chambers of the House of Lords. Here the children had an opportunity to see the Throne on which the Queen sits during the State Opening of Parliament. They then passed into the Central Lobby before concluding their tour in Westminster Hall.

The visit was concluded with a flight on the London Eye during which the children were able to pinpoint many of the landmarks that they had passed during their stay in London.

The children returned to school with a host of memories that I am sure they will hold dear for many years to come.

Kind Regards,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

'Together we love learning'