



Kentisbury Primary School Newsletter

(Part of the West Exmoor Federation)

Date: 18th July, 2008 Term: Summer Newsletter Number: 12

Dear Parents/Carers

Out and About

Key Stage 2 have been fortunate enough to go on two field trips since the last newsletter. We were blessed with fair weather on both days and the children were able to consolidate their learning on rivers through these visits.

Key Stage 1 went on a history outing to Lynton school. They went dressed in 1950's clothes and shared their learning on the 50's with children from Parracombe and Lynton. They also looked at each other's art work from the term and shared their learning on life cycles.

The whole school had a superb trip to the Landmark Theatre where they watched an inspirational dance by the Essex Dance Company.

Visitors

Once again we have been joined in school by PCSO Karen. She came in to get to know the children a bit more.

We have also been visited by two members of the local community: Mrs Lillicrap and Mrs Homewood. Both ladies gave the children very informative talks. They demonstrated to the children

origami, reflexology and how to grow and care for herbs.

Two members of Mrs Lee's family have joined us this week too. Andy came to us as part of his work experience placements. He was a great help and got on extremely well with both pupils and staff alike. Oliver did some fantastic circus skills with the Federation which we hope to build on next year.

Wendy Russel has also joined us in school supporting in both the Infant and Junior class. Thank you for all your help!

Thanks

Thank you to all of you who turned out for sports day and the school v parents rounders match. Both events were much fun! Thank you also to Stacey and Ben for putting so much effort into both events to ensure they both ran smoothly.

We also really appreciate all the help we have had from various parents whether it be driving, assisting on trips or taking photographs. Without this, we would not be able to offer the children so many extra-curricular activities, so many thanks.

We have been overwhelmed by all the gifts we have received recently in school. Thank you

to Angie Batty for giving a play kitchen to the Infants, Sue West for some quail eggs and Mr and Mrs Cox for a kind donation to the school. The Infants have enjoyed using the kitchen in the role-play area and the whole school has been fascinated watching the quail eggs hatch.

Events For The Holidays

Devon libraries are getting set to keep young people active and keep them reading throughout the summer holidays with the Summer Reading Challenge™ - a challenge to read six books during the summer through a local library. Children are given a special pack and a set of incentives to collect as they read, with a certificate and medal for those that successfully complete the Challenge. This year's theme is called Team Read, to tie in with the Beijing Olympics, and there will be a whole range of sporty activities and incentives to spur children on to the finishing line. For details of events in your local library log on to <http://www.devon.gov.uk/thezone/maxactivities>

The Porlock Arts Festival (11th - 14th September) committee have sent us fliers inviting children to take part in the

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festival and also to spend some time during the summer holidays taking part in a short story and limerick competition (further details in the entrance hall).

Ifracombe and District Round Table are holding a Rescue Day on Wednesday 13th August. There will be dramatic live displays by the Emergency Services serving this area. Details are on the board in the entrance hall and a 25% family ticket discount coupon is in the 'primary Times' magazine we sent home to you this week (further copies available on the table in the entrance hall).

I have pinned the summer holiday activity schedule for Simonsbath House Outdoor Centre on the board in the entrance hall if you are interested.

Also on the board, is a poster about the Brendon Show and Country Fayre being held on 10th August and an open afternoon at Wistland Pound where you can have an introduction to different types of flowering plants and learn how to use a wildflower key (26th July, 12:00 - 3:30).

A parent from Lynton School is trying to form a junior football team to play in the

Devon FA (age 7-9). If you are interested please call Gemma Bowen on 01598 753319.

Federation News (Ofsted and staff appointments)

I am delighted to be able to tell you that both Lynton and Parracombe have now received their Ofsted Reports and both were extremely positive. We were particularly pleased to find that Ofsted regarded the quality of teaching and learning and the leadership and management to be good at both schools, as was the overall quality of provision, personal development and well-being of the children and the care, guidance and support that each school offers.

We are looking forward to being joined by three wonderful new teachers to the federation, all of whom will take up their place in September. Tom Parkin will be joining Lynton to enable the school to return to two classes within Key Stage One, both with less than 20 children. Julie Ansell will be joining Parracombe to cover Lisa Hamer's maternity leave and, finally, Sophie Higgins will be working across the federation to provide consistency in non-contact time for the Federation's leadership time.

She will teach two days at Kentisbury and one at Parracombe.

School Dinners

We have been advised that as of September, jacket potatoes will not be offered as a lunch option each day. If you have strong views about this you can phone 01392 384877.

Future Dates

As promised, we will be holding a meeting to follow up from the one we had 3 weeks ago. It will be held on Thursday 18th September at 6.00.

Parent's Evening will be held on Thursday 23rd October (individual appointment times will be sent out nearer the time).

Finally...

We wish everyone who is moving onto new schools much success. You will all be missed greatly. We look forward to welcoming back the rest of you on Tuesday 2nd September as well as the new Reception children.

Happy Holidays!

Kind Regards,

Clare Cooke
Head of Teaching and Learning

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