

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the start of a new and exciting school year. I hope that you had a wonderful summer and that you were able to enjoy the incredible weather that we were blessed with – long may it last!

The new school year has brought with it many changes; new children, new staff; a new school and a new curriculum. It has been lovely to welcome so many new faces to the federation and it has been a joy to watch the Key Stage Two children of Parracombe and Kentisbury enjoying their new school building. Without exception, all of the children across the federation have made an excellent start to the new year and I very much look forward to watching them all progress and develop as the year goes on.

Teachers have asked me to remind parents/carers of just a few minor things. Firstly, please ensure that all items of your child's clothing are clearly named. Secondly, please ensure that your child has a PE kit in school with them on a daily basis. Finally, as part of our Healthy Schools Policy, we ask that drinks bottles for use throughout the day contain water only. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation regarding these matters.

Should you have any concerns or queries, no matter how small, please do not hesitate to speak with me. If I'm not in school, please just leave a message with a member of my admin team and I will contact you to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

With Very Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

Within Collective Worship across the federation the children are given the opportunity to contribute to our thoughts and prayers. Our thoughts are currently with those who are poorly, our families, our friends and for new beginnings.

Class news – Streams

Welcome back to school! Where did the holiday go?

We have fourteen new children in our class, and they have been working very hard already.

Our literacy learning has been based on a recount about our summer holidays. The children have talked about an aspect of their holiday and have written it, in the style of a recount. The children have thought about phrases that we could use to help to sequence our writing and used them in their writing. Next week we are going to be looking at traditional stories and in particular the story of the Enormous Turnip, which will lead into our Harvest Festival, later on this term.

In our maths learning we have been learning all about numbers and the properties of numbers. The children have been encouraged to count forwards and backwards, to use place value to solve problems. The children have had fun estimating amounts of things. During the next couple of weeks we will be learning about ordering numbers, and odd and even numbers.

Our theme learning for this half term is 'Funny Bones'. Within the theme we are going to learn about ourselves – our bodies and looking at healthy eating. During the next couple of weeks we are going to be thinking about our families and who is in our family. It would be great if you could send in photos of your child's family, which we could use as a writing prompt.

I am pleased to see that most of the children have brought in their PE kits for the start of term. If your child has not yet brought their PE kit in, could you please ensure that it comes into school and stays on their peg in the cloakroom. Also can I remind you to check that all of your children's clothes are named clearly.

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will have brought their home learning packs home with them this week. The learning in the packs supports the learning that they are doing in the class. The packs do not need to be completed until the end of the term, but I would ask that you to encourage your child to complete at least one piece of learning a week, and then to bring it in to school so that I can go through it with your child.

Mrs Kirby

Class news - Rivers

We have had a great start to the new term. It has been lovely getting to know the new Year three children and catch up with the children who were in Rivers last year. In literacy, we are using the text The Star Bearer as a stimulus for our learning about myths over the next three weeks. We are getting to know the book this week and we will be writing our own myths at the end of the unit.

In maths we are concentrating on addition and subtraction for the next two weeks. We are learning and applying a range of mental calculation strategies. Key to this learning is being able to quickly recall pairs of numbers to make 10. I will be sticking a reference sheet of pairs that make ten in our homework books. It would be really helpful if you could support this learning at home by randomly calling out a single digit number and your child replying with the corresponding number to make 10. eg : I say 8 you say 2, I say 4 you say 6.

As I'm sure you know, we are learning about Ancient Egypt this term. Thanks to everyone who has already brought in books, photos and interesting artefacts for our theme display area. We have been learning about hieroglyphics and the importance of the Rosetta stone in decoding hieroglyphs. Next week we will be exploring the role of the Pharaoh, and finding out about Gods and Goddesses.

I will be sending out homework on Fridays, to be returned the following Wednesday. In addition to the weekly homework tasks I will also include a theme homework pack at the back of the book. This will contain a number of activities to be completed throughout the term. Generally these are more creative tasks that the whole family can enjoy completing together.

Many thanks

Mr Doherty

Class news – Oceans

We're already hard at work this term and enjoying our focussed groups from Monday to Thursday and coming together as the federation's year 5 and 6 on Fridays to discuss and share our learning. Efficiency, organisation and understanding are key buzz words for Oceans this term. We are focussing on choosing the best strategies and techniques for a task and understanding the benefits and effects they bring.

Our themed studies start with a look at Ancient Egypt and so we are learning how to mummify and wrap up our understanding of writing instructions. We are on the hunt for anyone with experiences or artefacts related to our theme which would really help to bring our learning alive and bring our local environment into the classroom. Speaking of bringing our classroom alive, we are hoping to add some plants to our room and would gratefully receive any cuttings or plants that could be donated to us (please no flowering plants to avoid irritating my hay-fever).

Many thanks in advance for the help and support we receive this term.

Sincerely,

Miss Adams.

Class news – Young Buds

The new term has got off to an energetic start, helped by the beautiful weather! It has been wonderful getting to know everyone and I could not imagine a more beautiful location in which to begin my teaching career or a nicer group of children to call my class! I look forward to the year ahead, and guiding the "Young Buds" through their early education. It promises to be a busy year full of fun learning; starting with our theme of "Funny bones" – incorporating: new beginnings, ourselves, animals and the world around us, to touch on just a few aspects. I am always happy to speak to parents, so feel free to pop in at the end of the day or arrange with Mel a more appropriate time to suit you.

Mr Fletcher

Class news – Oaks

After a long wait, the children have finally returned to Parracombe School! I have thoroughly enjoyed introducing the children to the new parts of the school and exploring the grounds. The children have been, and still are, very excited to be back at Parracombe. As a new teacher to the federation, I also have loved my first week. Along with a fresh start comes a new class name – let me introduce you to 'Oaks'. This term, Oaks will be studying Ancient Egyptians along with various literacy and science units. Last week, Oaks created a joint art display for the Kentisbury Show – we hope you saw it! We look forward to telling you all about our learning in the next newsletter!

Miss Hill

Dates for your diary & Community news(details will follow nearer the time for events)

Christmas Cards

This year, Mrs Peacock will be making Christmas Cards with all of the children as part of an Eco Card project (ecoArtcards.com). You will have the opportunity to see your child's artwork before deciding whether or not you wish to place an order for professionally printed cards. Mrs Peacock will be starting the project within the next few weeks as orders will need to be placed prior to our half term break.

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations will take place during the week beginning 20th October. Further details to follow.

Harvest Festival

A Harvest Festival Service will be held for the children of Lynton at St Mary's on Monday 29th September at 10.30am. If you are able, please do come along and join us at this service. A date for the children of Parracombe and Kentisbury to hold a Harvest Festival Service at both Christ Church in Parracombe and St Thomas' in Kentisbury has yet to be set but will take place during the month of October.

Admin

If you have not already done so can we please remind parents to return the Data Collection Sheets that were sent home for completion, these are very important as this enables information about pupils/contacts etc to remain up to date, if you require another sheet please contact the Administrator. Thank you.

The price of a school meal for KS2 is now £2.20

Payments for the London residential are due on the 12th September (years 3 & 4) – deposit of £40.00 to secure your child's place.

Final payment for PGL Beam House is due on the 12th September (years 5 & 6)

Can we please advise parents that for Health and Safety reasons at no time will dogs be allowed in the grounds or school buildings; we appreciate your cooperation in this matter to ensure the safety of all of the children.

If any one can spare some time, you would be most welcome at Kentisbury school to read with the KS1 children, please contact Mel or Wendy 01271883263

For your information, we have a new SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Team this year. The team can be contacted via senco@westexmoorfederation.org.uk. Alternatively, individual team member contacts are as follows:

Jayne Peacock, SEND Co-ordinator
jayne.peacock@westexmoorfederation.org.uk
Julia Pring, Assistant SEND Co-ordinator
julia.pring@westexmoorfederation.org.uk
Olwyn Kirby, Maths and Early Years Leader
olwyn.kirby@westexmoorfederation.org.uk
Nicola Smith, Literacy Leader

nicola.smith@westexmoorfederation.org.uk
Victoria Squire, SEND Governor
vicky.squire@westexmoorfederaiton.org.uk
Nikki Pierce, Little Berries SEND Co-ordinator
nikki.pierce@westexmoorfederation.org.uk

Federation Staff Vacancies

We have the following vacancies available. Should you be interested in any of these positions, please speak to either Jayne or the admin team for further information:-

1. Lunchtime Supervisor for Lynton School for 5 hours per week (12.00-13.00hrs.)
2. Catering Assistant for Parracombe School for 6.25 hours per week. For further details of this post please contact Stephan at Devon Norse (Catering Company) on 07789 032965.

Betty, Wendy, Jacqui and Mel