

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all of the parents/carers and friends of the federation who supported our children so enthusiastically during our Harvest Festival period. It has been lovely to see so many people at all of our services and I know that the children really enjoy being able to share this special time with you. Thank you also for all the wonderful 'goodies' that you sent in for our Harvest collection – they have all been very gratefully received by the Freedom Centre in Barnstaple and it is good to know that between us we are able to offer a little sustenance to those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

You will shortly be receiving a copy of our updated Attendance Policy which reflects the new guidance relating to term time absence. It sets out circumstances under which we are able to authorise absence from school. Research clearly shows that when children miss even a few days of schooling it can have a negative impact upon their attainment, so I really do implore you to assist us in ensuring that our attendance is as good as it can possibly be.

This week has clearly seen a change in the weather, and with the first hint of winter being just around the corner, could I please ask that you ensure your child wears a coat to school and that they are wearing suitable, water-tight shoes. In line with our school policy, shoes should be black and flat. Generally the standard of uniform has been very high this term, but I would like to remind you that children should not be wearing jeans or tracksuit bottoms to school as part of their normal uniform. I appreciate that occasionally it is not possible to adhere fully to our uniform policy, but I thank you in advance for helping us to maintain as higher standard as practically possible.

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 families in Syria, the family and friends of Alan Henning, those suffering from the Ebola virus and those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Class news – Streams

What a busy time we are all having in Streams. The children have been doing lots of learning and all been trying very hard.

In our literacy learning we are continuing to work on the story about The boy who cried Ninja – we have been exploring adjectives and how we could use them to make our writing more interesting. We have also been thinking about how to use speech marks appropriately and seeing where we can spot them in our reading books. We are going to be writing our own stories based on our book. When they are finished it would be great for you to come and read what the children have written.

This week in our maths, we have been exploring addition and subtraction. The Year 2s have been working on number bonds to 10 and seeing how this can help with our number bonds to 100. The year 1s have been looking at number bonds to 5,6,7,8 and 9 and using them to solve various problems. The Foundation children have been thinking about how they can combine different amounts to get a larger amount. We are going to be learning about doubling numbers and thinking about time – for the younger children sequencing days of the week and months of the year and the older children will be learning about clocks.

Our theme learning is promoting a lot of interest for the children. They have enjoyed finding out about

bones and making skeletons this week. They have been thinking about various parts of the body and learning about what the parts are for. We are going to be continuing to find out about our senses and to do lots of scientific experiments to help us to find out about how they work.

We had a super afternoon out walking up Hollerday Hill looking for signs of Autumn. Luckily we went before the rain set in!! The children were very observant and we were even fortunate to see a squirrel chasing amongst the trees!

Thank you to all of you who supported your children at our Harvest service, it was lovely to see so many of you at church, and the children enjoyed sharing their songs with you. Don't forget to sign up for parents evening!

Mrs Kirby

Class news – Rivers

In literacy we have now completed our own myths and will be shortly publishing some on the school website. Next we are moving on to writing instructions which we will link to our theme learning. In maths we are exploring time. Thanks to those of you who helped your children research why we have leap years. The children have been telling the time using both digital and analogue clocks and we are now calculating time intervals, using timetables and real life problems.

In science the children used their knowledge of levers to make their own shaduf (A simple machine which Ancient Egyptians used to lift water out of the river Nile.) The children worked in groups to design and make their machine which we then tested. See website for more information.

PE lessons are now on Thursday and Friday. This is because Mr. O'Sullivan, PE teacher from Ilfracombe Arts Academy, will be joining us on Thursdays. Please make sure that your child has the appropriate kit in school for these days.

Many thanks

Mr Doherty

Class news – Oceans

Instructions have been wrapped up and we are now extending our non-fiction abilities by writing our own explanation texts. Through this sequence we will investigate how the pyramids were built, as we break-down the stages of building a paragraph and develop our writing stamina. Our journey through explanation texts will also lead us to identify the differences between instructions, explanations and recounts as we examine the specific use of words that typify each genre.

In maths we are exploring the dimensions of the great pyramid using length, weight and capacity. We will try to build our own model pyramid and develop our understanding of sizes through using objects around the school. Much of our work will involve problem solving as we deepen our ability to estimate quantities and sizes. Our first challenge is to work out how many reams of paper it would take to build a tower as tall as the great pyramid (146m).

Beam house is only a week away and I am sure we are all looking forward to our adventures during the PGL holiday.

Sincerely,

Miss Adams.

Class news – Young Buds

After the gloriously warm and dry start to the term, Autumn has certainly arrived with a vengeance! But that has not dampened our spirits or enthusiasm, as those who were fortunate enough to attend one of our harvest festivals will agree with. The young buds sang "Cauliflowers Fluffy" beautifully and listened to the other classes perform their pieces. In literacy We have been looking at the story of "The Disgusting Sandwich" by Gareth Edwards, which we will be using to create our own interesting and, no-doubt, yucky journey stories. In maths we are securing our number bond facts and using them to solve sums and complete number sentences. In science we have been discussing mammals, what they eat and where they live. In the next two weeks we will be learning about how we grow, and how to keep healthy.

Mr Fletcher

Class news – Oaks

Oaks class have been indulging in their learning over the last week as well as taking part in two Harvest Festivals. Thank you to everyone who took part in the festival this year and also to those who showed their support. Children in years 5/6 have been researching the ancient Egyptian pyramids and are going to report their ideas in the form of a newspaper article. Whereas children in years 3/4 have been independently researching one area of their choice and they are going to present their findings in the form of a practical Egyptian museum. Oaks class would very much like to hold an Egyptian day at school, so look out for a date in the near future. Next week, children will be learning about time and timetables –so encourage your child to tell the time over the weekend!

At Parracombe School we eagerly want to improve our outdoor learning environment, children have created designs to personalise the area to their needs. If you have any resources or spare time to support this project, please get in touch!

Many Thanks

Sophie Hill.

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

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations will take place during the week beginning 20th October. At Lynton they will be held on Tuesday 21st October, commencing at 3.30pm. At Parracombe and Kentisbury consultations will take place on Thursday 23rd October, commencing at 4pm. To assist parents with children at both Parracombe and Kentisbury, consultations will be held for all parents of Parracombe and Kentisbury children at Parracombe School (our Spring Term consultations will take place at Kentisbury to keep things fair). Sheets to sign up for parent consultations will be made available in each school from Monday 6th October. If you are unable to get into school to select a time, please call the school office where Betty, Jacqui or Mel will be happy to 'sign up' for you.

The last day of this half term will be Thursday 23rd October (Friday 24th is a teacher training day)

On the 16th & 17th October year 5 and 6 will be going to Beam house on Residential.

A reminder to parents that medical forms for the trip must be returned ASAP please.

Lynton P.T.F.A would like to thank all the parents/carers who supported our fundraising activities last term. We raised over £200 and this money will be put towards purchasing playground equipment and developing outdoor provision. Anyone who would like to join, our next meetings are Friday 10th October at 3.20pm and Friday 14th November at 3.20pm.

Kentisbury and Parracombe P.T.F.A

Will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 6th November, 3.30pm at Kentisbury School. All are welcome.

Admin

School Photographs

Tempest Photography will be visiting Parracombe and Kentisbury School (Including Little Berries) on Weds 22nd Oct to take individual and family photographs. The photographer will start the day with family photo's at Kentisbury at 8.30am. Any parents of children that attend **both** schools that would like a family picture should attend Kentisbury at this time and then transport their own child to their base school afterwards.

Individual photographs will then follow at both schools.

If you have children at the same base school family photographs will be taken at the same time as the individuals.

Reading

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

Free Schools Meals eligibility

We would like to let you know, that you may be entitled to claim free schools meals, If you are in receipt of Income Support, Income based Jobseekers Allowance, Support under Part VI of the

Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Employment and Support Allowance (income-related), Guarantee element of State Pension Credit or Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit) with an annual income below £16,190 a year.

Although the KS1 children are currently entitled to free meals under the new Government Scheme, should any KS1 children be eligible under the above criteria, we would ask that you also please speak to your School regarding the completion of a Pupil Premium Eligibility form, if you have not previously completed one, as again, additional funding is also received by the school for those children eligible. Any forms that have recently been returned to your school have been forwarded onto the School Meals Team.

It may be that you do not wish to take up any eligibility you may have for free meals, but we would encourage you to apply, because each child registered brings in additional funding to the School. If you think you are entitled to free school meals, whether your children are in KS1 or KS2, please let your school know, so that we can arrange to let you have the relevant claim form/s. Please be aware that no-one in the class, apart from the class teacher will be aware your child is having free school meals, so your children will not be made to feel different, if you claim.

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.
3. We will shortly have a vacancy at Kentisbury for a cleaner for 9.5 hours per week, at £6.50 per hour, for term time plus 3 weeks during the school holidays. For more information please contact Gavin Goatcher at Devon Norse on 01392 351160.

Spare Clothes

We would be pleased to receive any clothes which your child/ren may have grown out of for the KS1 children. These can then be used as spare clothes, for when any accidents occur, when the children are working/playing with water, etc.

Head Lice

Please can we ask all parents/carers to check daily for head lice and treat straight away to ensure that any outbreaks are stopped immediately?

Betty, Wendy, Jacqui and Mel