

23.10.2014

Dear Parents/Carers

Goodness me – where has the half term gone? It's absolutely flown by and I can't believe (dare I say it?) that Christmas is slowly creeping up upon us! I think the children (and staff) are well and truly ready for a well earned half-term break. It's been an exceptionally busy eight weeks and I think we all need a few days to recharge our batteries and prepare ourselves for the remainder of the term.

Over the last couple of weeks there have been plenty of exciting events taking place across the federation. I'd like to say a huge thank you to Sarah Adams and Mel Wright for accompanying our Year 5 and 6 children on their PGL trip to Beam House last week. The children had an amazing time and have come back full of stories of how team work won the day and how overcoming fears can result in an incredible sense of achievement.

I'd also like to say a big thank you to the Choir and Mrs Kirby for representing the federation at the Civic Service held at St Mary's Church last Sunday. The Choir sang beautifully, leaving barely a dry eye in the house, and there was great praise from all who were there. The children really were a credit to themselves and the federation.

Finally I'd like to say well done to the Cross Country Team who took part in an event at Torrington Rugby Club yesterday. It was a rather blustery and chilly day but the children really did themselves and the federation proud.

I hope that you have an enjoyable and restful half term.

With Very Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher



Pictures from Beam House courtesy of Mel

Within Collective Worship our thoughts are currently with children affected by the conflict in Syria, those suffering from or helping to fight against the Ebola virus and our families and friends who are poorly.

Class news – Streams

In our literacy learning we have finished our stories based on The boy who cried Ninja – If you have time please come in and read the stories that the children have written. They have had some fantastic ideas and have been very proud of their writing. After half term we will be starting a new literacy sequence.

This week in our maths, we have been exploring doubling and halving, and linking their learning to the two times tables. The children have found this quite challenging- especially the halving, but they have been trying very hard to use their knowledge when solving problems. After half term they will be learning about shapes – thinking about 2d shapes and their properties.

Our theme learning continues to be of great interest to the children. We learnt about our five senses and what they are used for. We have also learnt about what makes a healthy meal, and thought about our favourite foods. After half term we will be doing some work all about Guy Fawkes and learn about The Gunpowder Plot.

Thank you to all of you who came for parents evening; it was lovely to be able to share with you personally about how well your children are doing.

I would be really grateful if you would remind your children that they should not bring toys into school other than a Monday when it is show and tell day – and even then they should only bring something in if they are not worried about it getting damaged.

I hope that you all have a lovely half term break and come back to school refreshed, as the next half term gets even busier!!

Mrs Kirby

Class news – Rivers

In literacy the children have been developing their terrifying and barbarous descriptions of mythical creatures. Last week we wrote a class poem which we performed to Streams and Oceans. The children have now created individual creatures and have written petrifying descriptions. We have been rehearsing using different vocal expressions to really give the listener the full horrifying impact of our words. We are currently videoing our ideas and will be publishing our mythical creature's poem on the school website. You have been warned! In maths we have been exploring time, measures and 3d shapes. The children have been hands-on learners and have made really good progress with the accuracy of their measuring.

Many thanks to Karen Birch for organising our visit to Lynton Library last Friday. The children had a really informative morning, learning about the way in which libraries organise their books. Those children who already have a library card were able to withdraw books. We will be returning to the library every three weeks to return books and choose new ones. If your child is not a member of the library, can I urge you to find the time to visit the library with them so that they can join and then they will be able to withdraw and return books during our class visits. Our next library visit will be Friday 7th Nov.

Many Thanks

Mr Doherty

Class news – Oceans

PGL was a great success! We all had a brilliant time and got involved with all the activities we could. Although body boarding was abandoned due to the weather we replaced it with a practice session on a firing range and we could all see our aim improving through the afternoon. I was particularly proud of all of the children's behaviour and manners. The PGL staff also commented on this and on the children's supportive nature towards one another. You could see our confidence grow, even in just a very small amount of time, as we became increasingly independent and used to the routine and our surroundings. It was quite clear that many of us were conquering our fears in one thing or another during the trip and I am very proud to have been witness to the effort and perseverance shown by all who went.



Sincerely,
Miss Adams.

Class news – Young Buds

It has been a quiet week for the Young Buds with Mr Fletcher being away but the children have worked hard for the other staff and have particularly enjoyed their music lesson with Mrs Smith. Thankfully the weather was dry for their last PE lesson on athletics on Wednesday where the children competed against each other to complete an obstacle course.

Thursday will see us saying our goodbyes to our Cook Eileen whom will be greatly missed. Thank you Eileen for all your hard work and yummy lunches!

I am looking forward to seeing the Little Buds parents/guardians on Thursday evening at Parracombe for our parents evening.

Let's hope for some nice weather for half term and enjoy the break you all deserve, you have all worked very hard, well done! Look forward to seeing you for the next half of term."

Mr Fletcher

Class news – Oaks

Children have worked so hard this half term, progression across all subjects is definitely noticeable and I am very proud of all the children. Over the last week, children have made an Egyptian shaduf from wood and string acting as a lever as part of our science unit. Children worked together in small groups to measure, cut and assemble their shaduf. It was a very enjoyable learning experience all round. Currently in Oaks classroom we have our very own 'Egyptian Gift Shop' where children are applying their mathematical knowledge to buy items and give out the correct change. Children in years 3 and 4 have planted their own lettuce seeds this week as part of their instructional unit in literacy, we look forward to watching the lettuce grow! Children in year 5 and 6 had a brilliant time on residential last week and we have loved listening to their adventure stories. After half term all Key Stage 2 children will be taking part in swimming lessons which is going to be an essential life skill to learn and improve on.

A special mention to those children who attended cross country yesterday, they were all amazing and great sportsmanship was shown! Charlie Wright also came in the top 10 in his race - amazing!
Have a brilliant half term!
Many Thanks.
Sophie Hill.

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

Lynton P.T.F.A

Date of next meeting – Friday 14th November 3:20pm (in the school hall). It would be great to see any new faces. Children are quite welcome to join film club to enable you to attend the meeting.

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.

Remembrance

11th November Remembrance day service at Woody Bay for Key Stage 2 Children.

Admin

Swimming

Key Stage 2 will be starting their intensive swimming programme on Tuesday 4th November. Please return the permission form on the first day back to School.

Your child will need to bring a packed lunch on the days that they are swimming. If you would like the school to provide a packed lunch for your child, these can be ordered on the day for the usual charge of £2.20.

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 - 3 hours per week, Monday to Wednesday, 12pm – 1pm
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.

Regular Eye tests

It is important for children to have regular sight tests. Your child should have a check-up at least every two years from the age of 4 as problems can occur at any age. All NHS sight tests are free of charge for children under the age of 16. Please see the NHS choices web site for further information:

www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/opticians/Pages/childrens-eyes.aspx below is a list of NHS Opticians that provide free eye tests for children in Barnstaple.

NHS Options:

Boot Opticians
Tel: 01271 342796

Bill & Taylor
Tel: 01271 342491

Eyewear creations
Tel: 01271 377055

G C Bateman Ltd
Tel: 01271 343484

Vision Express
Tel: 01271 323130

Specsavers
Tel: 01271 373 233

Tesco Opticians
Tel: 0845 601 3479

Have a wonderful half term
Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel