



28.11.2014

Dear Parents/Carers

With December approaching, it finally feels as though winter might have arrived. The quiet murmuring of Christmas is just beginning to be heard across the federation as the children start to practice their nativities. The countdown to Christmas will well truly begin next week with Christingle services being held at Christ Church on Wednesday 3rd December at 5pm and at St Mary's on Sunday 7th December. I'd like to thank members of both the Lynton and Parracombe PCCs for coming into school prior to these services to help the children make their christingles – it's such a lovely thing for the children to be able to do and to be part of.

Thank you to everyone who supported Children in Need on 21st November. In addition to coming to school with a teddy bear dressed as a superhero and wearing non-school uniform clothes for the day, there was a whole range of fund-raising enterprises taking place across the federation. These included the making and selling of loom bands, painting Pudsey faces and baking and selling cakes. In total we managed to raise £150 – well done to you all!

Congratulations to our football team who took part in a round-robin festival at Ilfracombe Academy on Wednesday. The team played really well and scored a number of goals. We're still awaiting the final result but we are quietly optimistic that we have done quite well! Thank you to Sophie Hill and Christopher Fletcher for providing some additional coaching for the team.

On 9th December the KS2 children of the federation have been invited to the film premier of Vikings Attack. This will be held at the Lynmouth Pavilion and you should have already received your invitation. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Exmoor Nation Park and the Lynmouth Pavilion Project for organising this event and I hope to see many of you there.

If your child travels on either the federation or local authority minibus between Kentisbury and Parracombe and/or Combe Martin, could I please ask that you telephone the school office of the site that your child attends (or call in personally) to advise us of any changes to your child's normal routine. We try to be flexible and accommodate requests to fit in with personal family arrangements but, as you can imagine, this can become quite complicated. By calling the school office we can ensure that any changes are immediately written onto the daily travel schedule and actioned accordingly. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation.

Finally, on Monday the children will be participating in an Ethos Day. This will include a range of activities that will develop and reflect the values that the children identified as being important during our last ethos day: curiosity, achievement, respect, inspiration and support (CARIS). One of the workshops will be with local artist, Jo Bushell. The children will use a variety of textile techniques to produce art work that will be combined and digitally reproduced to create a wall hanging for each school. Monday will be the first stage in the process and we are all very excited about making a start on this project. Watch this space for some photographs of the children in action in our next newsletter!

With Very Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

Within Collective Worship our thoughts are currently with the family, friends and team mates of Phillip Hughes, our families and friends, especially those who have been ill or have recently recovered from illness and those people who are suffering from or helping to fight against the Ebola virus.

Class news – Streams

In our literacy we have completed our instruction sequence – the children came up with some excellent alternatives including “How to wash a cuddly chimp” and “How to wash a very slow snail”, based on “How to wash a hairy mammoth” book that we used as a base. We have now moved on to a new fiction sequence of writing based on The dragon machine by Helen Ward. The children will be learning about descriptive sentences and how to use them to make their writing interesting. We will be learning about adjectives and adverbs.

This week in our maths, we have been exploring number and properties of numbers. We have looked at multiples of 2, 5 and 10. We have also thought about halves and quarters of numbers and which numbers can be halved and quartered. We are going to look at addition and subtraction and how we can work out different problems, and how we can explain them to each other.

In our theme learning we have been looking at what our brain controls and how messages are sent around our body. We will be looking at what happens when air goes into our lungs.

We have also started practising our Nativity play which will take place on Tuesday 16th December at 10.30am and again in the evening at 6.00pm.

Mrs Kirby

Class news – Rivers

Well done to all of Rivers class during our swimming lessons. What a tremendous effort. All of the children made good progress, many of them surprising themselves! Although we have now completed our swimming teaching for this year, I would urge you to try to ensure that your children have as many opportunities as possible to practise their developing skills.

We have completed our Bikeability training this week with many of Rivers achieving their level one cycling proficiency award. In addition to cycling safely, the children have also learned how to check the safety of their bike and how to fit their helmets correctly. I know that some children didn't have their own helmets in school this week. Please make sure that your children wear helmets when out on their bikes as it really can make the difference between a bit of a bump and something far more serious.

In literacy we have started a new learning sequence involving information texts. Our book – Penguins – Meet the heroes of a frozen world is published by Scholastic and is part of their “discover more” series. It's a fantastically engaging text and comes with a code that enables the children to access further online content. We are really enjoying getting to know the book. In maths the children have been focussing on problem solving and explaining their methods when finding the solution. They have really impressed me with their perseverance and willingness to try lots of different strategies to work through the problem.

Now that swimming is finished we will be returning to our regular PE lessons. Please ensure that your children keep their PE kits in school all week so that they are prepared for these lessons.

Many thanks.

Mr Doherty

Class news – Oceans

Everyone has made great progress in their swimming, be it in developing our lifesaving skills or reaching our own distance goals. It is very rewarding to walk to a school bus hearing children exclaiming that they can swim. The pride that each child showed during the last week was a pleasure to see.

For the next three weeks years 5 and 6 are journeying through the world of myths. We will be putting together all of the skills we have been developing this term, to produce a larger piece of fictional writing and create our own book of dragons. Our WW1 poetry was a great success and the children have shown a great deal of empathy, understanding and depth throughout the sequence. I have included two examples of the quality of poetry produced by the pupils of our Federation for you to enjoy.

Mathematics is concentrating on the core skills of addition and subtraction. Money and measurements will be used within the calculations we are investigating in order to consolidate our previous learning but our focus is on various methods of addition and subtraction and choosing the most efficient for each pupil. We are also practising and developing our mental strategies.

A Poppy

Beneath my shelter of flags,
I walk towards ashened air,
Hitting the ground,
Blood creeps through my no longer clouded
petals.
They're stained.

By Ronwen Hardy Evans

A Poppy

I tear away the thick bloody soil,
My firework petals flame up from the horrifying
sight,
Sinking within my mind,
Freezing my stem,
Ascending up,
Avoiding the storms towards the Sun.

By Toby Hoskins



How can you help at home?

Literacy: Ask children what, when, why and how things are being done in order to build full descriptions of events.

Reading: When listening to your children read, ask them for the meanings of more challenging words. If your child is unable to be specific, ask them to read around the word to try and build up possible meanings for the word.

Maths: When possible ask children how much change is expected or how much the total weight of something / cost of shopping will be to build mental mathematical agility.

Miss Adams.

Class News – Little Buds

The young buds have been busy this week with the beginnings of preparations for Christmas, including starting work on the nativity and designing their own Christmas cards. On Wednesday we had two visits one from a paramedic and the other from a fire safety officer, the children were very excited to learn about their jobs and the importance of the emergency services.

In literacy the children have been looking at instructions and have completed some great written work – well done all! This Friday we will be saying a fond farewell to Alex who will be leaving Kentisbury to move to Kenya – we wish Alex all the best on his exciting adventure to Africa!"



Mr Fletcher

Class news – Oaks

Last week children in Oaks class became expert embalmers as we wrote some very gory instructions on how to mummify a body during our instructions unit in Literacy. Our new Literacy unit is information texts, where children will create an information leaflet on an aspect of Egyptian life. I am encouraging children to read non-fiction texts over the next few weeks so they become more familiar with the layout and language. In Maths we are focusing on column addition and subtraction, thinking about partitioning and place holders.

This will lead the children onto adding money and giving change to an item in our Egyptian gift shop.. After three successful weeks of swimming, children will be moving onto problem solving and orienteering during PE lessons – this will improve their team work, communication and logical thinking. A selection of children have taken part in Netball and Football tournaments over the last few weeks, where they have experienced playing against other schools, learning new skills and tactics. They were brilliant role models for the federation in terms of behaviour and sportsmanship – well done to all that participated!

A reminder to all parents that children must have the correct PE kit in school with “outdoor” trainers at all times.

Many thanks

Miss Hill.

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

Monday 1st December – Ethos Day

Wednesday 3rd December–Christingle Service at Christ Church, Parracombe, 5pm.

Sunday 7th December– Christingle at St Mary’s church, Lynton

Wednesday 10th December – Premier of Vikings Attack! at Lynmouth Pavilion

Tuesday 16th December – Lynton Nativity, St Mary’s, 10.30am & 6pm

Wednesday 17th December – Parracombe & Kentisbury Nativity, St Thomas’ 10.30am, Christ Church 5pm

Wednesday 17th December – Christmas Lunch

Thursday 18th December – Pantomime Visit, Queen’s Theatre

Friday 19th December – End of Term

Christmas Sale

There will be a Christmas sale at knockdown prices on Wednesday 10th December at St Mary’s Church, 10.00am–12.30pm

The sale is undertaken by the church to help lighten the financial burden on families and others in the community who are on tight budgets around Christmas time.

Lynton PTFA

Thank you to the parents who came to our last meeting. It was lovely to see some new faces. With some of the money we raised last term, we have purchased a few chalk boards to be fitted to the walls and a sandbox bench set. These will be a welcome addition to playtimes. The date of the next meeting is Friday 12th December. Also advanced notice of PTFA Christmas Disco on 17th December – further details to follow nearer the time.

Kentisbury & Parracombe PTFA

Back by popular demand, our Christmas Hamper raffle! We would be grateful if you could bring any donations into school as soon as possible. There is a list of suggestions on the PTFA notice board, however anything you think suitable would be most welcome – everything from food items and cosmetics to drinks, toys and Christmas treats would be much appreciated.

Many thanks for your support.

Admin

Do any parents require some hardcore?? (We would like to demolish a small block/concrete store at Parracombe School, but it will be costly to have the material taken away (It is asbestos free). Please let us know if you could take this away and make use of it.

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. 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.

2. Cleaner for Kentisbury School 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.

Admission in 2015

If you have a child who is due to start full-time education in September 2015 (born between 01.09.2010 and 31.08.2011) it will be necessary to make an application to the Admissions Team, so that a place can be allocated to your child. The application facility opens on the 15th November and closes at midnight on 15th January, 2015 and it is important that you apply by the closing date.

Applications may be made on line at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline. We have been advised that a letter will be sent out to parents, providing a unique number to apply online, but if this is not received an application can still be made on the website by clicking on 'No UID' at the first screen. If you do not have the facility to apply online, please telephone the Admissions Team on 0345 155 1019 for the necessary application form.

West Exmoor Federation procedures in bad weather

Snow During the day

If there is snow during the day which looks to settle and cause difficulty the schools may close. In this case we will contact you by telephone. It is essential that we have your correct contact details.

Children who are brought to school by parents will be asked to collect them. Children who travel on the minibuses will leave early to return home/Combe Martin, unless parents have requested that they do not travel on the minibus and remain at school for collection. If this is the case, please respond, in writing, to this letter. Arrangements will also be made for DCC transport to collect the children early, if necessary.

Snow Overnight/Early Morning

If there has been snow overnight you can check if the school is closed by:

- Listening to either BBC Devon or Heart fm
www.heart.co.uk/southwest/news/snow/school-closures/
www.bbc.co.uk/news/england/devon/
- Checking the school website- www.westexmoorfederation.org.uk
- Checking the Devon County council website
- Contacting the school directly on;
Lynton School – [01598 753309](tel:01598753309)
Kentisbury School – [01271 883263](tel:01271883263)
Parracombe School – [01598 763338](tel:01598763338)
- Where possible notices will be displayed on the school gates.

Registered School Closed but other Federation School Open

If your children's School is closed, but you are able to travel safely to the other Federation School, then your children will be welcome to join that school for the day.

Combe Martin Minibus

We will endeavour to run the bus during bad weather, however if we feel it is unsafe to undertake the journey we will cancel the bus. During the winter months we will be having an extra adult on the bus, and equipping the bus with a 'snow kit'. If the bus is cancelled we will let you know by telephone and put a message on the school website.

Home Learning Pack

If we unfortunately have to close the School for a period of time, or if children are unable to get into school due to the adverse weather conditions, the class teacher will make work available via email. If you do not have access to email, please encourage your child to engage in learning related activities, eg, reading.

SWIMMING

As many of you will know all of KS2 children have just completed an intensive course of swimming at Stowford Meadows.

The lessons were undertaken by SPLASH SWIMSCHOOL, Louise and her team of qualified instructors provide group and private lessons. At several venues. The company have been established for many years.

Please contact Louise Benjafield 01271 325181. www.splashswimschoolnd.co.uk