



12.12.2014

Dear Parents/Carers

My goodness me, hasn't this term just flown by!! There have been so many things going on (and so many things still to do) that we've barely noticed the end of term hurtling towards us. Across the federation the children are all full of Christmas spirit, rehearsing their nativities and preparing for their Christmas fayres and parties. I do hope that you will be able to come along and join us at some of these exciting events.

Last week we held a really successful Ethos Day at Lynton. The children of the federation came together to develop their understanding of our core values of curiosity, achievement, respect, inspiration and support (CARIS). They composed and performed an amazing rap, worked with local artist Jo Bushnell, identified passages in the Bible that exemplify our values and helped to design a new wall mural that will represent our values. We will continue to return to these values and our new strap line 'Rooted and Growing' over the coming months.



Children within Key Stage Two have been enjoying their 'Enterprise Challenge' this week. Each child has been given 50p as a 'start-up fund' to enable them to raise money at their respective Christmas Fayres. Some of the children have been incredibly inventive, teaming up with their friends, enlisting the help of the wider community and really showing an entrepreneurial spirit. I can't wait to see how well they all do and how much money they manage to raise. The money raised will be split between our sponsored Swaziland child, Shilangu and for subsidising an exciting trip to Learning @ Bristol in March of next year.

Finally, as I write this newsletter we do not yet know whether or not the federation choir has been successful in winning the Radio Devon 'Star for Christmas' public vote. Whether or not they do, it has been an incredible achievement to be one of just eight schools short-listed and the children (and Mrs Kirby) should be very proud of themselves. If the choir is voted the best by the Radio Devon listeners, the children will be performing at the Radio Devon carol concert at Exeter Cathedral next Thursday. Here's hoping – the children certainly deserve it!

With Very Best Wishes for the Festive Season,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

Within Collective Worship our thoughts and prayers are currently with those less fortunate than ourselves and who will not be able to enjoy Christmas because of poverty or ill-health; our families and friends; those affected by the weather bomb; and people who make a difference, such as Malala Yousafzai.

Class news – Streams

In our literacy we have completed our story based on the dragon machine. The children thoroughly enjoyed this story and have written some imaginative stories based around the theme. We were looking carefully at adjectives and thinking particularly about how adverbs can be used effectively.

This week in our maths, we have been exploring money as this tied in really well with the Christmas Fayre that the children have organised and run. We looked at different coins and how we can add amounts of coins together. Some of the older children were thinking about how much change to give for certain amounts of shopping.

In our theme learning we have been looking at how the eye works and how the ear works. The children also made a pair of lungs from straws and balloons – you might want to ask your child how they did this!

Nativity play rehearsals have been going very well – the children are looking forward to sharing the story of the Nativity with you next Tuesday, in St Marys Church, at either 10.30am or 6pm.

Obviously for the morning performance the children will be already in school but if I could request your child to meet in St Marys Church Lynton at 5.45pm ready for the evening performance.

Mrs Kirby

Class news – Rivers

In literacy we are completing our information text unit by creating a class book of superheroes. The children have been researching the super powers and key features of each character. We have compiled the book, organising the sections to enable the reader to find all of the information quickly and easily.

In maths we have been exploring statistics, conducting surveys and representing information on bar charts and pictograms. We are now developing our understanding of fractions and using this knowledge to solve problems.

Super Science – who is going to meet the challenge of growing more food using as little space as possible by nurturing the biggest winter lettuce? This is what the children have been working on in science. If you are lucky enough to have a lettuce living with you over Christmas, please remind your resident scientist to continue their experiment into what it needs to grow well. Please return the outcomes of the experiment to school in January so that we can evaluate the results!

A reminder that we will be visiting Lynton Library on Friday 19th, so please ensure that your child brings in any outstanding books which need to be returned.

Many thanks for all of your hard work in supporting your children's learning this term. I hope you all have a relaxing and fun Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Mr Doherty

Class news – Oceans

Tuesday saw the world premiere of our Viking Re-enactment. The event was a great success with children explaining the work and learning that led up to our film, a screening of our film followed by a story teller and a visit from animals that would have been used by villagers during the time. A buffet of Viking and Saxon food was put on and we had introductions from the Pavilion and the National Parks. We must say a great big thank you to the Pavilion for supporting us in creating and celebrating this piece of local history and bringing our learning alive.

We are working hard to finish off our Leaf dragon myths in this busy time of year. Having made our leaf dragons and having added our descriptive language to them we are now planning and telling our stories to each other before writing them and crafting them for our "Book of Leaf Dragons". In maths we are consolidating our understanding of Multiplication and its' inverse division. We have been finding patterns within our times tables and learning about prime numbers, factors and multiples, ready for our exploration of written methods and our discussions about efficient they are.

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.

Sincerely,

Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

Young Buds are full of Christmas excitement and festivity this week, writing Christmas poems and rehearsing for their nativity play. This week we were visited by the new violin teacher for the federation which was a great experience for us all and we thoroughly enjoyed listening to her playing the hornpipe among other pieces and telling us all about the violin.

In reception we have been practicing our counting and using objects around the classroom to help us add up and take away. The year one and two children have been completing their maths and literacy assessments over the last two weeks and I have been very proud of how hard they have all worked – well done everyone!

Mr Fletcher

Class news – Oaks

As the end of term is getting closer, Parracombe School have been getting into the Christmas spirit! With rehearsals going well, children are very excited to showcase 'Stargazing' next Wednesday. All children play a vital role and are expected to attend both performances.

In Literacy, Oaks have been focusing on information texts and will shortly begin to write their own information leaflet based on Ancient Egypt. During maths, Oaks have moved on from addition to subtraction and are now applying their knowledge in the context of money. Children have used role play in the classroom 'gift shop' to find the total of two items and provide the correct change. This has been a vital life skill to learn as children will be running their own stall at the Christmas Fayre next Friday at Kentisbury Village Hall. Your support is always appreciated and children would love to see you at the Christmas Fayre next week.

The quality of home learning this term has been outstanding, children have tried extremely hard on their core tasks and the outcome has been brilliant. Children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Ancient Egypt; they have become curious, independent learners.

Next term, children will begin their new topic – 'space'. During the Christmas break children will be encouraged to start independently researching the topic.

Thank you for your continued support this term and enjoy the Christmas break.

Many Thanks.

Miss Hill.

Additional News by Pupils**Dark, starry skies.**

We went to Lynmouth Pavilion on Saturday to celebrate Exmoor's Dark, starry skies. Mrs Harrison had worked with us in school earlier this year during Science week and told us all about the constellations and how they got their names. Mrs Harrison has collected together work contributed by Exmoor schools, including our Federation, which she has exhibited downstairs in the Pavilion.

We watched a film made by Mrs Harrison called "In Starlight" following a boy's discovery of the wonders of the Universe. Mrs Harrison's film was great! Then Dr Andrew Morse told us about the Rosetta mission to land on a comet. We spotted a link with our Egyptian topic because the Rosetta stone helped people to understand hieroglyphs and the Rosetta mission will help us to understand the Universe. The mission is incredible and the comet is the shape of a rubber duck!

We had a really interesting afternoon.

By Molly, Dani and Pippa.

Vikings Attack.

On Tuesday evening we went to see our film Viking Attack at Lynmouth Pavilion. We really liked seeing ourselves on film it was very funny. The best bit was the “meanwhile” section which was filmed by children with helmet cameras. As well as the film we also listened to a Viking storyteller. He told Viking stories about Thor and Loki. In one story, Loki was taken off by an eagle and lost his trousers on the way! Thor had to dress up as a woman and pretend to get married to an ugly giant, just to get his magic hammer back. There were some Viking warriors who brought their wolf dogs and a raven with them. The dogs were big and friendly but the raven was not friendly so we couldn't get too close to it. The warriors told us about how Viking warriors fought their battles. We got to try on Viking helmets and hold swords, spears and shields. It was a really interesting and fun evening.

By Pippa, Emily, Reuben, Isabella, Patryk, Zac and Saskia (PS The videos will shortly be available on the federation website)

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

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

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

Wednesday 17th December – Pupils Christmas Lunch, Roast Turkey and all the trimmings £2.20.

Thursday 18th December – Pantomime Visit, Queen's Theatre.– Lynton pupils will be departing by coach from Lynton at 12.00pm and returning to School at approx 4.30pm (parents to collect from school).

Kentisbury and Parracombe pupils will depart from Parracombe at 12.00pm Kentisbury 12.15pm. All pupils will return to Blackmore gate at approx 4.15 (parents to collect from Blackmore gate)

Friday 19th December Parracombe & Kentisbury Christmas party 1.30pm at Kentisbury village hall, (Any help greatly received).

A reminder to all parents there will be no after school clubs next week

Friday 19th December End of Term

Kentisbury & Parracombe PTFA

Please could you bring in any donations for the Christmas Hamper to the school office by next Monday. We would be grateful if you could help by selling as many raffle tickets as you can to your friends and family – they could be in with a chance of winning one of these lovely hampers filled with Christmas goodies! Please see the school office if you need any more tickets.

Many thanks.

Community

Saturday 13th December Fun filled Activities morning for children and parents at St Mary's church, Lynton 10.00am-12.00pm

St. Thomas' Church, Kentisbury Carol Service is to be held on Sunday 21st December at 6.00pm. We have been asked to invite everyone to come along and join them for an evening of carols, followed by refreshments. We would like to say a big thank you to Isabelle Bolton for kindly agreeing to do a reading at the carol service on behalf of the Federation

St. Mary's Church Lynton will be holding a Crib Service at 5.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Wed 24th December.

Admin

Can we please advise all parents that payments for school dinners, school bus etc must be kept up to date. With the end of term fast approaching, we must advise that if you have money outstanding you

will be contacted and asked to come in to school to make payment (we are not able to end a term with any money outstanding at all (this is a DCC requirement). With our thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

WANTED

Removal of hardcore

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.

Kentisbury Reception Class

Do you have any small suit cases or bathroom scales for the Reception class at Kentisbury for their travel project next term? Also, we would happily receive any large pieces of material that you no longer require and that may be of use within our role play area.

Thank you for your support

Federation Staff Vacancies

We have the following vacancy available. Should you be interested in this position, please speak to either Jayne or the admin team for further information:-

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.

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.

PARENT GOVERNOR FOR KENTISBURY

"Become a governor and help to make a difference"

The West Exmoor Federation is looking for a parent governor for Kentisbury school to join our existing board of governors.

Governors perform the most important voluntary role in education and a full and diverse governing body can be a source of enormous strength to a school. Volunteering as a governor is a great way to contribute to your local community, meet new people and improve the lives of local children. You will develop transferable skills and learn more about the education system whilst putting existing skills and experience to good use.

Governing bodies are responsible for the strategic management of a school and will make decisions about a wide range of issues.

The core responsibilities involved are:

Ensuring accountability, Acting as a 'critical friend' to the Head Teacher, Monitoring and evaluating the school's progress, Budgetary allocation and control Planning for the long term future of the school, Setting the school's aims and values and Appointing senior members of staff including the Head Teacher.

For more information about this very worthwhile role and an informal chat please contact Jacqui Skelton-Norrish (Clerk to governors)

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel would like to wish you all a lovely Christmas and very happy New Year