



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of the new term. It's certainly got off to a cold and blustery start but it doesn't appear to have dampened the children's enthusiasm for learning. I've thoroughly enjoyed the time that I have spent in class so far this term; the children are all totally absorbed by their new topics and are already 'wowing' me with their incredible knowledge.

The end of last term was extremely busy, yet enjoyable. For me, one of the high-lights was seeing the children organising and running their own Christmas Fayre. The children did incredibly well and managed to raise a staggering £268 across the federation. Well done to everyone – it was an amazing effort.

With the start of a new calendar year come the usual resolutions. Across the federation we would really like to ensure that learning gets off to a prompt start in the morning and, for this, we really need your help. Could you please ensure that your children arrive at school in good time for the start of the day. Registration is taken at 8.45am so children really should arrive at school by 8.40am at the very latest. We would also like to encourage all of the children to eat healthily during the school day. If your child brings in a mid-morning snack could you please ensure that this is a piece of fruit or a cereal bar, preferably without chocolate. If your child brings a packed-lunch could you also endeavour to ensure that the contents are as healthy as possible – chocolate bars, packets of sweets or fizzy drinks should not be included. Thank you so much for your assistance with both of our wishes for the New Year.

Finally, we would like to seek your views on what you think we do well as a federation and any areas that you think we could improve upon. At the end of this newsletter you will see a short questionnaire. I would be extremely grateful if you could please complete and return the questionnaire to your child's school as soon as possible. Your views matter a great deal to us and will help us shape our priorities for the future.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Head teacher

Within Collective Worship our thoughts and prayers are currently with the family and friends of those killed in Paris and those who have lost their lives in recent air and sea accidents; children around the world who are less fortunate than ourselves; and members of our families who are currently unwell.

Class news – Streams

Happy New Year!

In our literacy we have started a new literacy sequence based on the book “Splat says thank you” by Rob Scotton. We will be looking at punctuation – especially the use of speech marks in our writing. The children also need to think about how they can improve their writing by re-ordering some of the words in their sentences and perhaps starting with some alternative adverbs.

Last week in our maths, we explored number and properties of numbers – looking particularly at 1 more and 1 less and 10 more and 10 less than a number by using the 100 square. This week we have looked at addition and subtraction and next week we are going to be learning about using addition and subtraction whilst using and learning about money.

Our theme learning this term is all about transport – over the next two or three weeks we will be looking at how things move and investigating forces.

If your child is in Year 1 or Year 2, they should have already brought home their home learning pack. I have been very pleased to see that in many cases this has already been started.

Mrs Kirby

Class news – Rivers

In literacy we have been writing poetry in the style of Valerie Bloom’s text, The River. The children have really been exercising their imaginations by writing metaphors to create vivid images for the reader. In maths we have been revisiting place value, using this knowledge to support addition and subtraction calculations. We have also been developing our understanding of decimals when multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. Finally we have been applying these skills with our “Spaceman sweets and toy shop.” – Adding amounts of money, calculating change and working with a strict budget.

In science, we have been learning about two great scientists – Galileo and Copernicus. They both worked out that the earth orbited the sun, not the other way around; only one of them spoke out about his discovery resulting in him being arrested and locked up. Ask your children for more information.

PE is now on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Year 3 Forest School is on Wednesdays.

Our next visit to Lynton Library is on Friday 30th Jan.

Many Thanks

Jim Doherty

Class news – Oceans

I was incredibly proud of our years 5 and 6 on Monday as they competed against schools from the learning community at Ilfracombe Academy’s athletics event. They behaved impeccably and were supportive, focussed and keen throughout the event. The event was closely fought and found us coming third by only 1 cm. We did brilliantly and are becoming a sporting force to be reckoned with!



The start of this cold Spring term sees us writing thank you letters to those who inspire us. We are looking at the art of writing purposeful questions and engaging the reader by finding a common ground. After posting our letters to those who inspire us we are then starting a sequence that is planned around the book Bethlehem by Carole Anne Duffy.

In maths we are looking at multiplication and its’ inverse division. We will be exploring many methods for multiplication and discussing which is the most efficient to use and when we would choose to use them. We will then be exploring division, what it means and the methods we can use to solve problems that use it.

How can you help at home?

Literacy:

When looking at stories in books or in the news ask children to put themselves into the shoes of

characters and ask them how they would feel in given situations.

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:

Help children practice their times tables specifically X6, X7, X8 and X9

Sincerely,

Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

The children have settled back into the routine of school life, and are enjoying the classroom's new layout, which is still evolving week by week. They have all worked hard over the last two weeks, and are keen to prove themselves. Our topic for the term is "Transport" and in Science we are studying "forces and motion". We shall be learning about all sorts of modern and historical modes of transport, and different ways in which things change speed, shape and direction. There is going to be increased emphasis on good handwriting and presentation in Literacy. In Numeracy mental arithmetic, quick recall of number facts and choosing appropriate resources will be important factors in the children improving their problem solving ability. Parental support at home is encouraged as always, and a 'Spring term home learning pack' will be sent home very soon, to be completed over the course of the term.

Wednesday morning brought an air of Winter wonder to Kentisbury, along with high spirits, and a little bit of disruption. Hopefully we shall have more settled weather into Spring!

Mr Fletcher

Class news – Oaks

The children have returned back to school, refreshed and ready for another term of learning. Our new topic is 'To Infinity and Beyond' where children will be exploring and investigating space. Children will have the opportunity throughout the topic to independently research a particular area of interest.

In literacy, children in year 3 and 4 are studying poetry for the next two weeks, focusing on adding similes, metaphors and personification to their writing. We are currently analysing 'The River' by Valerie Bloom, immersing ourselves deep into the meaning of the text. In maths, children have just been learning the different methods to work out subtraction problems, focusing on the compact column method. The next step now is for children to apply their knowledge into answering real-life word problems. We will be moving onto written methods for multiplication next week, it is very important children are secure with their 2,3,4,5 and 6 times table facts as this will support them with learning their 7 and 8 time tables. Please support your child at home learning their times tables.

Children took home their selection of home learning tasks for this term last week, please support and encourage your child to start thinking about the core task as it is due in before half term. The final results will be displayed in the classroom for all children, staff and visitors to see!

Many Thanks, Miss Hill.

Admin

IMPORTANT

PARENT GOVERNOR FOR KENTISBURY

(Please note if we are unable to fill this vacancy from a parent/carer/grandparent within Kentisbury School we will have to consider taking applicants from Parracombe and Lynton Schools)

"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)

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:-

Lunchtime Supervisor for Kentisbury School/Little Berries for 7.5 hours per week, term time only.

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.

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.

London Residential Trip

For children in year's 3&4 that are going on the London trip – 2nd payment of £50.00 is due today.

Sincerely

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel

West Exmoor Federation Parent/Carer Questionnaire – January 2015

School(s) that your child(ren) attend:

Year group(s) that your child(ren) are in:

Three things that you think we do well:

1.

2.

3.

Three things that you think we could do better:

1.

2.

3.

Any other comments: