



12.02.15

Dear Parents/Carers

Goodness me – where did that half term go? The last couple of weeks have certainly been action packed with our Year 5/6 children visiting the Landmark Theatre to see Ilfracombe Academy's performance of Grease. It was wonderful to see some of our old pupils taking part and being such inspirational role models for our children. Year 6 also enjoyed an amazing day at the Academy taking part in a Bloodhound STEM Road show. They had the chance to explore a life size replica of the Bloodhound car as well as taking part in K'Nex and DynaKars workshops.

Attached to this newsletter, you will find copies of the letters that Mark Lindfield, HMI, has sent to me this week, following his earlier visits to the federation. The Governors, Staff and I are extremely heartened to see that HMI have endorsed our actions and agree that effective measures are being taken to address the areas for improvement as identified by Ofsted in September. As a self-improving federation there are always aspects of our practice that we wish to improve and it is reassuring that the areas for further development, as identified by Mark Lindfield, reflect those areas already being addressed through our action plan.

As this half term has progressed I have become increasingly concerned about road safety around our schools, particularly at Lynton. In order to keep all of our children safe, could I implore you all to drive and park responsibly around our schools. Please refrain from dropping off directly outside our school gates and when approaching our schools, please drive slowly and respectfully. Thank you so much for your co-operation and consideration – together we can keep all of our children safe.

Thank you to all of you who have been able to attend parents evening this week. If you were unable to do so, but would still like to meet with your child's class teacher, it's not too late. Please call the school office to agree a mutually convenient time to meet after half-term.

Finally, I hope that you have an enjoyable half term break and I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school on the 23rd February.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Head teacher

Within Collective Worship our thoughts and prayers are currently with the family and friends of Mitzi Rosanna Steady; those affected by the civil unrest and war in the Ukraine and Syria; and members of our family, or friends, who are unwell or upset.

Class news – Streams

In our literacy learning we have been writing poems based on Tell me a dragon. The children have really enjoyed this learning and have been using some great creative language – they have even been learning about metaphors and how effective they can be. After half term we will be doing a non-fiction sequence based on the book "Your local area: Transport" by Ruth Thomson

This week in our maths, we have been exploring multiplication and division. After half term we will be learning more about place value, and using applying numbers to sort them into groups. The children will be exploring more doubling and halving of numbers. The children will also be practising their two and four times tables, so if you can help them with this at home, it will really help them to apply their learning in different scenarios.

Our theme learning continues to be of great interest to the children. We investigated the best surface to push a wheeled toy across and the children were able to explore what makes a fair test. The children were given the opportunity to sort out trains and bicycles through the ages – they showed lots of interest in this and were able to talk at length about the similarities and differences. After half term we will continue to investigate the movement of vehicles and think about how we might travel to different countries – which modes of transport would we choose and why.

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 hope that you all have a lovely half term break and come back to school refreshed.

Mrs Kirby

Class news – Rivers

Unbelievably we're just about to complete another half term. The children have worked incredibly hard since Christmas and I can see very clearly the progress that they are making. We have now finished the literacy unit about Blue John. The children have produced some beautiful watercolours paintings inspired by the book which are on display outside the classroom. The children have been working on mini-projects in our theme lessons. In small groups they have chosen an aspect of space which really interests them. They are now creating a presentation to share with the rest of the class. They are producing books, posters, computer presentations and models. I can't wait to see the final outcomes. The children in Rivers and Oceans have now taken all of the frames for their animations. They now have to edit the photos and add the sound track to complete the short film. Many thanks to Peter Cooper for his help with this project.



Wishing you all a relaxing half term break.

Jim Doherty

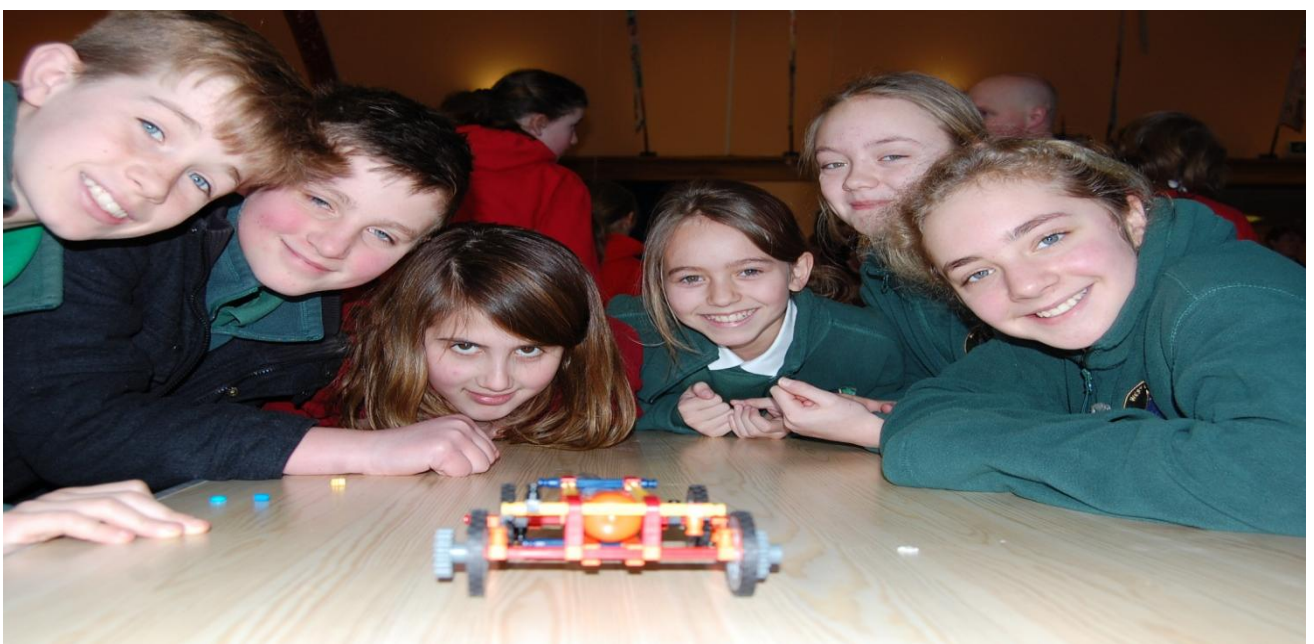
Class news – Oceans



Ilfracombe Academy's performance of Grease was brilliant! All the year 5s and 6s enjoyed it and were looking out for former pupils who were on stage. We have now decided upon our own summer production which will rival Thursday's performance! We will also be holding auditions for dancers, singers and main characters on the run up to the summer term.

Bloodhound SSC (a group from Britain attempting the Land speed record) provided an interactive maths and science day at Ilfracombe Academy on Monday and our year 6 took part alongside year 6s from Ilfracombe, Combe Martin, West Down and Woolacombe. It was an event that allowed us to mix with other year 6s who will also be going to Ilfracombe Academy and also gave us the opportunity to delve into practical applications of science and Maths.

We built our own race cars, explored the use of graphs in formula one and discovered how to make our own combustion engines and trace airflow studying aerodynamics to improve our vehicles. Sixth formers from the Academy helped us with each activity and we also got a chance to meet up with last year's pupils who are currently in the first year of school. It was an exciting and very educational day using computers, kinects, robots and gas!



Sincerely,
Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

Mr Fletcher

Class news – Oaks

It has been a busy half term and the progression children have made in six weeks is fantastic, children have been working very hard in all subjects and giving 100% effort.

I am very excited to see a collection of planets slowly making their way into school. The effort which has been put into the core task is outstanding! The children have produced some amazing artwork, along with an informative poster. We will be hanging the planets from the classroom ceiling for everyone to see.

Year 3 and 4 have finished their unit on shape, they have explored angles, symmetry and properties of 2D shape. After half term we will be focusing on division and incorporating fractions. During literacy we are still focusing on 'The King of the Birds' text which the children are enjoying and looking forward to writing their own version of the story. We will include some artwork into this unit, using descriptive language.

All children have designed their own version of 'Starry Night' by Vincent Van Gough in art this week, through sketching, using water colours, pastels and crayons.

Have a wonderful half term!

Miss Hill.

Little Berries News

Admin

We are pleased to inform you that Devon County Council have arranged to renew the flat roof above the kitchen, at Kentisbury School, during half-term

Federation Staff Vacancies

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.

A job share for this post would be possible

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 13th February Inset day. (Additional holiday).

Monday 16th–Friday 20th February– Half Term.

Monday 23rd February – Back to School

Tuesday 3rd March – High Five Netball tournament

Wednesday 4th March – Dental team visiting Kentisbury School

Sincerely

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel

Community

