



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

20.3.15

Dear Parents/Carers

As I am sure you have already heard, the children of the federation enjoyed an amazing visit to the At-Bristol Science Centre last week. During the course of the day they explored numerous hands-on exhibitions including 'Build It!', 'In the Zone', 'Animate It!', 'Food!', 'Flight Zone' and the 'Curiosity Zone'. The children also took part in a workshop to explore 'Pushes and Pulls' (Key Stage One), 'Forces and Magnets' (Year 3/4) and 'Fantastic Forces' (Year 5/6). It was wonderful to see the children totally immersed in science exploration – what a fantastic way to start our annual Science Week. Feedback from the children has been wonderful: Haven and Leah said *'you were learning new things but you didn't know it because you were having so much fun'* and Pippa summed the day up by saying *'we had a scientific day full of fun and learning'*. I hope that you will join me in saying a really BIG thank you to the Lyn Lions, the Lyn Valley Society, The Lyn Line Dancers, the British Science Association and the PTFAs of both Lynton and Parracombe/Kentisbury who all made sizeable donations to enable us to run this trip without the need to make a charge. It is wonderful to feel so supported by the community that we serve.

Science Week itself has been a great success this week. The theme of space and transport has seen the children taking part in a range of activities that have extended their scientific knowledge and understanding. Activities included designing and building a balloon powered rocket; making alien models with moving mouths; exploring the solar system with a little help from the characters of 'Home'; and, as part of our 'Family Challenge', making an elastic-band powered vehicle and designing and making a comet probe launching system! Great fun (and lots of learning) was had by all and I would like to thank Mr Doherty for all his hard work to make the week such a great success. I'd also like to thank all of our families who took part in the Family Challenge with so much enthusiasm – it was lovely to see everyone entering into the spirit of the occasion.

Next week we will be holding a non-uniform day on Thursday 26th March to raise money for Sihlangu. Jon Skinner will be visiting each school next week to up-date the children on the progress of Sihlangu and the work of Challenge Ministries Swaziland.

After the Easter Holiday we will be holding Open Mornings at each school within the federation and we would like to welcome as many parents/carers, relatives and friends into our schools as possible. The first Open Morning will be held at Lynton on Tuesday 21st April, commencing with assembly at 9am. Please do come and join us and see your children at work – there will be opportunities to join lessons, talk with your children about their learning, look at their work and chat with staff and governors. Our second Open Morning will be held at Parracombe on Wednesday 22nd April and our third on Thursday 23rd April at Kentisbury. Each day will follow a similar format, starting at 9am, and if you would like to stay on and enjoy a school lunch with your child, you are more than welcome to do so; all we ask is that you request a lunch at the school office prior to 9.30am.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Head teacher

Within Collective Worship our thoughts and prayers are currently with the people of Vanuatu as they rebuild their lives following Cyclone Pam; children living in Syrian refugee camps; children around the world who are living in poverty; and our friends, family members and pets who are unwell.

Class news – Streams

The children in Streams have been working really hard in all areas of the curriculum

In our literacy we have completed our literacy sequence based on the non fiction book "Your local area – Transport" by Ruth Thomson. The children have written some great factual pieces based on our local environment. They have used the various parts of non-fiction writing – using captions, illustrations and paragraphs. Next week we are going to do some poetry work based on The Train Ride.

In our maths learning the Year 2 children have been working really hard on developing their techniques for adding and subtracting two 2 digit numbers, while the Year 1 children have been thinking about using non-standard measurements for measuring length. The Reception children have been learning all about adding, subtracting and counting in twos.

This week has been our science week. We have had fun making moving monsters with air and balloons, we have thought about recycling and talked about what a solar eclipse is. Next week in our theme we will spend our afternoons making a vehicle using a chassis and wheels.

As this will be our last newsletter this term I would just like to wish you all a Happy Easter.

Mrs Kirby

Class news – Rivers

Well, what an exciting couple of weeks of learning and discovery in Rivers class! Our trip to Bristol was an excellent way to kick off science week. We have been building on the knowledge gained from our Forces and Magnets workshop to explore how different forces create movement. When we made and tested rocket balloons on Monday, Amber predicted that the long balloons would create more thrust as she measured them and worked out that they held more air than the round balloons. (They had greater volume) We also looked at whether the type of string that the balloons travelled along would influence their performance. We worked out that the rough string has more friction than the smooth string and should slow the balloon down. However, our tests didn't really support this prediction. Perhaps you could set up your own tests at home to see what happens. We have also made moving aliens – using air, forced into a balloon, to create a contact pushing force. The results are on display outside the classroom. Our literacy and maths has been linked to our science work this week – writing letters, test reports, measuring and presenting our results.

I wish you all a very happy Easter.

Many thanks for your support this term.

Jim Doherty

Class news – Oceans

@ Bristol we couldn't believe the range of activities and loved getting stuck in with science and animation. Forces were brought to life in our workshop. Our senses were tested with smells and sounds and optical illusions. We explored magnetism with iron filings and magnets, using them to create sculptures and bridges. It was brilliant! We will be writing reports and reviews on our trip next week so that we can reflect on all that we saw and learnt.

Our Easter stories are just being finished and we have been working as a class to magpie descriptive phrases and link symbols within our texts. To build this bank of description we have researched the bible, hymns, story books and film. We are really surprised with the depth of our imagery and have found our research into Rome and the life of Christ very interesting.

To finish off our sequence on fractions, we are investigating what happens when you multiply or divide them, in order to continue to develop our mathematical resilience and ability to solve problems. To finish off this term, we are exploring mean, mode and median alongside data gathering and graphing. Weather permitting we will be working outside as much as possible to record larger distances and time ourselves over these distances.

How you can help at home:

Literacy – continue to ask children for extra description of events or items by using what we call “Writer questions”, e.g. who, when, where, what, how, why. These open questions allow us to practice and extend our descriptive language.

Reading – When reading with children, ask them their opinions or what they think the character's opinions of an event are. Challenge them to explain or give proof to back-up their opinions through the text. Proving inferred meaning is a key skill that is tested.

Maths – When opportunities arise for example distances involved when travelling or amounts when cooking, ask children to work out fractions of amounts ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{2}{10}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{9}$). It is also useful for them to estimate fractional amounts so that they practice and develop their ability to visualise amounts.

Sincerely,

Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

It is lovely to be back at work with the Young buds (who now seem so big and grown up!) Friday's trip to @Bristol Science Museum was a huge success, and the children have been talking enthusiastically about all the things they saw / touched / played / tasted / made / heard! It was a pleasure to accompany the children who were inquisitive, polite and courteous throughout the whole day! This week has been science week, and we have enjoyed making robots, aliens and gadgets, and I am sure there will be some tremendous inventors, designers, builders and engineers among our graduates in the future! We have also been learning about our solar system ahead of Friday's partial eclipse of the sun – fingers crossed for clear skies! Even if it is cloudy, the family challenges in the afternoon should provide some good entertainment and competition! In literacy we have been continuing our theme of 'Transport' and in particular looking at non-fiction texts to find out facts, to help us create our own information pages. I look forward to learning things I never knew about a range of topics!

Mr Fletcher

Class news – Oaks

Oaks' Class have been extremely busy over the last few weeks! Last Thursday, St. John's Ambulance Service came in for the day to teach the children basic first aid skills. They learnt about asthma, choking, burns, poisoning, bleeding and how to get someone in the recovery position as well as how to call for help! The children were very engaged the whole day and even had the chance to practically have a go! These are vital first aid skills the children have had the opportunity to learn, let's hope they remember them!



With the lead up to science week, Oak's had an exciting, fun filled day learning about science and technology at @Bristol. It was brilliant to see the children curious, inquisitive and interested about all different areas of science. They explored and interacted with many different exhibits, it was brilliant to see so much hands-on learning and experiences. Science has continued this week, every day the children have tackled a new challenge or investigation mainly based around space and forces. Children have been using recyclable materials and have had to work collaboratively under time.

Finally, last Monday some children from Year 5 and 6 went to a Tag Rugby festival held at Ilfracombe Academy. They worked well as a team, listened to each other and were supportive. The team put every last bit of energy into the final game and played their hearts out, it was an extremely close game but unfortunately they lost the game by one try! However, all children put in 100% effort and we are very proud of them, well done!

Many Thanks.

Miss Hill

Little Berries News

Little Berries had a great visit to Exmoor Zoo on Monday!



They enjoyed lots of wonderful exploring around the zoo, sat and listened beautifully during a petting session of the animals and played with all of their Little Berries friends. They are going to continue to enjoy a zoo themed week as part of our Physical Development focus where we will be brushing the animals teeth as part of our self care, learning our new animal nursery rhyme which encourages their first phonics sounds and preparing their own healthy snack, wraps, vegetables and cheese.

Next week we will be using our Expressive Art and Design week to enjoy all things Easter with lots of wonderful Easter activities including Easter egg hunts!!!

Just a quick reminder of our term dates; our last day at Little Berries will be Friday 27th March and we will then have 2 weeks off, returning on Monday 13th April.

And finally, could we please ask that our nursery questionnaires are returned as soon as possible – Your opinions matter to us, so the more replies back, the better!

The first week back after Easter will be a show and tell week, we would love for our Little Berries to bring in an item that they would like to show us and tell us about.

For more information on Little Berries, please feel free to contact us at Kentisbury School or organise a visit to see us!

Nicola Pierce & Jillian Kelly

Admin

Can we ask all parents and carers that when a letter home is received that requires a permission, that the slip is always returned to the school to enable your child to participate. The slip is also required if you do not want your child to participate, we are unable to assume one way or the other. Many thanks.

Reminder

If your child is absent from school it is very important to notify the School before registration takes place, if no reason is given for your child's absence we are required to mark this as an unauthorised absence, many thanks for your support in this matter

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. (So if you are only able to manage one or two days and not the 5 days a week, we would still be very interested in hearing from you)

Easter Holiday Clubs

We are writing to let you know that we will be running two Clubs during the Easter holiday this year.

We have arranged to take the children on an Easter Trail at Dunster Castle on the 2nd April. We will be running the Federation minibuses, picking up from Blackmoor Gate at 8.30am and from the car park at Lynton at 9.00am, returning to Lynton for 3.30pm and Blackmoor Gate at 4.00pm.

We will also be holding a Forest School Club on the 9th April at Kentisbury School between 9.00am and 3.30pm. This will include a cook out, around a camp fire. Again, we will be running the minibus from Lynton School leaving there at 8.30am and returning for 4.00pm.

The cost of each day will be £15.00 which will include the entrance fee to Dunster Castle and the cost of the food for the Forest School club. The children will need to have waterproofs and suitable shoes for walking, along with the normal clothing and footwear for the Forest School day. They will also require a packed lunch and drink which should be in a suitable bag for carrying.

(Following our recent letter regarding the Easter Clubs, we are writing to ask if you would like your child/ren to have a place on the either of these, or both, that you please return your permission slip, along with the payment by Monday 23rd March, so that we can make the necessary arrangements and confirm the places with parents.)

Summer Holiday Clubs

We are also pleased to let you know that we will be running a Summer Club from the 22nd to 31st July (inclusive) and further details relating to the activities on these days, will be sent home once these have been finalised

School Dinners

As the last week of term is fast approaching please ensure that payments for school dinners are kept up to date, as if there are any outstanding amounts on the last day, parents will be asked to come into school on that day to make payment.

Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Dates for your diary

27.3.15 Easter Service @ St Mary's Lynton, 10.30am – please do come along and join us

URGENTLY NEEDED SEEDS AND VEG PLANTS!!!!

Please could parents let us have any seeds or baby veg plants for Forest School. The children would like to get the vegetable garden up and running again so all donations will be gratefully received.

It is great for the children to have this opportunity so please support the children if you can. Ask friends, Aunts, Uncles and Grandparents. Please help!!! All the veggies will be used at Forest School which the children prepare and cook.

Thank you,

Gini (Forest School Leader).

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel

Community News & Information

Kentisbury & Parracombe PTFA

The PTFA met last week to discuss fundraising over the coming months – a big thanks to all who attended. We were pleased to be able to donate money towards the children's recent science trip to @Bristol – it sounds like they had an amazing time! We will be holding an Easter Bonnet competition at Parracombe & Kentisbury on Friday 27th March, for further information please see separate flyer. There will also be an Easter Egg hunt on the last day of term, to celebrate the start of the Easter Holidays.

Lynton PTFA

We are holding an Easter Bingo on Friday 27th March 1:30–3:00pm. All children are welcome to play for £1 as are parents/carers and siblings. See posters around school for more details.

The PTFA would also like to thank parents for the support for the events we have held. This enabled us to donate towards the cost of the trip to the Science Museum in Bristol last week.

Beach Clean – Monday 30th March

There will be a Beach Clean on Monday 30th March at 9.45 a.m.

This will start at Lynmouth Pavilion with a brief introduction and pictures to show why a beach clean is necessary. It will last approximately 2 hours maximum and will finish with tea/coffee/cold drinks, cakes and biscuits in the Pavilion.

A National Park Ranger will also be joining this to talk through what is found and why it is important to clear it. Learn for example how seabirds pick up plastic bags from the sea and feed to their young thinking the bag is an octopus.

Children under 16 years of age need to be accompanied by an adult.

All are welcome no matter how long they can assist

Suitable clothing/boots and gloves are required.

For further details contact Lynmouth Pavilion on 01598 752509

***Nurturing Curiosity, Achievement, Respect, Inspiration and Support
(CARIS)***