



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

24.4.15

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you had a lovely Easter break. What a beautiful start we've had to the new term – the weather has been amazing and has lifted everyone's spirits; let's hope that it continues. The children seem well rested and have eagerly settled back into their learning.

Last Friday saw the children of the federation, including Little Berries; enjoy a wonderful day in Lynton, courtesy of the Princess Royal and the Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway. There was much excitement as the children eagerly awaited the arrival of the Princess and as she approached they waved their union flags to greet her. Their presence did not go unnoticed and she took the time to speak to a number of children, parents and staff members. Once she has passed by, the children walked to the top of the Cliff Railway before journeying down to Lynmouth to collect a 'golden ticket' that was personalised for each child. On their return to Lynton the children were able to present their ticket to receive an ice-cream and commemorative mug before returning to school for a shared 'fish and chip' lunch. It was truly a wonderful occasion which was made all the more special by the time and care that the Cliff Railway team took to ensure that the children themselves felt like 'royalty' for the day.



Thank you to everyone who has been able to attend our Open Mornings this week. It has been lovely to welcome so many parents, grandparents, friends and community members into our schools. Thank you also for taking the time to complete our feedback forms – your comments are much appreciated and will help us to shape future events and open days. If you've not yet completed a feedback form, it's not too late – just pop it in to one of the school offices.

The Governing Body met last week and, amongst other things, ratified the suggested term dates for the coming academic year. As you may remember, we proposed trialling a two week half-term break in October. We have been able to do this by putting together two occasional days and three teacher training days. Schools are increasingly adopting this term pattern for a number of reasons. Firstly, the autumn term is extremely long (eight weeks, followed by seven weeks) and many of the children are exhausted prior to the half-term and Christmas break which, in turn, has a negative impact upon their learning. Secondly, this tiredness also increases the rate of illness absence amongst the children which also impacts upon their learning. Finally, the new legislation regarding term time absence for holiday has resulted in many of your requests for such absence being turned down. I am no longer able to authorise holiday absence purely because cheaper term time holidays make a holiday more affordable. With this additional week of holiday outside of the normal school holiday period this may enable you, if you so wish, to benefit from a cheaper, out-of season break. A copy of the agreed term dates will be sent home just before half-term. However, if you would like a copy of the calendar sooner, please see Betty, Jacqui or Mel.

Finally, work will begin on the playgrounds at both Parracombe and Lynton next week. At Parracombe some additional play equipment is being installed on the top playground including a Himalayas double bay climbing wall, a crossed rope walk, a log roll, a Burmah bridge & log traverse. At Lynton the new games space with safety surfacing, free standing enclosure, hoop and back panels, mini-goals and graphics will be installed on the rear playground. This is part of a 25K Sport England Primary Spaces Award that we

successfully bid for last year. Both projects will greatly enhance playtimes and PE lessons for children across the federation and we can't wait to start using the new facilities.

With Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock
Executive Head teacher

Within Collective Worship our thoughts and prayers are currently with children less fortunate than ourselves; the migrants who have recently lost their lives in the Mediterranean and how we can use words in a positive way.

Class news – Streams

Welcome to our first newsletter for the term. I hope that you all had a good holiday. I would also like to welcome Mr Alcock to Streams who is a PGCE student from Plymouth University and who has joined us until 3rd July.

In our literacy we are looking at the book *Previously* by Allen Ahlberg. The children have enjoyed spotting the traditional characters and will be writing a traditional story based on the style of the book that we are looking at. During the course of the sequence of learning the children will be learning about how to write extended sentences and using different tenses in their writing. The Reception children are doing some literacy learning based around the book *The Rainbow Fish*.

In our maths learning the Year 2 children have been learning about doubling and halving larger numbers and using place value to split up the numbers, while the Year 1 children have been thinking about how to add multiples of 10s to given numbers – using 100 squares to help them if needed. The Reception children have been learning all about adding and subtracting and using their knowledge to solve problems.

Our theme for this term is Splish, Splash, Splosh! The children have expressed an interest in finding out about all things to do with water – including learning about oceans and rivers in the world, trying to find out answers to such questions as “Why is the sea salty?” The children will be given chance to think about boats and to investigate floating and sinking.

The Year 1 and Year 2 children have already been given their home learning packs as I'm sure some of you have seen. I have already seen some beautiful mermaids!

Mrs Kirby

Class news – Rivers

What a lovely, sunny start to the new term! Rivers class have made a really enthusiastic start to our new theme – Go with the flow. We have started to look at how rivers are formed and how they change as they make their way to the sea. After half term we will be going on a field trip to measure and observe some river features first hand. In science we are looking at other things that flow. First, our circulatory system and the flow of blood around the body. This includes understanding how the heart and lungs work, how exercise alters our pulse rate and how to keep our bodies healthy. Thank you to everyone who has already brought in books and objects to share. Last week in literacy we wrote shape poems on the theme of rivers. Some of these are now on display in the classroom and you are most welcome to come in to see them. For the next two weeks we are learning about explanation texts. We have started to read **How dogs really work** by Alan Snow, a very entertaining book explaining some of the most important features about dogs. We will be using some of the organisational features from this book to help us write our own explanations next week. In maths we are continuing to develop our number sense – using what we already know to help us solve other problems. Try this with your children. How can you make all of the numbers from 1 – 20 only using the digit 4 and all of the operations? If this is too simple, extend the range of numbers up to 30. Good luck!

Jim Doherty

Class news – Oceans

Sports, SATs and the summer production, that's what we've been focussing on since our return from the Easter break!

The boys came third in the learning community's football tournament and a mixed squad from our year 5s and 6s competed in the North Devon Tag Rugby competition and came sixth out of thirteen schools from around North Devon. Each school had to earn their place during tournaments that took place last term. Although we were a little daunted initially, as it was a large event, we all got stuck in, thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learnt a lot from the tactics of more experienced teams. We stayed to watch the final and noticed that many of the finalists were also members of Braunton RFC and the Titans netball club. Our captain and vice captain arranged friendly matches with them after the competition and we took the opportunity to learn new skills from them. Ten parents asked where we were from and commended us on our enthusiasm and manners. I can honestly say it was a pleasure to take them to the event, something that was echoed by Mrs. Kirkman (who had not seen them in action before) and they made me very proud to be associated with them. We are currently working to arrange further Tag Rugby friendlies with schools, as it is something we have a great deal of talent in.

SATs are on the week commencing the 11th of May and this year we are all taking on both the level 3-5 tests and the level 6 tests. We are prepared and actually quite looking forward to starting them. Either that or we are looking forward to the SATs breakfasts or perhaps even just getting them over with. After SATs we are going to have a week of adventure! We will be investigating how charcoal is made at a centre, exploring the North Devon Agricultural Show amongst other things. On our return from half-term we will be perfecting our acting and singing talents, as the cast of "Wind in the Willows", our summer production this year.

How you can help at home:

Literacy – We need to practice converting verbs from present to past and future tenses.

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 – We need to practice converting distances, weights, time and capacities. Please take opportunities to ask children how many m in a Km, how many g in a Kg, etc.

Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

First of all thank you very much to all the parents and governors who came to visit Young Buds on Thursday for our open day. We had a wonderful time learning about and celebrating St. George's day and the children really enjoyed having the opportunity to share their learning with you. Next week we will be continuing our literacy work on our key text 'Fatou Fetch the Water', which is not only a lovely story but also links very nicely to our current topic, 'water'. We will be learning about the water cycle in Science and doing some lovely related art work. Conveniently we are also going to be visited by the RNLI lifeguards on Thursday who will be teaching the children about water safety. Unfortunately Mr. Fletcher will be away for the whole of next week due to ill health, his absence will be covered mainly by myself, with Mrs. Roper covering on Tuesday. We wish him a speedy recovery!

Mrs. Smith.

Class news – Oaks

It has been a lovely start to the summer term, the children have returned refreshed and enthusiastic to carry on with their learning. Our topic this term is 'Go with the Flow' focusing on rivers. Children will investigate local rivers to worldwide rivers, from physically exploring to researching using photographs and information. If you have any resources or information at home that you think will be valuable to the children's learning this term, please let us know!

Year 3 and 4 will continue with the text 'Blue John' in literacy for the next few weeks, focusing on sentence structure and capturing imagination. In maths, children will be recapping place value and learning about adding and subtracting money and understanding the importance of place holders and decimal points.

Last week was a busy week for sporting events! Boys from year 5 and 6 took part in a football tournament last Monday at Ilfracombe School, they played extremely well and they were one player down! Well done boys. Last Wednesday, children from year 5 and 6 took part in the North Devon tag rugby finals at Torrington Rugby Club, the competition was tough but the children remembered and applied their skills and tactics and played some brilliant tag rugby, well done!

Finally, thank you to all the parents and governors that came to Parracombe open morning on Wednesday, it was lovely to see the children learning alongside their parents and other adults.

Miss Hill

Little Berries News

Firstly welcome back and what a great first week back we have had! It was lovely to see so many keen Little Berries arriving, ready to enjoy their time with us again and it certainly didn't disappoint! We have had a fantastic week, making the most of the wonderful weather. The Little Berries have all thoroughly enjoyed our great new mud kitchen and we thank Tim Bolton (Mia's daddy) for doing such a great job; there has been mixing of 'potions', 'stew' and 'birthday cakes' all in one week! Our ongoing focus is Spring where we have been looking at plants and how they grow; this week we have focused on them needing water and sunshine, using our communication and language week and circle times to make our own weather/rain cloud jars, discussing where rain comes from as well as following the progress of our broad beans as they grow like 'Jack's beanstalk'.



Yet again our Little Berries did us proud when we joined the schools on the visit to Lynton on Friday to see the Princess Royal as part of the 125th year celebrations of the Cliff railway. The Little Berries thoroughly enjoyed waving their flags and meeting a real Princess!

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

The Little berries Team

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.

Y5/6 Residential at the Eden Project : 16th-18th September, 2015

Please note that the Eden Project Residential is to take place from the Wednesday 16th to the Friday 18th September. Further details will be sent home closer to the date, but in the meantime we will look forward to receiving your interim payment of £50 by the 18th May.

PAYMENTS DUE FOR TRIPS/RESIDENTIALS

London Visit – Final payment now due.

Eden Visit – 2nd interim payment £50 due 8th May with final payment £25 by 6th July.

Coastal Explorer Visit – Final payment £35 due on 1st June.

Payment may still be made by instalments or in advance.

Any cheques to be made payable to Devon County Council.

Many thanks.

Federation Staff Vacancies

Cleaners

Required for Kentisbury Primary School & Parracombe Primary School.

Dynamic and hardworking person(s) are required to clean at both Kentisbury Primary School & Parracombe Primary School.

The job entails general cleaning duties including vacuuming, mopping, dusting, etc. to ensure that the Schools are maintained to the highest standard.

These positions can be combined as one and would be suitable for individuals and couples.

Working hours are:-

Kentisbury

9.5 hours per week

Monday to Friday ~ flexible working times outside of school hours

Monthly Pay ~ £233.62

Parracombe

9 hours per week

Monday to Friday ~ flexible working times outside of school hours

Monthly Pay ~ £221.32.

These are permanent, 41 week per year positions working term time plus 1 week at Easter and 2 weeks in the Summer.

Full training and uniform will be provided. An enhanced DBS is required which will be paid for by the employer.

For an application form please contact:

Ross Swinton (Cleaning Manager) 07825 532445

Please note that also a CATERING Vacancy is also available at Parracombe School, working 6.25 hours per week, Monday to Friday lunchtimes. It may be suitable to combine the 2 two positions of cleaner/catering, or job share.

For an informal chat regarding this vacancy please contact Ross Swinton on 07825 532445 or to request an application form please phone 01392 351160

Visit by School Nurse

The School Nurse will be visiting the Kentisbury reception children on the 6th May for the height, weight and hearing checks that are carried out, in their first year in school.

Summer Holiday Clubs

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

Parent Governor – Kentisbury

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Shelley Kift has now become parent governor for Kentisbury School.

Dates for your diary

28.4.15 Swimming Gala @ Ilfracombe for selected pupils in year 3,4,5&6
30.4.15 London Residential meeting for parents @ Lynton 4-5pm.
30.4.15 RNLI Lifeguards visiting the federation.
04.5.15 Bank holiday.
08.5.15 Victory in Europe day.
19.5.15 Christian Aid Non-Uniform Day.
KS2 Dodgeball Festival @ Lynton
20.5.15 London Residential Visit
Devon Show Visit for Y5/6 and children from years 3&4 not attending London.
22.5.15 Inset Day

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 with the children preparing, cooking and eating them!

Thank you,
Gini (Forest School Leader).

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel

Lynton PTFA

The PTFA would like to thank all parents/carers and children for supporting our Easter Bingo event. Please keep an eye out for upcoming fundraising events during the summer term.

Kentisbury & Parracombe PTFA

Hope you had a lovely Easter break and thanks to everyone who took part in our Easter Bonnet competition on the last day of term. There were some amazing creations and we raised £44 for the two schools. After parading in their bonnets, the children also enjoyed an Easter Egg hunt. We will be holding a Strawberry Fayre at Parracombe School on the afternoon of Friday 5th June, more details to follow. Our next PTFA meeting will be on Tues 19th May, all welcome.

Community News & Information

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

