



# West Exmoor Federation

*'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'*

11.5.15

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an exceptionally busy couple of weeks across the federation with final preparations taking place for SATs and numerous events and trips which will be taking place before the end of term. For such small schools we really do provide the children with a great raft of enrichment activities that even many of the larger schools struggle to offer. This is only possible because of the hard work and dedication shown by all of the federation staff and I would like to thank everyone for their complete commitment to providing our children with such a broad and rich learning experience. It is the trips out and the special events that I certainly remember from my school days, as I'm sure you do, and it is these occasions that help to engage our children and ensure that they become successful, life-long learners.

The playground at Lynton is rapidly taking shape and the children are already champing at the bit to get out and use it. Unfortunately they will have a few more days to wait, but we are hopeful that it will be completed in time for a Dodgeball Festival which we will be holding later this month to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. Sophie Hill is organising the event and further details will follow in due course.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock  
Executive Head teacher

*Within Collective Worship our thoughts and prayers are currently with the people of Nepal as they come to terms with the devastating consequences of last week's earthquake.*

## Class news – Streams

We have finished writing our stories based on the book "Previously". The children have learnt a lot about using descriptive language and using extended sentences. We are now going to start work on the book "Fatou fetch the water". Within this learning sequence the children will have opportunity to extend their learning about using different sorts of punctuation including speech marks.

Our maths learning has been based on extending our knowledge about addition and subtraction – the children have learnt how to use a number line efficiently and are able to choose which method to use to solve given problems. We are going to move on to be learning about 3D shapes and their properties.

The children have been enjoying their theme learning – we have learnt about the oceans and continents of the world and then we have learnt about the United Kingdom and the various rivers that there are. The children have used atlases to help them. We had a talk from the RNLI about beach safety, and the children designed beach safety posters. We are going to move on to looking at boats and the history of boats – how they have changed and what helps boats to float.

The Reception children are enjoying their learning based on The Rainbow Fish – the children have learnt about shells and have been investigating various sea creatures. The children are enjoying playing in the role play area where they can play in their imaginative underwater land.

We have welcomed to school the new intake for September and they will be visiting us on most Mondays between now and 6<sup>th</sup> July. We hope that Billie, Emily, Theo, Milly, William, Oliver and Esmie will have a wonderful time learning in school. Streams are very excited when they come in for their visits – they love to be able to 'help' with the new children.

Mrs Kirby

## Class news – Rivers

It has been a busy couple of weeks in Rivers class. We have been learning more about the role of the lungs in our bodies and have been measuring our lung capacities. There is a description of this experiment on our blog. We have been investigating erosion in our learning about river formation. We have been creating our own erosion investigation using water, soil, gravel and stones to see what effect running water has on

different size particles.

In literacy we are continuing to explore explanation texts. We are now reading *Think of an Eel*, a beautifully illustrated book explaining the life cycle of an eel. The text is written in two “voices” – a factual voice and a poetic voice – both describing the same events in different ways. In maths last week we were developing our investigative skills – working systematically, recording results and testing ideas. This week we are looking at shape and position – using co-ordinates to describe the position and movement of shapes.

Jim Doherty

### **Class news – Oceans**

SATs are next week. Monday will be our spelling and punctuation tests, Tuesday is reading, Wednesday and Thursday are Maths (mental maths, Paper1 and paper2). We will be taking the papers in the wooden classroom in Parracombe after a lovely breakfast and, weather permitting, having lunch in the vegetable garden behind the wooden building whilst we prepare for our Level 6 papers in the afternoon.

Parracombe Revels is at 13:00 on the 20<sup>th</sup> May (next Wednesday), many thanks to Parracombe community who have worked with us to arrange and put on the event. Can I remind pupils that they need to be in school promptly as we have a jam packed week before half-term. This high level of activity continues after half-term with the year 6s having their forest school from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup>. They are sleeping over at Kentisbury on the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and will need sleeping bags. Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> are their Guardianship sessions with the National Trust which are being held in and around the Heddon Valley this year. In essence these sessions are focussed on our natural environment and during the sessions we have asked that the children practise traditional skills that work with the land e.g. stone walling, making walking sticks and baking bread amongst other skills. They then have a “Beach Smart” day at Puttsborough where they will learn about beach safety. Jo Kift and Rupert Tilly (Ilfracombe Academy’s transition team) will be in Parracombe during the afternoon of the 9<sup>th</sup> of June to answer any questions the year 6 may have and then both years 5 and 6 will be exploring the river at Allerford on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Whilst the years 6 are out on excursions we will be focussing on the year 5s. Maths will look at practical real-life applications and Literacy will be based around our book of the moment “*Wind in the Willows*” by Kenneth Graham. I am hoping to use the artwork of Mick Cawston to inspire our own wind in the willow style stories based in and around the local area.

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**

I was incredibly proud of all the Young Buds last week; they worked so hard in all areas of their learning and in particular produced some fantastic stories to finish off our 'Fatou fetch the water' sequence. For the next couple of weeks we will be focussing on traditional tales, and in particular 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. Mrs. Watts and I have a very exciting trip planned which will link with both this and our 'water' theme (details to be confirmed shortly). We hope this will inspire children in their writing and really bring to life some of the work on Rivers which we have been doing in Science and Geography. In our Maths learning we will be looking at 'time' next week, this is always a really tricky concept for the children to grasp so any work you can do with them at home on this would be greatly appreciated. For example time how many jumps they can do in 10 seconds, 1 minute, 5 minutes etc so they begin to understand how long a minute actually is or when going out look at the clock and discuss what time you are planning to leave/arrive and where the big hand and little hand will be at this time etc. Little conversations like this, regularly, can make all the difference to the children. Thank you for your continued support, we are all looking forward to a productive and fun filled couple of weeks in the run up to half term.

Mrs Smith

### **Class news – Oaks**

Over the last few weeks, Parracombe has gained a new adventure trail in the playground, it certainly looks very impressive and the children love using it. The garden is also coming on very well; the children have all contributed to planting and tidying the area up, the school grounds are continually improving.

In literacy, years 3 and 4 have started a new unit of explanation texts, currently focusing on the core text, 'How do dogs really work?' Children will build on their knowledge throughout the unit to write their own text explaining how rivers work or how the body works.

Currently in maths children are exploring the most efficient methods to use to solve a problem, focusing on explaining their reasoning. Next week, we will move on to investigating 3D shapes, learning the properties and making nets of shapes.

Our topic, 'Go with the flow' has made a positive start and all children are engaged and are questioning different aspects of rivers. Children have already secured a bank of key language and are using it throughout their explanations and written work. Over the next few weeks, children will be investigating the Lynmouth floods through looking at photographs and reading recounts from the disastrous event.

Last week, a selection of children from across KS2 were chosen to represent the federation at a swimming gala held at Ilfracombe pool. The children showed a range of skills and talent along with brilliant sportsmanship, congratulating each other and those from other schools. I was very proud of all the children participating in individual and team events.

Finally, next week will see year 6 sit their KS2 SATS, they have been working extremely hard and over the last few weeks their focus and attitude to learning has been noticed, we wish them all the best.

Miss Hill

### **Little Berries News**

Our Little Berries have had a busy 2 weeks. We are continuing with our Spring theme, taking the lead from all that is around us and linking all of our previous learning together.

Last week the children enjoyed making lambs with Kelly, looking at the lambs in the field next to us, considering what they look like and counting their eyes and legs. We have looked at our beautiful fruit trees blossoming and the children have enjoyed talking about the colours, what they need to grow then making their own popcorn blossom trees (and eating some too!). We made mini daffodils with cress seeds ready to grow their own cress at home with you. Our beans are continuing to grow and the children are enjoying watching this happen as the weeks go on and they are very excited to be growing their very own 'beanstalk', just like Jack!

Our Physical development week also saw the children focussing on independent self-care and healthy eating; we have looked at different food groups and talked about whether we should eat 'a lot' or if it should be 'just as a treat!'

This week has been our Expressive Art and Design week, focussing on Rainbows, looking at our weather, what weather makes a rainbow, looking at colours, colour mixing in shaving foam, making rainbow fruit skewers for snack and making their own rainbow collages.

We are pleased to tell you that on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May we were visited by Ofsted. The report will be released to parents within the next 2-4 weeks, please keep an eye out for your copy of the report which we will put in your child's communication book.

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.

### **School Meals**

We have been advised by Norse, that due to rising costs, it will be necessary to increase the cost of school meals from £2.20 to £2.30 from September.

### **School Photo's**

Tempest Photography will be visiting Lynton school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May to take individual, class and whole school photographs.

### **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 over 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.

Devon county Show on 21<sup>st</sup> May–Please return permission slips and payment of £4.50 ASAP, a slip should also be returned to indicate if you do not wish your child to attend please.

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

#### **Summer Holiday Clubs**

We are pleased to tell you that we will be running Holiday Clubs during the Summer holiday this year from the 22nd to 31st July. A separate letter will be sent home shortly with more details.

#### **Dates for your diary**

- 19.5.15 Christian Aid Non-Uniform Day.  
KS2 Dodgeball Festival @ Lynton
- 20.5.15 London Residential Visit
- 21.5.15 Devon Show Visit for Y5/6 and children from years 3&4 not attending London.
- 22.5.15 Inset Day
- 02.6.15 Y6 Forest School Sleep Over – letter to follow
- 05.6.15 Family Thrive Session for Y2 Parracombe & Kentisbury parents
- 09.6.15 Y1 Forest School Sleep Over – letter to follow
- 12.6.15 Whole Federation Barnabus Day @ Lynton – Who's my Neighbour?
- 18.6.15 Life Education Bus  
Y2 Forest School Sleep Over – letter to follow
- 19.6.15 Oceanfest for Y6
- 23.6.15 KS1 Swimming begins – letter to follow
- 25.6.15 Sports Day to be hosted by Parracombe  
Y3/4 Forest School Sleep Over – letter to follow
- 02.7.15 Y5 Forest School Sleep Over
- 14.7.15 Summer Production – further details to follow
- 21.7.15 End of Term

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel

### Community News & Information

#### **Non-school uniform day for Christian Aid**

Dear parents and carers,

Mrs Peacock has once again agreed for the Federation to hold a non-school uniform day in aid of funds for Christian Aid week. This runs from May 10<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup> this year, and the school date set is Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Christian Aid is a faith -based charity which works with partner organisations to help alleviate the causes of poverty in many countries across the world.

This year the Week's appeal is focussing on Ethiopia, and helping to lift rural communities out of poverty by the provision of cows. A family cow can mean dairy produce to eat, a surplus to sell, and confers the right to take part in village meetings.

Rev Jean will be talking more about this in her assemblies with your children the week before.

We look forward with gratitude to receiving whatever your family can give towards this annual fundraising event.

Lyn White,

Lyn Group of churches Christian Aid coordinator.

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Toby, Morgan, Shannon, Polina, Patryk and Zac set up a stall outside Morgan and Shannon's house in Lynton. They made cakes and biscuits (with help from Toby's Mum and Gran) and collected together their old toys, games and books to sell. They also organised a guess the name of the teddy competition. Altogether they raised £45.06 which they will donate to Sihlangu. This was completely their own idea - they organised it and decided on the charity by themselves. A very big "well done" to all of you for your hard work.

#### Lynton P.T.F.A

We are holding our AGM on Friday 5th June 2015 at 3:20pm - all are welcome to attend. We are planning to hold a Summer Fair at the school on Friday 17th July - keep a look out for further details.

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