



# West Exmoor Federation

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

Dear Parents/Carers

12.6.15

It seems hard to believe that the end of another school year is rapidly approaching. This is always an extremely busy half term and this year is no exception, with very few days following the 'normal' routine. Despite this, I have been very impressed by how focused the children have remained upon their learning and how the usual 'wind-down' towards the end the academic year has, so far, been avoided. Keep it up children – your excellent attitude towards learning has not gone unnoticed!!

I'd like to thank all of you who took the time to respond to our recent questionnaire. We have carefully looked at your comments and, where possible, acted upon your suggestions. For example, as of the next academic year clubs will run every week of the year with the exception of the week prior to Christmas and the final week of the academic year. Letters regarding clubs for the Autumn Term will be sent home shortly, including afterschool child care provision at Little Berries until 6pm, which will be available to children from across the federation.

Next Wednesday the Cats Protection League will be visiting each school to talk to the children about owning and caring for pets. They will also be collecting donated items suitable for the cats currently within their care, such cat toys, tinned or dried cat food and blankets, etc, suitable for cat bedding. If you would like to send in any items, all donations would be very gratefully received.

Finally, you may have seen or heard about an article on the North Devon Journal website last week which cited the best and worst primary schools within North Devon. The information reported was taken from a new, invalidated website and was exceptionally misleading. It used a star system to rank schools based upon their KS2 SATs results which did not take into account schools without any KS2 children in 2014 (as was the case at Kentisbury) or schools with less than five KS2 children whose results are not nationally reported (as was the case at Parracombe). As a result, both Parracombe and Kentisbury were rated within the bottom five schools. We were extremely upset by this as it negated the achievements of our children last year when 100% of our pupils at Parracombe achieved Level 4 or above in Reading, Writing and Maths with 50% achieving at Level 5. This is considerably higher than the national average of 79% achieving Level 4 and 25% achieving Level 5 and is also higher than many of the schools within our locality who were ranked about us within the quoted report. The article has since been removed from the NDJ website and an apology published. However, I understand that the article did prompt some discussion on social media, some of which was not particularly positive. With this in mind, please find attached some parental guidance on the use of social media.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock  
Executive Head teacher

*Within Collective Worship our thoughts and prayers are currently with the young people injured at Alton Towers; the astronauts who have safely returned from the International Space Station; and our family members, pets and friends who are currently poorly.*

## **WEST EXMOOR FEDERATION GOVERNING BODY**

Jan Stokes – Chair of Governors and Local Authority Governor



I moved to Lynton some 18 months ago to be close to family, especially our youngest son and wife and granddaughter, now added to by a brother! However, our relationship with the area is not new, as my wife's family (Parents, sister and nephews and offspring) have been here for over 25 years, so I am not the stranger I might appear to be!

My background is in education. I am a graduate PE specialist and taught in Cheshire, and Sheffield in 3 schools, becoming a Head of Department in all. In 1987 I was appointed as Adviser for Outdoor Education to Leicestershire Local Authority, and in 1991 became Principal PE Adviser in the same Authority. Two years later I became an Ofsted Inspector, and worked as a School Improvement Officer to schools in Leicestershire until 2006.

I then left to work as an independent consultant, working, to begin with, in the Midlands. I was then contacted by a major training company to deliver staff training courses across England and Wales. This led to me working with the American Independent Schools. I then went on to work as a consultant to the Independent schools in Dubai, and for 2 years worked with the Government and Churches of Malta to re-organise their Primary transfer system.

Now, nominally retired, I have taken up sea-angling and am a member of Lynton Bowling Club, which I love. My passion for education remains, and I still work as an assessor for AfPE on Quality Mark awards for school sport. I want the Federation to move forward, and provide the best education it can for the children. I have an obvious interest in that my granddaughter, her brother and nephew will attend Lynton, but I want all children to get the best they can from their school. I remain approachable to all with their feelings about the Federation, and will endeavour to do my best to ensure the children have the best opportunities they can get.

I can always be contacted via any school office.

### **Class news – Streams**

I hope that you all had a lovely half term and that you have enjoyed the sunshine that we have enjoyed this week.

The children had a lovely time at Lynmouth investigating and finding out about freshwater creatures and sea creatures when we went on our seaside safari last week. The year 1s had a great sleepover on Tuesday and a good day at Forest School on Wednesday – even though they were all a bit bleary-eyed.

We have already completed a sequence of learning in literacy based on non-fiction recount writing, and have begun a new book this week. Our literacy learning in Year 1 and Year 2 is going to be based on the book *The disgusting sandwich*, by Gareth Shaw. The children have already enjoyed the story and will be writing a story based on the book.

In maths this week the children have been learning about place value and using their number bonds to solve problems. Next week we will look at multiplication and division and see how we can use our skills to solve problems.

In our theme learning we are still writing our reports of sea creatures and then we are going to look at the history of the seaside and to think about how holidays at the seaside are the same and how they are different now.

The Reception children are going to develop their learning based on *The lighthouse Keepers Lunch*. The children will be involved in creating a role play area based on the story and will have chance to use and investigate pulleys. The children will have chance to design and make their own sandwiches.

I would be grateful if you could ensure your children bring a hat to school when it is sunny to protect them.

Thank you

Mrs Kirby

### Class news – Rivers

I have really enjoyed listening to the children's stories of their trip to London before half term. It sounds like they had a wonderful time. We have a photo of the children on the London Eye which is available for you to view and buy online. Go to [www.picsolve.com/londoneye](http://www.picsolve.com/londoneye). Enter the code BALE520Q1370 to view the photo and see purchasing options.

At the moment, in literacy, we are reading *The Wind in the Willows*. This text will be the stimulus for much of our writing this half term. So far, we have looked at how Kenneth Grahame creates atmospheres in different settings, eg. *Fear in the Wild Wood*. The children are really enjoying listening to and reading about the adventures of Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad, this also links with our play for the summer production which we have already started to rehearse. In maths we are developing our understanding of multiplication and division – recognising and using the inverse operation to solve and check calculations. In science we have started to investigate electrical circuits. We will be building and testing circuits. Later in the term we will be applying this knowledge to design and make a flood alert system.

As you know, our environmental walk with Ione Wilcock, ENP warden, had to be postponed last week due to the weather. This has now been rearranged for Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> July. I will send out another letter closer to the date.

Can I remind you that children should be bringing their own water bottle into school each day. We have facilities for children to refill their bottles during the day but cannot provide cups. PE is on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. PE kits should be kept in school all week so that they are available if this arrangement needs to change. Our next visit to the library is on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Many thanks  
Jim Doherty

### Class news – Oceans

It's been a busy return after half-term. The year 5s have been completing their optional SATs whilst the year 6s have been learning how to build dry stone walls, make fire, cook on fire and how to be "beach smart". All of these trips have been focussed on giving the children relevant and purposeful life-skills and I think this programme of events in the last half-term of yr6 primary school has been really successful.

We have organised our play parts and have started play practise and prop production, "*Wind in the Willows*" is now in full flow and promises to be brilliant. In literacy we are continuing with the *Wind in the Willows* theme and writing our own similar animal based stories. This sequence is concentrating on our use of descriptive techniques. In maths we are extending our use of multiplication and division, exploring methods and practical applications.

How you can help at home:

Literacy – Our use of tense is improving but we need to continue to focus on it and handwriting. If you require handwriting sheets please ask me to send some, my preference at this age is to create a poetry anthology in which the children copy out poetry and decorate the page. Your child has been sent home with these exercise books for this.

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 our number bonds to 10, 20 and extending this to 100 along with a big push on times tables.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Adams

### Class news – Young Buds

Well what a busy couple of weeks the Young Buds have had! Firstly we all had a wonderful time with Ione, our National Parks Ranger, down at Lynmouth last week. The children spent an interesting day exploring the River and the rock pools to see which different creatures they could find in each. This linked very well with our theme learning on 'water' and the children have spent the last week writing a recount of their trip in Literacy, these will soon be displayed in the school.

In maths we have been having a 'revision' week going back over things which we need a bit more practise on – top of the list was 'time' as well as simple multiplication and division. The children have also been completing 'quick fire time's table' tests everyday to try and get those number facts really secure – why not test them at home on their 2, 5, and 10 times tables?

The Year 2's have also started doing their SATs papers this week and I've been so impressed by their attitude and application throughout.

Year 1's won't miss out on all the fun though as they have their 'phonics screen' test next week! It's nothing scary, just a chance to prove how good they are at the things we do every day.

Finally we welcomed next year's Reception children into school for the first time yesterday. Young Buds looked after them

wonderfully, I was very proud of them as starting school can be a scary time but they made the transition much easier for our newest additions. We look forward to welcoming the new intake into schools every Thursday between now and the end of term.

Mrs Smith & Mr Fletcher

### Class news – Oaks

Oak's Class have been so busy recently, they are experiencing many days out, trips and learning life experience whilst out of the classroom. Before half term year 3 and 4 had an amazing time in London; we went to see Charlie and the Chocolate factory at the theatre, went on the London Eye, and visited the Natural History and Science museums. We had a fun packed two days! The children's behaviour was exceptional and they were a joy to take!

In literacy, last week we focused on writing a recount, where some of the children wrote about their London experience. We are now moving onto 'Wind in the Willows' in literacy which fits in with our school production at the end of the term. Children will learn how to write their own play script, write detailed descriptions and finally write their own narrative chapter.

Last week in maths we were learning about coordinates and how to represent data in the form of bar and line charts. Children investigated which activity raised their heart rate the most, we linked this investigation into maths and science; writing up the investigation and representing and explaining the results in maths. Next week, we will return to learning about multiplication and division.

Due to the nice weather, if we get the opportunity we will be doing a lot of our learning outside so please ensure your child always has; a hat, sun cream and a water bottle in school every day.

Finally, the quality of home learning has been outstanding this half term; children have used their knowledge of rivers to produce fact files, posters, presentations and even a 3D clay model of a river!

Many thanks

Miss Hill

### **Little Berries News**

Our Little Berries have had a busy first week back after the half term break.

Our ongoing theme for the next few weeks will be 'Under the Sea'. This past week has seen the children making their own whales from our Under the sea poem 'Blue Shark, Blue Shark, what do you see?' as well as lots of wonderful singing along to our alphabet Under the sea song, sandcastle building in the sand tray, water play outdoors and much more. This week will involve us making the most of the weather and exploring our very own 'Rock pools' outdoors!

We are very excited to confirm that as of September we will be extending our opening hours from 8am-6pm. This will involve provision of a breakfast club from 8am-8.45am, the normal Preschool hours will then continue from 8.45am-3.15pm, afterschool clubs will follow on from 3.15pm-4.30pm and this will continue into afterschool care provision until 6pm. Look out for a letter to follow where we will be requesting your session requests to be returned to ensure your children's hours for September.

We have started to enjoy visits from the Baby & Toddler group on Thursday afternoons who are invited to join us from 1pm-3pm every Thursday for the remainder of the term; our older Little Berries were very excited about our new visitors and were keen to show them what we do, welcoming them and inviting them to join in.

We will be holding an 'Open door' week, week commencing Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Please feel free to call in during our sessions where we invite you to take the time to look through your child's learning journeys and have an informal chat with our staff.

It is that time of year where we are beginning the transition process for our oldest Little Berries to join the school in September and so we would like to remind you that the dates for the parent's sessions are on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30pm-3pm.

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.

## **PAYMENTS DUE FOR TRIPS/RESIDENTIALS**

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**

**Dynamic and hardworking person(s) are required to clean Kentisbury Primary School**

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

**Working hours are:-**

**9.5 hours per week**

**Monday to Friday ~ flexible working times outside of school hours**

**Monthly Pay ~ £233.62**

**This is a permanent, 41 week per year position 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**

A letter was sent home to parents on the 13<sup>th</sup> May containing information on all of the holiday clubs available to children during this summer holidays. Closing dates for returns is 12<sup>th</sup> June or Monday 15<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

## **Dates for your diary**

12.6.15 Whole Federation Barnabus Day @ Lynton – Who's my Neighbour?

18.6.15 Life Education Bus

Y2 Forest School Sleep Over at Kentisbury

19.6.15 Oceanfest for Y6

23.6.15 KS1 Swimming begins

25.6.15 Sports Day to be hosted by Parracombe

Y3/4 Forest School Sleep Over at Kentisbury  
29.6.15 Ultimate Dodgeball at Lynton 9.30am-12.30pm  
02.7.15 Y5 Forest School Sleep Over at Kentisbury  
14.7.15 Summer Production – further details to follow  
21.7.15 End of Term

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel

#### **FOREST SCHOOL**

The staff from Forest School would like to thank all of the parents for their support throughout the year, which enables the events at forest school to take place. Special thanks to Mathew and Nicole Oxenham for always providing the wood needed for our fires.

THANK YOU.

#### **Community News & Information**

On Friday, June 26 at 6pm there will be a concert in St.Mary's Church, Lynton called MUSIC AND MOOR. Just like last year's concert this one is in aid of the pipe organ fund. We are only £600 short of the target goal. The restoration work has been done. You will hear the organ played at this concert as well as hearing the school choir and other local musicians. Tickets cost £4 for adults and children are free! Do come and tell others about it.

#### **Lynton P.T.FA**

On Friday, 12th June we will be starting our ice-cream Fridays. We will be selling ice-creams at 70p from 3:00pm. They will also be sold on 19th June, 26th June, 3rd July and 10th July. Don't forget your 70p on these dates for an end of week treat. The planning for our Summer Fair on Friday 17th July is coming together. We will be having a raffle, stalls, games, face painting and much more. Keep a look out for more information in the coming weeks.

#### **Kentisbury & Parracombe PTFA**

The Strawberry Fayre held last week at Parracombe was a great success, with children, parents and members of the community coming along to enjoy delicious strawberries and cream in the sunshine. We are pleased to say an amazing £187.56 was raised! A big thank you to the lovely ladies who helped organise and run the event and to those who generously donated cakes, raffle prizes and other items. Special thanks to Shelly at Outover Catering for her delicious cakes and Verity and her Lee Abbey colleagues for the wonderful face painting and children's games.

We are selling packs of greetings cards featuring local scenes. They are beautiful cards, made using photography by Christel & Neil Osmond from Experience Exmoor. They will be on sale at PTFA events and also available from the school office at £3.00 for 6 cards with envelopes.

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