



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

Dear Parents/Carers

26.06.15

How lovely it was to see so many parents, grandparents and friends of the federation at our Sports Day yesterday. We were blessed with incredible weather and a fantastic morning of sporting prowess was enjoyed by all. It was a close run event with all of the children trying really hard to score points for their House Teams. However, Red Admirals were our outright winners and they have become the first team to be presented with our new Sports Day Shield. I'd like to say a big thank you to Sophie Hill and the Year 6 Young Leaders for organising such a wonderful event. Thank you also to the Year 5 Parracombe & Kentisbury Young Leaders and the Parracombe and Kentisbury PTFA who provided refreshments and an amazing array of delicious cakes. Moving the event to the morning certainly seemed to work well with the pressure of finishing in time for school transport removed and the summer sun having not reached its full intensity. With this in mind, we will repeat this format next year when Sports Day will be hosted by Kentisbury.

As the end of term draws ever nearer I appreciate how difficult it can be to get increasingly tired children up, dressed and ready for school in the morning. However, there has been a noticeable rise in the number of children arriving to school late on a regular basis. This is very unsettling for those children who are late and disruptive to those who are already in class and ready to start their learning. Could I please ask that everyone has a concerted effort to ensure that their children are in school by 8.45am in order that the day can get off to a swift start. Thank you.

As you are aware, Wendy Heywood remains absent from Kentisbury whilst she recovers from surgery last month. Betty, Mel and Jacqui have all taken on a huge amount of additional work in Wendy's absence and I would just like to publically thank them for this. We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated and hardworking admin team and without them the smooth running of the federation would be extremely difficult. In order to assist Mel, Jacqui and Betty during Wendy's continued absence, could I please ask that dinner money is paid on a weekly basis and that any forms and/or money brought into school are placed in clearly named envelopes. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation regarding this matter.

Finally, last Friday Year 6 enjoyed a wonderful day the Goldcoast Ocenfest. The weather was perfect – dry with just a little sun to keep the wind chill at bay. The day started with Beach Flag Relays with Rhonwen and Will both being awarded places in the finals that took place at the end of the day. The children then enjoyed a brief coaching session with Somerset County Cricket Club before playing a 'friendly' against Goodleigh. It was a close fought match with Goodleigh winning by just one run. The sportsmanship shown by the children was excellent – I was really proud of them. Zumba and lunch followed before a Code Breaker activity which required the children to successfully complete a number of team activities to crack a code and unlock a treasure chest with goodies inside. The final event of the day was the Beach Flag Knock Out Competition. Will and Rhonwen did really well. Unfortunately Will was knocked out in the early heats, but Rhonwen finished 4th – an amazing achievement. It was then time to head back to the Oceanfest site and the children enjoyed some free time to browse around the stalls, watch skateboard demonstrations and take part in the many activities being offered by the National Trust, Petroc and other local organisations. It was lovely to spend the day with such a super group of children – they were impeccably behaved all day and a real credit to themselves, their parents and the federation.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Head teacher

Within Collective Worship our thoughts and prayers are currently with our family members, pets and friends who are poorly and children who are not as fortunate as ourselves.

WEST EXMOOR FEDERATION GOVERNING BODY



Deborah Orton – Joint Vice-Chair of Governors & Parent Governor (Parracombe)

My name is Deborah Orton. I am married and have a son, Louis, at Parracombe School. I have lived in Trentishoe for nine years, but have known the area for 42 years.

I have worked successfully for myself since my early 20s, first in retail and property and for the last nine years I have owned the Hunter's Inn with my husband, all of which have given me a good financial background.

I have been the Parent Governor for Parracombe since the Autumn Term of 2011 and am committed to the small school ethos and our federation which, I feel, gives our children the best of both worlds.

Class news – Streams

We have been busy writing our stories based on The Disgusting Sandwich. The children have been working very hard with this literacy sequence and are producing some good work. They have been thinking about extending their sentences and working on improving their punctuation – especially the use of commas.

Our maths learning has been focussing on using and applying multiplication and division. The children have been learning about the links between multiplying and dividing, and some of the children are thinking about remainders in division. The children have been given opportunities to do lots of problem solving in order to improve their understanding.

This week and next week the Year 1 and 2s are busy improving their swimming skills. They have all been trying very hard and thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to go swimming. The Reception children have been going to Forest School and have had lovely time learning in a natural environment.

We are starting to practise for our school play now, and do hope that you will be able to come and see it on July 14th in the Town Hall.

Mrs Kirby

Class news – Rivers

Thank you for supporting your children with their learning at home – it is really having a positive impact. There is a display of home learning in the corridor outside Rivers classroom and many visitors to the school have commented on it. The children are so full of enthusiasm for their learning at the moment and this is being reflected in the quality of the work coming in from home.

We are continuing to study Wind in the Willows in literacy. This week we have been exploring conjunctions in complex sentences. The children are starting to plan their own animal stories which they will be presenting to Streams class in a puppet show. In maths we are investigating the properties of 2d shapes. Our vocabulary for this unit includes parallel, symmetry, right angle, acute angle and obtuse angle. Ask your child what these words mean, they should be able to tell you and give you an example of a shape which has these properties.

In science we have been making electrical circuits and exploring switches. Thank you to those parents who have bought an energy ball. This simple object is a fun way for children to explore making, breaking and bridging circuits. We have been using one in class to test electrical conductors. Today the children have been making burglar alarms which consist of a pressure switch to complete the circuit when someone stands on it. In our final design challenge, we will be applying our circuit knowledge to make a flood warning system.

Next Monday is our Ultimate Dodge ball competition. Please remember to bring in any sponsorship money next week.

Jim Doherty

Class news – Oceans

It's sports day! Jo Kift and Rupert Tilly from Ilfracombe Academy are coming for the day to observe our sporting talent. Our year 6 will be running the event which is being held in Parracombe this year.

This week in Literacy we have been focussing on our choice of words and the rhythms and dynamics we can create with them. As writers we are developing our abilities to control the pace of our paragraphs, quick chases and relaxed descriptive passages. In Maths we are working towards making our own wooden box, applying our knowledge of angles, area, measuring, volume and capacity as we do this. Thank you to Ali Richardson for helping us to develop this idea.

The play rehearsals are coming along and I must say there are some wonderful solos emerging this year!



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

This week we have commenced our swimming lessons. The children have all thoroughly enjoyed the first two sessions, and a number of them have already made considerable progress, swimming further than they thought they could and remaining calm and enthusiastic throughout.

We have begun our final theme topic for the year: "Pirates!" A popular choice with everyone, which should provide plenty of opportunities to broaden, deepen and develop the children's knowledge and skills across the curriculum.

The year 1 and year 2 sleepovers were a great success, and every single child that attended said they had a "brilliant", "wonderful", "fantastic" or "cool" time! A big thank-you to Gini Hynes for organising and supervising these sleepovers.

Mrs Roper shall be teaching the Young Buds every Wednesday until the end of term, and she will be covering Science, focusing on extending the children's learning about the oceans and their inhabitants.

Rehearsals for the end of term production of "Wind in the Willows" have started in earnest, and the Young Buds will all be playing the parts of dancing ducks. We hope that you are able to attend one of the performances! It definitely should not be missed!

Mrs Smith & Mr Fletcher

Class news – Oaks

Firstly, I would like to thank all the young leaders who have helped to organise this year's sports day, they have been brilliant! It has been very rewarding to watch the young leaders grow in confidence over the year. Year 6 will begin handing over their responsibilities to the year 5's over the coming week.

Year 4 and 5 had a wonderful time at the Exmoor Centre last Monday, it was a great transition opportunity, it allowed all the children to take independence and work as a team throughout the day. This was the beginning of year 4 and 5 taking on more responsibility and becoming more confident as they all start the transition period to upper key stage 2.

Year 3 and 4 have been learning about multiplication and division in numeracy, they have been using and applying their skills in real life contexts. They were set the challenge of finding out how many times your heart beats in one year. It was a tricky challenge to start with but all children persevered and a few lessons later, children had an overall answer. It was interesting to watch the children communicate, collaborate and persevere through the challenge. Ask your child how many times their heart beats a year on average?

In literacy, we are still learning the text, 'The Wind in the Willows' and this week children have written letters and starting writing play scripts. Preparing for the summer production has aided the children's learning in literacy as they are able to relate their learning to their own performance.

Please support your child in learning their lines for the summer play; they would really appreciate your help!

Miss Hill

Little Berries News

Our Little Berries have been busy enjoying the sunshine; using our Physical Development week as a focus, they made up a lovely game of balancing on the 'log pile house' with all of the children joining in, taking turns and helping each other.

This week has also seen us mixing colours as part of our Expressive Arts week, making fish with marbling inks, as well as the children exploring textures and making yummy flapjacks to enjoy at home.

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.

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

- 29.6.15 Ultimate Dodge ball at Lynton 9.30am-12.30pm
- 30.6.15 KS1 swimming continues (Tues/Weds/Friday)
- 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

Bett, Jacqui and Mel

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.

Kentisbury & Parracombe PTFA

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.

Thanks to all who came to Sports Day yesterday to cheer on the children and to those who donated cakes and biscuits. Special thanks to Jacky Walters and Deb Orton for organising and serving refreshments to parents – we managed to raise an impressive £72.55 for the PTFA.

It's FUN! It's FREE! It's LOCAL!

The **Summer Reading Challenge** combines **FREE** access to books with fun, creative activities in the library during the summer holidays. Throughout the Challenge, library staff and teenage volunteers support the children, helping them to discover new authors and to explore a wide range of different types of books and ways of reading,

How the Challenge works

- Children sign up at their local library and receive a Record Breakers poster
- Children read six books of their choice collecting stickers and incentives along the way
- Library staff and teenage volunteers are on hand to advise and run family-friendly activities
- Children who complete the **Summer Reading Challenge** are presented with a certificate and a medal

How do schools benefit?

- The **Summer Reading Challenge** is intrinsically inclusive and can contribute to the achievement of **ALL** your pupils including those with special educational needs, disadvantaged pupils and the most able
- It enhances and supports your school's reading policy and your mission for all children to read more widely and for pleasure
- It encourages parental engagement and family involvement in reading and helps your school make links with the library and the wider community
- It can be the start of a child's reading journey and prevent the tendency for children's reading to dip over the holidays
- It takes place at your local library and is a brilliant opportunity for extra-curricular activity

We can arrange to visit your school to tell pupils more about taking part in the **Summer Reading Challenge** or even present a special assembly, outlining how we will be running the Challenge locally.

By championing the **Summer Reading Challenge** in your school, you will be continuing to support your pupils' learning during the holidays, ensuring they return ready for a great start to the new academic year.

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