



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

Dear Parents/Carers

11.9.15

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope that you had a lovely summer break and that the inclement weather didn't dampen your plans too much.

The children have certainly settled quickly into the new school year and it lovely to see all of our new children looking so happy and contented. I would like to extend a really warm welcome to William, Leon, Esmie, Oliver, Emily, Millie, Billie-Jean, Mya, Mia, Layla, Beau and George – I am sure that you will flourish within the federation and I very much look forward to getting to know you all better as the term progresses.

Already there have been one or two requests for holiday absence this year. Could I please remind you that absence can only be granted in exceptional circumstances as set out in the federation's Attendance Policy. Guidelines issued by the DfE last year make it clear that families should not expect to take annual holiday during term time and that unless the exceptional criteria is met any holiday absence taken will be recorded as unauthorised. General attendance is also being more closely monitored by the Local Authority this year; any child whose absence falls below 95% will be receiving a letter of concern and any specific absence patterns, such as regular absence on a particular day, will be raised. With this in mind, could you please try to maximise your child's attendance, although clearly I do not expect any child to come into school if they are genuinely unwell.

Drop Ins! The door to my office is always open if you wish to drop in for a chat or raise any concerns. However, I am offering three specific 'drop-in' mornings later on this month for anyone who would like to call in and discuss how their child has settled into the new school year and offer any suggestions on how the transition into school (or between classes) could be further improved. The kettle will be on and you are welcome to come along to any of the mornings. I will be available from 8.00am onwards and will be at Lynton on Monday 28th September, Kentisbury on Tuesday 29th and Parracombe on Wednesday 30th. If none of these dates are convenient but you would still like to meet with me, please don't hesitate to call into the school office to make an appointment.

Finally, this year we are trialling 'Roast Wednesday'. On the first Wednesday of the month parents, friends of the school and members of the wider community are invited into Lynton School to join us for a roast lunch. Those joining us will be waited on by our Year 6 pupils and we hope that this will give just a little insight into life at Lynton School. If successful, we will roll out to Parracombe School after Christmas. The first lunch will be held on Wednesday 7th October. If you would like to join us, please let Betty know by Monday 5th October. A charge of £3 will be made which is payable, on the day, to Jayne in the kitchen.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Head teacher

In collective worship we have been giving thanks and praying for those seeking refuge from the conflict in Syria; the fun that we had during the holidays; our friends; and all those who need our help.

WEST EXMOOR FEDERATION GOVERNING BODY

Karen Birch – Co-Opted Governor

I have lived in the Lynton area for over 10 years having moved here from the Lake District with my husband's work. I have twin girls who are at Lynton School. With a background in hospitality I have done numerous jobs over the years in a wide variety of locations, but now seem to be settled here in Devon. I have a degree in hospitality and licensed retail management and it was that coupled with a strong passion



for the outdoors that got me my job with the National Trust. I currently look after a National Trust Bunkhouse that provides visiting groups with accommodation as well as working on digital media for them across North Devon.

Once the girls started school I knew that I wanted to be more involved in the school life. I started by going in to listen to children read, then became a lunch-time assistant one day a week and now I find myself as a governor! All the roles are rewarding in their own way and it is great to be able to be part of developing the future of local children.

Class news – Streams

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope that you all had a good summer.

In our literacy we have started a new literacy sequence based on the book "Stuck" by Oliver Jeffers. We will be learning about how to sequence our sentences so that they make sense. The children will write sentences by saying out loud what they are going to write about. The children are going to have chance to think about how to punctuate their sentences. You can help with this by pointing out punctuation in their reading books

In our maths, we are exploring number and properties of numbers – looking particularly at 1 more and 1 less and 10 more and 10 less than a number by using the 100 square. The children are going to be given opportunities to count in many different ways and to learn how to record their numbers.

Our theme learning this term is all about houses and homes. We will be looking at houses in our locality and think about the different materials that are used to build them. We will also be looking at the history of houses and how they have changed over time – especially household equipment.

If your child is in Year 1 or Year 2, they should have already brought home their home learning pack. Please ensure that this is done and handed in to me on a regular basis.

Thank you

Mrs Kirby

Class news – Rivers

Salve! (This is how Romans said hello.)

We have started learning about our new theme – The Romans. Over the course of the term we will be exploring what life was like in Britain before the Romans invaded and what changes they made to the British way of life. Look out for some interesting Roman challenges and research tasks in home learning.

We have been reading the legend of the founding of Rome. This tells the tale of twin brothers, Romulus and Remus. They were rescued as babies by a she-wolf after their wicked uncle threw them in a river. Unfortunately the brothers were not very good at sharing and often quarrelled. This would lead to a tragic end for one of the brothers. Ask your child what they can tell you about the story. We will be writing our own legends based on this story at the end of the unit.

Forest school starts this week. Our outside learning will be closely linked to our theme. Please make sure that, if your child is asthmatic, we have an up to date inhaler in school to take with us.

Many thanks

Jim Doherty

Class news – Oceans

Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

All the Young Buds have returned to school refreshed after their summer holidays and ready to learn! We've been really impressed with how well they have all settled into the new year, especially the new Reception children who have made a wonderful start. We had a brilliant day at Rosemoor on Wednesday, we explored the woods and found a huge variety of mini beasts including dung beetles, a 'Devils coachhorse' beetle, caterpillars, centipedes and millipedes...even a newt! We learnt lots of new information about 'invertebrates' (apparently what we should really call minibeasts!) and came back excited about lots of changes we could make to our outdoor area to make it more welcoming to all sorts of wildlife. We will soon be building our minibeast hotels as well as getting a special delivery of caterpillars on Friday. Thank you to all of you who have embraced the new reading records, we have been impressed with how many children are now reading on a nightly basis as they are excited to get to their first sticker. Many thanks for your support during these first couple of weeks of term,
Mrs Smith & Mrs Pile

Class news – Oaks

Welcome back to Parracombe School, Oaks Class! I hope you've all had a wonderful summer break and I know the children were excited to be back at school. The children are refreshed and ready to continue on their learning journey. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the children who has started Year 3 this year and their families to Parracombe School; it has been lovely to see you all. This term our theme is the 'Roman Empire', where we will be learning about the roman life including: invasions, gods, daily life, clothing and food. Children will be bringing home their theme home learning tasks shortly, please get involved and remember the core task is compulsory! If you have any roman artefacts, photographs or information at home that you would like to share, please do! Year 5 and 6 are learning about instructional writing for the next few weeks, so far they have written instructions on how to build a lego tower and how to make a cup of tea! We are currently writing directions for someone to follow and next week we will focus our instructions on writing a recipe. During maths we are focusing on place value, especially decimal numbers. Your child would appreciate your help to point out decimal numbers when you come across them in daily life. PE will take part on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday so please ensure your child has their full PE kit in school on these days. In addition, children need to be bringing a water bottle to school daily and finally please make sure all items of clothing are clearly named.
Many Thanks, Miss Hill.

Year 3 & 4.

The new year has begun well, with all year 3 and 4 pupils settling in quickly to the light and spacious 'wooden classroom' for their morning lessons. All children have worked hard in Maths and Literacy, with many credits and raffle tickets being handed out to reward their efforts! It promises to be a busy but fun term full of all things Roman!
Mr Fletcher

Little Berries News

Welcome back Little Berries!

We would like to say a very special welcome to our new starters; Phoebe Beales, Douglas Byass, Henry Bray, Parker Kift, Mya Coles & Angus Ellis-Fletcher, we hope that you all have a wonderful time here at Little Berries.

We are now operating our new hours to include a Breakfast club, to oversee the afterschool club provision and to offer afterschool care for all of the children of the Federation as well as our normal pre school hours for the main part of the day. If you would like any further information on this then please don't hesitate to speak to us.

We have started the term focussing on 'Handas Surprise'. We will be exploring colours, numbers, animals and different fruits etc whilst looking at the popular children's' book. The children have already enjoyed experimenting with the animals footprints in paint and have enjoyed some juicy mango as part of their snack.

We will then move onto an Autumn theme; exploring Autumn colours, the world around us, using our own school apples to do some baking and then looking at the story 'Owl Babies'.

We are very excited to have purchased 3 new balance bikes for our Little Berries which will offer them an extension to our Trikes for our playground playtimes however we are still in need of bike helmets. If you have any that are going spare then we would love to have them please.

We are all looking forward to the exciting term ahead,

Your Little Berries Team



Admin

If you have received a Data Collection sheet for your child (Years 1–6) please can you ensure that this is returned ASAP, the information is required to update pupil records, up to date phone numbers etc are extremely important especially when needing to contact parents.

Important

Please can we ask any parents that have children that need to use an inhaler, that there is always an up to date inhaler also kept in school?

Many thanks

Apologies

Our apologies to any parents that have been trying to ring Parracombe school since the beginning of term and have been unable to get an answer, our phone system has failed, but at last following much technical intervention the phone is now working again. We thank you for your patience.

Federation Staff Vacancies

Cleaner 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

Dates for your diary

- 16.09.15 Residential trip to the Eden Project, Year 5&6– please see letter sent home on 9.9.15 for details.
- 23.09.15 Residential trip to Start Bay, Year 3&4 – please letter sent home on 7.9.15 for details
- 02.10.15 Parracombe & Kentisbury Harvest Festival at Christ Church, 10.30am
- 12.10.15 Parent Consultation Evening
- 16.10.15 Lynton Harvest Festival at St Mary's, 10.30am
End of Half Term (children return to school on Monday 2nd November)
- 15.12.15 Carol Service & Nativity for Little Berries, Parracombe & Kentisbury @ St Thomas', 10.30am
Carol Service & Nativity for Parracombe & Kentisbury @ Christ Church, 5pm
Christmas Lunch
- 17.12.15 Carol Service & Nativity for Lynton @ St Mary's, 10.30am & 6pm
- 18.12.15 Pantomime Visit – Cinderella
End of Term

Bett, Jacqui and Mel

Community

A Childhood memories display is taking place at Christchurch, Parracombe on 25th, 26th & 27th September, 10am–5pm. The children at Parracombe school will be contributing to the display so please feel free to go along and take a look.

MUSIC LESSONS IN SCHOOL

There are vacancies for new students in violin, piano and keyboard. Parents can call me on 012711 883720 or 07974849303 or email imssarahjones@gmail.com for more information.

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