



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

Dear Parents/Carers

25.9.15

I hope that you are settling back into the rhythm of the new school year and that your children are not too exhausted by the end of the week. They have certainly been working incredibly hard and it is lovely to see so much animated learning happening across the federation.

Last week I felt extremely privileged to accompany Year 5 and 6 on their residential trip to the Eden Project. The children's behaviour was exemplary throughout their three day trip and it was lovely to see them being so incredibly supportive of one another as they experienced living away from home without the support of their family. On a number of occasions their politeness and engagement was commented upon favourably by both members of the Eden staff and members of the public. It was a genuine pleasure to take such a wonderful group of children away and they were a real credit to themselves, their families and the federation.

The season of Harvest Festivals is nearly upon us and we look forward to welcoming you to our Services at both Christ Church and St Mary's. As usual we will be collecting non-perishable goods for the Freedom Centre, Barnstaple. If you would like to donate to this very worthy cause, please send your child in with their 'goodies' on the day of their Harvest Festival (Friday 2nd October for Parracombe & Kentisbury children and Friday 16th October for Lynton children).

If you drive your children to school could I please ask that you abide by local parking restrictions and ensure that you park considerately? Please also ensure that you drive extremely slowly within the vicinity of the schools and remain vigilant at all times. We have had one or two 'near misses' over the last couple of weeks and it would be dreadful if any of our children were involved in a collision with a moving vehicle. If you are dropping off children at Lynton, parking permits are available from the school office that enable you to park free of charge in Bottom Meadow car park at the start and end of the school day. Children should not be dropped off in front of the school or in the Crown car park. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation to ensure that all of our children remain safe at this potentially dangerous time of the school day.

As we head towards half-term I'm pleased to be able to tell you that we will be running a Holiday Club on Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st October. Julia Pring and Gini Hynes will be running the club and further details will follow shortly. With regards to normal clubs, I understand that some children are disappointed that their chosen club for this term was full. Although most of our clubs can run with unlimited numbers, activities such as Keep Fit and Art Club have to be restricted. I would like to assure you that any child who did not get a place in one of these clubs will be given priority next term.

I look forward to hopefully seeing some of you next week at the 'Drop-Ins' being held across the federation. If you are not able to make any of the scheduled times but would still like to have an informal chat, please don't hesitate to make an appointment via Betty, Mel or Jacqui.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Head teacher

In collective worship we have been praying for those seeking refuge from the conflict in Syria and those killed during the Hajj pilgrimage. We have also been giving thanks for our friends and family and thinking about all those who need our help.

WEST EXMOOR FEDERATION GOVERNING BODY
Carol Brunner - Foundation Governor (Parracombe)



I am a Primary School Teacher with 35 years experience. I am an Early Years Specialist with an MA Ed from Winchester University. I have taught in a range of settings including schools in London, Essex, Wiltshire, Hampshire and most recently North Devon. I have experienced a range of educational environments including large inner-city schools, an independent sector school, and small village schools with their strong ties to the local community.

Whilst I have not experienced working within a Federated School I worked closely with the Head teacher and Governors during the amalgamation of No man's land School where I was based and Landford School, a local village school a mile and a half away. The schools (in Wiltshire) amalgamated in 2009 and was renamed The New Forest School. I oversaw the design and alterations to the KS1 classroom and outside area. Once the school started to work across two sites I had responsibility for the KS1 site when the head teacher was based on the KS2 site.

My husband and I moved to North Devon in 2010 and consider ourselves privileged to live in the Heddon valley, a very beautiful part Exmoor. We attend Christ Church, Parracombe, and both of us serve on the PCC. We have two sons and two daughters, who all gained much from being taught in small village schools.

I hope to use my knowledge and experience to fulfil my role as Foundation Governor and support WEF to offer an excellent education to all the children in their care.

Class news – Streams

The time is already racing and we are nearly into October!!

In our literacy we have almost finished our own stories based on the story Stuck. The children thoroughly enjoyed making up their own ideas. When they are finished please feel free to come and read them. We are going to start a new literacy sequence based on The Great Fire of London. The children will be able to link their theme learning with finding out about and writing nonfiction texts. The children will be able to practise empathy as they head towards writing a diary entry based on that time.

In our maths, we are going to be thinking about calculations and in particular addition and subtraction. The children are going to be able to practise using their number bonds up to 10. It would be great if you could help your child practise these at home. The Year 2 children will link their learning of number bonds to 10 to number bonds to 100.

Our theme learning will look at the local area and we will have a look at your houses. If the weather is kind, we will come around Lynton and take photographs of your child outside your house. Then we can compare them back in school. If you do not live in Lynton it would be really helpful if you could send a photograph in of your child's house perhaps with your child standing outside it.

Thank you in anticipation.

Mrs Kirby

Class news – Rivers

In literacy we are about to start a new text – Escape from Pompeii. This is a beautifully illustrated book telling the story of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius from the perspective of two children. We will be using the text as a starting point for our own adventure story writing.

In maths we are continuing our focus on addition and subtraction strategies. One of the most useful skills is recognising pairs that make 10 – eg. if I know that $3 + 7 = 10$ then this will really help when solving $13 + 17$, $30 + 70$ etc. You can help your child at home by playing flippy fingers. One player shows fingers showing less than 10, the other player must show how many more are needed to make ten. Playing this really increases the speed and reinforces children's knowledge of these facts.

Our forest school sessions are really extending the children's knowledge and understanding of life in Britain before the Romans invaded. We are currently collecting materials and making a model Iron Age village with round houses.

Many thanks

Jim Doherty

Class news – Oceans

Eden was exhausting but excellent! We Explored both biomes and the core science area. We found a tree frog living in a sign. We made flags and oil lamps and shelters and found mathematical patterns in flowers and fruits. The food was amazing and the accommodation was in the pupils words "AWESOME".

We are exploring ways to extend the trip for next year and bring it in for a similar budget as we all felt that there was so much more to see and explore with the Tate modern down the road, the national maritime museum and several mining museums. All of us are still tired after our time away but with the Rugby world cup inspiring our P.E. sessions and so much practical maths and science to be getting on with, we are still very busy in class.

Literacy is moving onto information texts and we will be using this sequence to write non-sequential paragraphs. Our final piece will be a guide to the Eden project. In maths we are continuing to explore and explain place value. This week we are measuring amounts and rounding them to the nearest metre, cm or kilometre.



How you can help at home:

Literacy – We are promoting the asking of questions to extend our writing. Asking your child which object they are referring to or where the object is will promote their descriptive vocabulary and it is this area that we are working on within class.

Reading – I am sending home reading diaries this week. Please take a look through them with your child. There is space to write comments and opinions about the books being read and stickers to promote and reward progression.

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,

Sarah Adams

Class news – Young Buds

The Young Buds have all been working so hard on creating their own minibeast fact file in Literacy and we hope to have this finished and displayed in school next week so please come in and have a look. In Maths we have been focusing on number bonds to 10 for Reception and Year 1 and counting in 10's from any number for Year 2's. This still needs some work so if you could do a bit of practice at home that would be great. The children are also very proud of the mini beast hotel they have created in our outdoor area. Next week the children will be making individual 'hotels' to bring home to try and encourage creepy crawlies into their own gardens too! On Wednesday 30th September I am out on a course but Mrs Pile has kindly agreed to come in that day to ensure continuity for the children. Finally a big thank you goes to John Loveless who came in to talk to the children about his hobby, bee keeping. We all learnt so much and had a fantastic afternoon.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Pile.

Class news – Oaks

Maths has been based on our number system and gaining a secure understanding of 'place value'. The children have also been experiencing The Romans' number system, which is very different! There has been a great deal of excitement surrounding the Year 3 & 4 residential trip to Start Bay, which promises to be a wonderful experience for all who are going. Those remaining will be joining up with the children at Lynton and participating in a project about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius! In PE, we are honing our basketball skills and the children are all improving their attacking and defending skills.

Parents wanting to support their children's current learning are asked to read every day with them, and to do 'times tables' and 'halving/doubling' quizzes to aid the development of quick-recall abilities.

Miss Hill & Mr Fletcher

Little Berries News

Our Little Berries have been very busy over the last two weeks.

We have all enjoyed our theme of Handas Surprise; the children particularly enjoyed some wonderful role play within our small world investigation area with the animals, painting with the animals' footprints and freeing our animals from the long grass by cutting it for them.

We have now started to focus on our Autumn theme which has seen the children dressing Bobby the Bear in the right clothes for our weather and making some beautiful apple sun catchers.

We would like to thank Mr Loveless (Timea's Daddy) for inviting us to sit in with his talk on bees; the children thoroughly enjoyed it and this week we will be making Banana and Honey cake with the children.

Finally, we are still in need of some bike helmets for the children so that they can enjoy our lovely new balance bikes. Please let us know if you can help by donating any that you may have at home that have now been outgrown.

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

Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers

A big thank you to those of you who saved up Sainsbury's vouchers over the Summer months and donated them to us. We were able to exchange them for some lovely gardening equipment, seeds and sets of magnifying glasses for the children to use in Forest School, Gardening Club and Science lessons.

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

Bett, Jacqui and Mel

Dates for your diary

28.9.15	Drop in @ Lynton School 8.30am-10.00am
29.9.15	Drop in @ Kentisbury School 8.30am-10.00am
30.9.15	Drop in @ Parracombe School 8.30am-10.00am
02.10.15	Parracombe & Kentisbury Harvest Festival at Christ Church, 10.30am
12.10.15	Parent Consultation Evening
14.10.15	Lynton Interviews
16.10.15	Lynton Harvest Festival at St Mary's, 10.30am End of Half Term (children return to school on Monday 2 nd November)
03.11.15	Key Stage 2 Swimming begins
18.11.15	Y6 Friendship Day @ Ilfracombe Academy
27.11.15	School Photographs @ Parracombe & Kentisbury
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

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.

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