Dear Parents/Carers 6.11.15

It is lovely to see all of the children back to school and looking rested following their extended half-term break – let’s hope that this helps them to fend off many of the nastier illnesses that blighted so many of us this time last year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for being so supportive with regards to promoting good attendance. Attendance is much improved upon this time last year with far more children currently achieving a 100% attendance record. So much research now supports the importance of good attendance and, as the chart below starkly shows, attendance of less than 95% can significantly impact upon academic progress, not just now but into the secondary years too.

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| **Attendance above 97%: Less than 6 days absence a year**  **Excellent attendance!**  These children will have the best chance of getting the highest grades they can, leading to more choices and better prospects for the future. |
| **95% attendance: 10 days absence a year**  These children are likely to achieve good grades in most subjects. Nationally, 73% of children who have **over** 95% attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A\*- C |
| **90% attendance: 19 days absence a year**  Children in this group are missing a month of school a year; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best. The Government identifies children with less than 90% attendance as “Persistent Absentees”. |
| **85% attendance: 29 days absence a year**  It will be almost impossible for children with this amount of absence to keep up with their learning at school. This will affect a child’s chances of achieving good GCSE exam results limiting their choices and future prospects. |

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the West Exmoor Federation Community Group who have raised a staggering £3.100 towards the purchase of LearnPads for our children. This has enabled us to purchase two class sets of LearnPads and a table top tablet. They are due to be integrated into our network within the immediate future. LearnPads are tablets designed solely for classroom use and allow the children to access content that is directly linked to the new National Curriculum. The tablets have a high level of security and allow teachers to limit access to predetermined content enabling the children to work independently whilst staying safe. The tablets form part of an extensive ICT modernisation programme that is gradually taking place across the federation and we are exceptionally grateful to the community group, and all those members of the community who have supported them, for assisting us with this project.

I would also like to say a big thank you to those parents who have recently helped us improve the school environment at Lynton – your support is very much appreciated. Our next ‘all hands on deck’ day will be at Kentisbury School on Saturday 14th November starting at 10.30am. If you’re able to come and help tidy up the school grounds your support would be very much welcomed – refreshments will be provided!

With Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock

Executive Head teacher

*In collective worship we have been praying for the victims and families of the Egyptian plane crash; and those who have given their lives in war and conflict around the world. We have also been giving thanks for all of the things that make us comfortable – food, warmth, shelter, clothes, family and friends.*

**WEST EXMOOR FEDERATION GOVERNING BODY**

This week we are featuring Victoria Squire, as on the 17th October Vicky was appointed by the Diocese as Foundation governor for the Federation once more. We would like to congratulate Vicky on her appointment and thank Vicky for her continued support and hard work on behalf of the Federation.

**Victoria Squire - Joint Vice-Chair of Governor’s & Foundation Governor (Lynton)**

When my eldest daughter Haven embarked on her education journey at Lynton Church of England Primary School, I decided to volunteer as a school governor. I am married with two daughters now at the school.

I have a strong interest in education being a lecturer at Plymouth University. My interests in primary education are within teaching and learning; how learning evolves through the key stages and prepares children for secondary education and beyond. As the Lynton Foundation governor I am involved in how the school and Church liaise, bringing Christian faith into children’s daily lives.

I have an MA from Central Saint Martin’s College of Art and PGCE from Oxford Brooks University. I am employed by Plymouth University as a Lecturer teaching on the BA Hons Graphic Communication with Typography programme and lead the ‘Message’ research group.

Prior to having Haven I worked full time and was course leader for the BA Hons Design: Graphic Communication with Typography programme­ and was a harassment advisor.  Within the role of course leader I gained skills in course approval (having written the undergraduate programme which was validated), curriculum development, assessment procedures, managing a team of full time and part time staff and managing budgets.  Whilst having this role I was also Subject Forum Chair for Arts in the University.

As the Chair for Arts I was responsible for liaising between the Faculty of Arts and University of Plymouth Colleges (UPC) Faculty (University of Plymouth Colleges Faculty validates undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Colleges across the South West from Weymouth to Cornwall College and Jersey, including Petroc locally). Here I gained experience in strategic planning and implementation, UPC Arts budget management, being part of the approval and validation process, the organisation of conferences for the Arts forum which I chaired, cross college/University activities and the development of curricula across colleges through staff exchange and e-learning/blended learning.  I have also been an external examiner for BA Hons Creative Industries at Southampton University.

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| **Class news – Streams**  I hope that you all had a good half term break. The children are now really busy with all of their learning, starting new sequences in both their literacy and their maths.  Our literacy sequence is based on Augustus and his Smile by Catherine Rayner. The children have already written a story about something they have lost and now we will be learning about using adjectives to make their sentences more interesting, thinking about how they can use paragraphs and continuing to check that they are using punctuation correctly.  In Maths we have started a sequence of learning about identifying 2d shapes and describing the properties of them. The children are also going to learn about symmetry, tessellation, identifying different kinds of triangles and thinking about where they might see right angles. Alongside this learning the children are going to have chance to use Venn and Carroll diagrams for sorting and learning about position and direction. We are also going to be practising our 2, 5 and 10 times table, so this would be helpful for you to practise with your child at home  Out theme learning is going to be looking at how things around our homes have changed over the years – for instance how did people used to do their washing – how is it different to today. Could I please remind you that your child will need a small shoe box to create their house – if you can spare more than one I would be very grateful  Thank you in anticipation.  Mrs Kirby |

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| **Class news – Rivers**  Jim Doherty |

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| **Class news – Oceans**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | I:\DCIM\102NCD40\DSC_0313.JPG  Our first week of swimming lessons kicked off with great success! We have all made lots of progress; many of us facing our fear of water. Louise, our instructor, said that we were incredibly well behaved and as a group we all supported each other, listened and applied new techniques. She seemed very impressed with us as a Federation. | We are joining the rest of the country at this time of remembrance, by taking a brief look at the effect of the world wars on our local community. We are visiting our local churchyards to explore the service personnel that are remembered there and discussing local monuments that stand as tribute to them whilst also looking at the school records at the time of the wars.  We are exploring figurative language through poetry this week and then starting a sequence of work about recounts (diaries, reports, accounts of events). We will be using our class reader, “The Eagle of the Ninth” by Rosemary Sutcliff, as the stimulus for this work and writing various recounts as different characters from the text. | | **I:\DCIM\102NCD40\DSC_0311.JPG** | As a class Oceans are graphing time and temperature but also looking at efficient methods of finding the difference between amounts. Practical sessions are grounded in real life scenarios, as pupils chart temperature and climate changes, speeds, distances, heights and weights over time. We will be concentrating on reading, drawing and plotting with bar graphs and line graphs. | | Lastly, I would like to say a big thank you to Tiffany’s mother and Ruby’s mother along with the other members of our community that helped us work on the grounds and communal areas during the half-term. The reception areas, library, hall and playground entrance are much improved thanks to your support. | | | **How can you help at home?**  **Literacy:**  **Ask children for comparisons between things, focussing on the accuracy and inference of their choices e.g. If you see a big dog, ask them how big it is and ask for an object or another animal that they could compare it to when describing it to someone.**  **Reading:**  **It may be useful to get a copy of the Eagle of the Ninth for reading at home.**  **This text has also been made into a film recently called “The Eagle”**  **(2011, featuring Jamie Bell and Channing Tatum, however it is rated 12).**  **Maths:**  **When possible ask children what the time is and how long it will be until dinner, until you reach your destination, until you are going out or how long a journey / activity will take.**  Sincerely,  Ms. Adams | | |

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| **Class news – Young Buds**  We hope you all had a good half term break and are raring to go for the run up to Christmas! Libby and Rosie have been very busy reading over the half term and have achieved their 50 sticker. Massive congratulations to you both! You are all doing so well with your reading and almost all of you have your pictures on our reading wall for reading 25 times at home.  The children are already enjoying our new theme of Superheroes. In literacy we will be focusing on comic book strips; the use of language within them and how it impacts the reader. We will then be writing adventure stories. In maths we will be working on 2D shapes. To help with their learning, the children could go on a shape hunt at home or when you are out and about; they could bring in photos of objects that are different shapes, or even bring some in. We are also very excited to be doing Forest School this half term in which we will be making superhero weapons, building superhero dens and much more.  Mrs Pile and Mrs Smith.  https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/cleardot.gif |

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| **Class news – Oaks**  It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and see their positive approach to learning. In Oaks’ we are still focusing on the theme ‘Romans’, we have had some outstanding home learning in this week, the effort which has been put in is remarkable. The core home learning task was due in this week but if you haven’t managed to bring it in to school, please make sure it is in school by next week at the very latest. We will choreograph our own battle in the playground which we will use our shields for.  As you are aware children started swimming this week, they have made a fantastic start and I have seen an increase in water confidence already. Please ensure your child has their swimming kit in school next Tuesday and Thursday and on the following week Wednesday and Thursday.  In maths year5/6 will be moving onto multiplication and division next week, you can support your child at home by going through times tables and related division facts; this will support their learning in school. In literacy we will be starting ‘recounts’ where children will have the opportunity to produce longer pieces of writing from different perspectives.  At home you can help by;   * Listening to your child read daily and filling in the reading tracker. * Discuss their daily learning. * Practice times tables and spellings.   Many Thanks, Miss Hill.  **Oaks Year 3 & 4**  The children have been engrossed in their learning about the Romans, and have been solving mathematical problems relating to the Roman army, and will be writing instructions about Roman recipes.  With swimming commencing this week, the days have been fast-paced and packed with as much learning as possible in the time available. In order for the children to be able to make the necessary progress in Maths, daily time’s tables practice is advisable. There will be a times tables resource and record sheet coming home in the home learning book. This is for you to make a record of how your child is doing. Year 3 children are expected to know their 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10x tables, along with the related division facts. They are also expected to be able to count in steps of 50 and 100. Year 4 children should know all of the times tables up to 12x, and their related division facts; along with being able to count in steps of 25, 75 and 1000. Your help in supporting your child would be very useful!  Sincerely, Mr Fletcher |

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| **Little Berries News**  Your Little Berries Team |

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| **Admin**  **Welcome back to Wendy - we have all missed you very much!**  Dear Parents, Staff and Governors  I would like to say a very big thank you for all the cards, my lovely plant and pot and all the best wishes I received following my operation last term. I am now looking forward to returning this term on a part time basis.  Wendy Heywood  **Kentisbury & Parracombe PTFA**  AGM Friday 13th November, 3.20pm at Kentisbury School.  We urgently need new members for the PTFA to continue - please come along for a chat or speak to Mel Wright if you are interested in helping out in any way.  **Federation Staff  Vacancies**  A Catering Vacancy is available at Parracombe School, working 6.25 hours per week, Monday to Friday lunchtimes. For an informal chat regarding this vacancy please contact Ross Swinton on 07825 532445 or to request an application form please phone 01392 351160  Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel  **Pantomime visit**  **All parents should have received a letter about this year’s Christmas visit to the pantomime at the Queens Theatre to see Cinderella, if you have not received a letter or email then please contact the admin team. Replies must be received with payment by this Friday (13th November) to secure our booking with the Theatre.** |

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| **Dates for your diary**  11.11.15 Remembrance Day Service @ Woody Bay Train Station, KS2 only – 10.45am (please come and join us if you are able to do so)  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- **Replies & payment back to admin by 13th November please**  End of Term |

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| **Community**  Exmoor Carollers will be bringing their festive cheer to St Mary's Church, Sunday, December 6, starting at 3.30pm. Admission of £6 includes Exmoor tea so please book your ticket in advance to help with planning the catering. Tickets from Barbara Burnard, Ann Dappling or Tricia Morgan (01598 752361) |

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