



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

Dear Parents/Carers

30.11.15

It seems hard to believe that December is very nearly upon us – where on earth has the term gone? Despite the recent dreadful weather, the children have been getting out and about as much as possible. Young Buds have been enjoying Forest School, whilst Key Stage 2 took part in a fantastic Roman Day at Kentisbury as a 'grand finale' to their theme learning this term. Swimming for KS2 has now concluded with all of the children making excellent progress during their three week intensive programme of lessons. Our reception children and Key Stage 1 will have the chance to swim towards the end of the summer term. Year 6 have also taken part in a Friendship Day at Ilfracombe Academy; just one of the many activities planned as part of their extended induction programme to the Academy.

The last three weeks of term are looking particularly busy as we head towards the festive season. I really do hope that you will be able to attend the various Church services and Nativities that are planned. Further details are available within the Dates section of this newsletter.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Head teacher

In collective worship we have been praying for victims of the acts of terrorism in Paris and thinking about their family and friends. We have also been giving thanks for our families and thinking about those less fortunate than ourselves.

WEST EXMOOR FEDERATION GOVERNING BODY

Class news – Streams

We are continuing to be very busy with all of our learning in Streams. In our literacy we are beginning a new learning sequence based on the book 'Don't Spill the Milk' by Stephen Davies. At the end of the sequence the children will write their own story based on this story. Within the sequence we will be learning about using punctuation consistently, including the use of exclamation marks and speech marks. The children will also be learning about what an adverb is and how it can be used to enhance the children's sentences.

Our maths learning sequence is all about using known facts to solve other problems. The children will be learning their number bonds to 10 and to 20 and using them to extend their knowledge about finding the inverse of number calculations. The Y2 children will also be extending their learning to working out additions and subtractions up to 100. They will all have opportunities to practise using a number line or number square as well as other materials to help them.

For our theme learning the children have been using their designing and making skills to make a house out of a shoe box – the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and put a lot of thought and care into their creations. Thank you to those of you who brought in shoe boxes to enable the children to do this! We are now going to think about homes around the world and how they are the same and different.

The Reception children are continuing to think about superheroes – they are enjoying exploring the super powers that they have and much of their continuous provision is themed around this area.

We are beginning to learn the songs for our Nativity that is in St. Marys towards the end of term. If you are a parent of a Year 2 child I would be grateful if you would help them to practise the narration that they have in their book bags. Thank you

Mrs Kirby

Class news – Rivers

The children within Rivers have completed their course of swimming and have all made very good progress – it's been lovely to see their confidence and skills improve so much in such a short space of time. We have begun a unit of work on writing news reports and will be linking our final reports with the Romans. In maths, we have continued our work on multiplication and division, looking at different methods and strategies for both mental and written calculations. We have particularly focused on using and applying through problem solving.

Mrs Roper & Mrs Hamer

Class news – Oceans

Everyone has made great progress in their swimming, be it in developing their lifesaving skills or reaching their own distance goals. It is very rewarding to walk to a school bus hearing children exclaiming that they can swim. The pride that each child showed during the last week was a pleasure to see. As was their enjoyment during our day with a Roman soldier!



We are continuing our work on recounts which will involve putting ourselves into the shoes of our characters and becoming Roman news reporters. Through this scheme of work we are focussing on relative pronouns and beginning to experiment with embedded clauses in order to add detail and infer traits and emotions within our characters. We are also building on our writing stamina now that we are becoming more accurate with our sentence and paragraph construction.

Mathematics has moved from addition and subtraction to multiplication and division. Again we are exploring these functions within real life contexts and also identifying the resources that we can use to help us. We are approaching multiplication initially as repeated addition then progressing to partitioning numbers for mental speed e.g. 4×24 becomes $4 \times 20 + 4 \times 4$ and applying and extending our knowledge of the times tables e.g. $4 \times 3 = 12$ therefore $4 \times 30 = 120$ therefore $4 \times 0.3 = 1.2$ etc. We are using the grid method as an interim step to using the standard algorithm (standard written multiplication). Although division will be mentioned during multiplication teaching it will be taught after we are confident with multiplication and we will explore this practically by grouping and sharing various resources before applying this knowledge to various standard written forms. Ultimately we will create and solve word problems for these functions and compare the efficiency of the various techniques we use during the sequence.

How can you help at home?

Literacy:

Ask children what, when, why and how things are being done in order to build full descriptions of events.

Reading:

When listening to your children read, ask them for the meanings of more challenging words. If your child is unable to be specific, ask them to read around the word to try and build up possible meanings for the word.

Maths:

When possible ask children to count out amounts of money or objects so that they can practice grouping and counting efficiently.

Sincerely,

Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

Not long until Christmas now everyone! The children have been busy rehearsing their songs ready for the nativity and are getting really good at them. We are still very busy in Young Buds. We have just finished our 2D shape sequence in maths and are about to start working on fractions. Maybe you could bake a cake at home and show the children how it can be divided up to help them to understand halves and quarters to begin with?

In literacy the class will be writing adventure stories as we continue with our superheroes theme. If your children have any favourite adventure stories that they would like to bring in and share with their classmates that would be fantastic. Despite awful weather, Young Buds have been enjoying Forest school this term.

Thank goodness for waterproofs!

We'd like to welcome Chloe to our class. We are thrilled to have you and the children love that they have a new friend.

Last, but not least, a big mention to those children who have been reading lots at home! Libby and Rosie came back from half term having achieved their 50 stickers and Abigail L has achieved her 75 sticker!

Massive congratulations to you all and keep it up Young Buds.

Mrs Pile and Mrs Smith.

Class news – Oaks

Oaks have had an extremely busy and fun few weeks with swimming and lots of theme learning including the Roman Day held this week. The quality of theme home learning this term has been outstanding, the children are all very proud of their shields and they look fantastic! I must thank parents for supporting your children with their home learning as it makes a huge difference to their confidence and knowledge.

Swimming lessons have now finished, all children made great progress throughout all sessions with 56% of key stage 2 children swimming at least 25metres which is the national expectation for when they leave primary school. It is a valuable life skill to have which needs to be sustained by regular swimming, which increases water confidence and safety. It is so important the children do not forget these skills they have learnt so please, if you can ensure your child is swimming regularly.

In literacy we will continue to focus on recounts for the next week, where children will write an article for the local newspaper about their Roman day. Encourage children to read newspapers and magazines at home as this will expose them to a range of language and content. In maths, we are moving on from division to fractions and applying it to a range of real life contexts. Whilst at home, encourage your child to find a half/third/quarter of a variety of items.

Please ensure you are continuing to listen to your child read and support them learn their weekly spellings at home.

Finally, congratulations to the children in year 5 and 6 who took part in a netball tournament held at Ilfracombe Academy this week. They displayed a brilliant range of skills and knowledge of the game – well done.

Many Thanks, Miss Hill.

Little Berries News

Our new hours providing Breakfast club, afterschool club and afterschool care have got off to a great start and we would like to thank you for your support with these.

Now that we have settled in to a routine with these, we are delighted to be able to offer a little more flexibility with our wraparound care; you can now use the Breakfast and afterschool clubs and afterschool care on a drop in basis; where possible we ask that we are given a weeks notice ideally, however, if you do require any of these elements of child care then please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll do our utmost to accommodate this.

The clubs will be remaining the same for this half term, with the one alteration being that the Monday Lego club has altered to a further Arts & Crafts due to its popular demand.

Monday - Art

Tuesday- Art

Wednesday- Gardening/Cookery

Thursday- Multi Skills/Sport

Friday- Film

The children enjoying Gardening/Cookery club; picking their own vegetables and making fresh soup with them.....



Your Little Berries Team



From the Kitchen- All meals cost £2.30 each per day



Christmas Lunch Menu

Monday 14th December 2015

Pasta Bolognaise with Crusty Bread
or
Vegetarian Korma with Rice & Naan Bread
or
Jacket Potato with Various Fillings
~ ~ ~
Iced Chocolate Sponge Cake

Tuesday 15th December 2015 – Christmas Lunch (School Nativity)

Roast Devonshire Turkey
or
Quorn Chicken Roast

With Stuffing Balls and Pigs In Blankets
Served with Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Broccoli & Gravy

Vanilla Ice-cream with Festive Sauce

Wednesday 16th December 2015

Macaroni Cheese served with Crusty Bread
or
Vegetarian Sausage Rolls

Served with Pasta & Sweetcorn
or
Jacket Potato with Various Fillings
~ ~ ~
Chocolate Cracknel

Thursday 17th December 2015

West country Sausages served with Mashed Potatoes
or
Cheese & Tomato Pizza

Served with Seasonal Vegetables
~ ~ ~
Homemade Jammy Dodger

Friday 18th December **(Pantomime Day – Oh no it's not, Oh yes It Is !!)**

Harry Ramsden's Cod Fillet served with Chips
or
Jacket Potato with Various Fillings
~ ~ ~
Festive Homemade Cookie

Dates for your diary

08.12.15 Christingle @ St Mary's, 2.30pm
09.12.15 Christingle Service @ Christ Church, 5pm
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

Admin

Federation Staff Vacancies

1. A mealtime assistant vacancy is available at Lynton School. The vacancy is for Thursday and Friday, working from 11.45am to 1.15pm. Please speak to Betty if you are interested.
2. 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

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