



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

15.1.16

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of a new term and a new year. The children seem extremely refreshed following their Christmas break and they have all quickly settled back into their learning routines. As always, the Spring Term is already looking busy with a number of events planned, including a series of open mornings across the federation, which will be held just before half-term (further details to follow).

Extreme Reading Challenge

This term we are holding an Extreme Reading Competition. Extreme Reading was created by the National Literacy Trust and is a photographic competition for the most unusual, exciting, challenging or creative (but obviously NOT dangerous) place someone can be caught (and photographed) reading. Entrants can extreme read by themselves or as part of a group. The following competition categories will be judged: Pre-School/Early Years; Key Stage One; Key Stage Two; Staff; Parents/Carers. Entries can be printed off on ordinary paper or emailed to me at jayne.peacock@westexmoorfederation.org.uk. Entries should clearly show the name of the subject(s), the title of the book being read and the category being entered. Displays of the submitted photographs will be created in each school, which will hopefully bring a totally new dimension to reading for pleasure. The deadline for entries is Monday 14th March. Entries will be judged by the Federation Council with prizes being presented at our Easter Services.

Child Care

Please don't forget that a breakfast club is available at both Lynton and Kentisbury Primary Schools from 8am onwards. The club at Kentisbury can be used as a drop-in service, although prior booking is always appreciated. At Lynton, because the up-take is quite small, we ask that parents/carers pre-book so that we are only running the service when it is required. Extended child care is also available after school at Kentisbury until 6pm and is run by the Little Berries Team. Transport can be arranged from Lynton or Parracombe at 3.15pm for children needing to use this service. Attendance at the extended after school club can be flexible, although for children attending from Lynton or Parracombe the service does need to be booked in advance to enable transport to be arranged. Breakfast club sessions cost £2.50 per day, with extended after school sessions costing £8 per day. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to speak with myself, the Little Berries team or one of my administrators.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Head teacher

In collective worship our recent themes have been 'The light of the World' and 'It's what on the inside that counts'. We have been thinking about and praying for family, friends and pets who are poorly; people affected by terrorism and war; and Tim Peake as he prepares for his space walk.

WEST EXMOOR FEDERATION GOVERNING BODY

Kate Robinson – Joint Vice-Chair of Governor's & Parent Governor (Lynton)

I live and work as part of the Christian community at Lee Abbey in Lynton with my husband and two daughters. Both of my daughters attend Lynton School of which I have been parent governor since November 2013. My working background has been in Finance and Administration and I hope to be able to use my skills for the benefit of the school. I became a governor because I wanted to get involved with the development of the school and to help ensure that it provides an excellent start for my children and for all those who attend.

Class news – Streams

Streams have had a very exciting first 2 weeks of the term. As part of our 'Africa' topic we have been learning all about African animals. This has included building a zoo, making giraffes and even putting on a puppet show of 'Giraffes can't dance'.

I would like to say a huge thank to everyone that has made me feel so welcome during my first 2 weeks. Most of all I would like to say thank you to Streams, I have been so proud of how well they have settled and I can tell the rest of the year is going to be amazing!



Mr Mackenzie

Class news – Rivers

"Rivers spent part of a morning this week observing some key features of Lynmouth. We have used this to write descriptive phrases to include in our poems about what it's like to live by the North Devon coast. Wet, cold and windy may well feature highly in their writing after the children's experience on what was a VERY challenging morning regarding the weather! They were extremely resilient and kept smiling though! We've planned a presentation on our chosen country to share later in the term and now researching information to share from animal and plant life to culture, religion, art, landform and climate.

The children are enjoying the idea of learning a wide range of knowledge and skills through this term's topic of "80 days Around the World". Any extra information they can bring into school will be helpful to them to support their presentations.

A positive start to the new term and we're all looking forward to learning about other parts of the world."

Mrs Roper

Class news – Oceans

Everyone has come back to school with a buzz of excitement about our theme "around the world in 80 days" this term. It's amazing to have parents and children discussing the home-learning with such enthusiasm. Some people have been downloading tracks for their mixtapes / c.d. but please do not think that this is required. I was only expecting the c.d. case with information so that the children had researched music from around the world. We will be able to find the music at school from the information you put about each track on your designed c.d. sleeve.

We have been using the Learnpads in class this week and evaluating our use of them in different lessons. From my point of view they have been especially effective in maths, where children have been exploring the properties of shape. Our class reporter has pooled comments from the class and discussed their feelings about the technology in our class report below. Anyone wanting to see how this new technology works in class is more than welcome to pop in and see them in action or see me after school. In a bid to encourage reading for pleasure across the Federation we are also trialling peer reading for 15 minutes a day and so far everyone seems to be really enjoying it. Children share and discuss their reading in pairs across the whole of KS2 reading in the hall, library, or either of the KS2 classrooms with adults monitoring and extending the discussions and questioning of the texts. The children have also appreciated the time to connect with pupils from different classes.

Ocean's Wave 14.01.03 by Saskia Moughton

The learnpads have helped us learn in a different way. I liked that we could explore and we could do it how we liked to. When we were playing all the different games, we could do it at our own pace and explore using all the different features on the games. When my group were using them, it helped us to work as a team and not argue over who had it because we were having fun while we were doing it. The learnpads are really fun to use to do our learning on as well as doing it in our books. We seemed to be learning about ICT

and maths at the same time and we got loads more done.

As Head of our School Council and on behalf of the children in the Federation, I would like to say thank you to all those who have helped to raise the money to get the Learnpads, (Lily Illingworth, yr6 School councillor).



How can you help at home?

Literacy:

When looking at products or events ask children to evaluate them looking for positives and negatives.

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:

Help children practice their times tables specifically X6, X7, X8 and X9

Sincerely,

Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

This term the Young Buds have lots of exciting activities planned around our topic of 'Where we live...'. We will be learning all about the British Isles, including native animals and plant life, as well as doing some landscape art and hopefully visiting an art gallery to study some local artists work in detail.

In Literacy we will be focussing on fairytales and doing lots of imaginative play and writing around this theme. In maths we are having a 'blitz on the basics' and so working hard on addition and subtraction as well as learning our times tables to help with our mental mathematics. If you could ensure you are helping children with their times tables and reading regularly at home that would be hugely appreciated.

A huge well done to all the Young Buds who have achieved another reading at home sticker, with a special mention to Rosie Wright, Esther Eastwood-Dewing, Libby Kelly, Tiarna Falco, Abigail Payne and Levi Peach-George who have all achieved their 100 sticker...a fantastic achievement for this stage of the year. Also a special mention to Abigail Loveless who has nudged ahead and been the first to achieve the 125 certificate! Well done all of you, Mrs Pile and I are so proud of all your hard work. Keep going, a special reward awaits you if you reach 200!

Mrs Smith and Mrs Pile.

Class news – Oaks

With the new term well and under way, Oaks class would like to welcome Lisa Hamer to Parracombe School and are excited to be learning with her.

Key Stage 2 are using the Jules Verne text, 'Around the World in 80 Days' as inspiration for their topic work this term. Inspired by Jules Verne's 'Around the World in 80 days' Key Stage 2 will be learning about different countries across the world. We will follow Phileas Fogg's exciting and eventful journey across the globe which will aid our learning about the countries and the continents in which he finds himself.

Year 5 and 6 will be starting reviews in literacy next week, children will have the opportunity to write film, book and music reviews in detail which we will publish on the class blog. Please encourage your child to read reviews in newspapers and magazines as this will expose them to a range of language. In maths, we will be starting a new unit on place value, involving rounding, negative numbers, conversion and roman numerals.

You can help your child at home by learning time's table and division facts, spellings and asking them questions about their reading books.

Please can you also ensure all items of your child's clothing are clearly named and their PE kit is always in school.

Many thanks

Miss Hill.

It has been a pleasure getting to know the children in Oaks class.

In years 3 and 4 we have been exploring the poem "If you're not from the prairie" by David Bouchard as part of our 80 days around the world theme. Although the weather was against us, we enjoyed our walk around Lynmouth gathering inspiration for our own poetry writing. In order to help us with our poems we have been exploring pattern, expanded noun phrases, alliteration, similes, and metaphor. We will continue to explore poetic devices as we build up to writing our own poems. We have enjoyed sharing poems in class and it would be helpful if you could do so at home. We are continuing to develop spelling strategies. You can help your child by encouraging them to practice their weekly spellings.

During maths we have been investigating patterns in the properties of 2D shapes. We have investigated symmetry, obtuse, acute and right angles, types of triangles and quadrilaterals. We will move on to develop our understanding of the properties of 3D shape. Any opportunity you have to discuss real life 3D shapes at home will help develop this further. We will continue to focus on our times tables. You can support your child's mathematical development by regularly practising these.

We have started a recorder club during Monday lunchtime. This is an opportunity for all children in Oaks to enjoy playing an instrument and reading music. The children have been allowed to take them home to practise. Please can you help to ensure that recorders are treated with care and brought into school each Monday? Hopefully, you will be invited to a performance soon!

Many thanks

Lisa Hamer

Little Berries News

Our new term is well underway and it was lovely to welcome the children back after the Christmas break. We are focussing on the story of 'The Little Red Hen' which has seen the children enjoying small world farm play, baking bread and talking about how it is nice to help one another.

The clubs have got off to a great start again and we would like to remind you that we are now able to offer these on a more flexible basis. If you would like your child/ren to attend any of the Breakfast, Afterschool clubs or Afterschool care then please speak to a member of our team.

The clubs for this term are as follows:

Monday -	Arts/Crafts
Tuesday-	Art/Crafts
Wednesday-	Gardening/Outdoors/Cookery (weather dependent)
Thursday-	Multi Skills/Sport
Friday-	Film
Your Little Berries Team	

Admin

Kentisbury School

The West Exmoor Federation are looking for a parent Governor to join our existing board of governors.

Governors perform the most important voluntary role in education and a full and diverse governing body can be a source of enormous strength to a school. Volunteering as a governor is a great way to contribute to your local School/Community, meet new people and improve the lives of local children. You will develop transferable skills and learn more about the education system whilst putting existing skills and experience to good use.

Governing bodies are responsible for the strategic management of a school and will make decisions about a wide range of issues.

The core responsibilities involved are:

Ensuring accountability, Acting as a 'critical friend' to the Head Teacher, Monitoring and evaluating the school's progress, Budgetary allocation and control Planning for the long term future of the school, Setting the school's aims and values and Appointing senior members of staff including the Head Teacher.

For more information about this very worthwhile role and an informal chat please contact Jacqui Skelton-Norrish (Clerk) on 01598 763338

Federation Staff Vacancies – Norse

Lynton

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.

Parracombe

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

Kentisbury & Parracombe PTFA

A big thank you to all who supported our Christmas hamper raffle, we raised a brilliant £152 for the schools! A great time was had by all at the children's Christmas party, thanks to all those who helped to make it such a success.

Bett, Jacqui and Mel

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 2nd Feb – Federation, Fire Brigade, safety talks

Community

Dear All

Happy New Year! I've been working with South West Family Support to set up The Magic Cooking Pot – a new cooking club for children aged 7 – 14 in North Devon. I'm writing with news of two taster cooking (!) workshops at St Anne's Arts Centre, Barnstaple 15 January and Braunton Academy 19 January 2016, they are after school and start at 4pm. The plan is to then run several 6 week after school courses, helping children to cook meals which can be taken home as a family dinner. The groups will be small so every child has the chance to get hands on experience and learn how to cook. The club will try out a new recipe every week, so that by the end of the course members will be confident and safe in the kitchen. The charity want children to find out more about food flavour and where our food comes from, so there is a focus on healthy and more unusual foods – and tasting and experimenting is all part of the fun! The income from the Magic Cooking Pot goes to support the charitable work of South West Family Support who helps support families in North Devon when things are difficult to find a way to move forward. Places on these taster sessions cost just £5 and must be booked in advance by contacting: booking@swfamilysupport.org.uk or text or phone to 07805 642268. Please do use the Face book page to tell your friends and invite them using the event pages <https://www.facebook.com/magiccookingpot> SWFS workshop leaders are excellent and I've planned out the first session so it all has The Art Hopper seal of approval! :) Please do tell them you heard about the sessions from me when you contact them to book a place – thanks!

Best wishes

Dion

The Art Hopper