



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

29.1.16

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another busy couple of weeks at school and it seems that no sooner has each week begun that it is Friday again!! There is a real buzz across the federation and the children have been really focused on their learning – it's lovely to see. Without exception, every visitor to our schools this term has commented favourably on how settled and motivated our children are - we should all be very proud of our wonderful youngsters.

SIAMS Inspection

Goodness me, what a busy couple of weeks we have had at school again. We were absolutely delighted to welcome Andrew Rickett to Lynton last week where he undertook a Statutory Inspections of Anglican and Methodists Schools (SIAMS). During the day he joined us for Collective Worship, observed a number of lessons and met with parents, children and Governors to discuss how being a church school impacts upon the development and achievement of the whole child. We are now awaiting his report but the initial feedback was very positive and I look forward to hopefully being able to share the report with you before half term.

Cubs

It's been wonderful to welcome Dan and Laura Whitfield and the cubs into Lynton school this half term. Cubs is now running in the school hall on a Wednesday evening from 6pm. For further information, please call Dan on 01598 752013 or email aurawhitfield100@gmail.com

Open Days

Your child will shortly be bringing home an invitation to our Open Days next week. However, I thought that I'd give you prior warning that on Thursday 11th February at 11am those children who are taught to play a musical instrument by Jenny Baker will be putting on a short performance at Lynton School. Everyone is welcome to attend and it would be lovely for the children to have a real audience to play to.

Parent Consultations

After half-term we will be holding parent consultations across the federation. They will be held at Lynton on Monday 22nd February and at Kentisbury on Tuesday 1st March. Parents/carers of children of at Parracombe and/or Kentisbury should attend the consultation evening at Kentisbury where the teachers from both schools will be available. Please call into the school office, or telephone, to book a convenient appointment.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Head teacher

In collective worship we have been thinking about 'letting our light shine' and 'being a good role model. We have been praying for those who are poorly; those who don't have enough food or water; those who are suffering as a result of war; and for mankind to treat the environment with respect.

Class news – Streams

Streams had a fantastic trip to Exmoor Zoo and the weather smiled upon us. On a dry and bright day we explored Exmoor Zoo looking for African animals. In the afternoon, we were lucky enough to meet lots of African animals and even stroke them! It was lovely to hear the staff at the zoo comment on the fantastic behavior of the children; They represented the school fantastically and did the school proud!

The new home learning tasks went out this week and we have been amazed by the learning that has already taken place. The children's enthusiasm and energy has been inspirational. We have had African animal projects, African art and even African artifacts coming into school. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Mr Mackenzie

Class news – Rivers

We loved visiting the library with Oceans last Friday and are really excited to go more often. Our peer reading with Oceans is fun and it is good to be supported by the year 5 and 6s. Having finished our poems, which we used to expand our understanding and use of noun phrases, we are now extending ourselves by using our skills to write poetry about the countries we are exploring through our theme. During maths we've been looking at rainfall, flooding and climate change as we interpret and draw graphs. It's also really exciting to be exploring the natural world as we learn about different animals and their classification in science.



Mrs Roper, Mrs Hamer & Y3/4

Class news – Oceans

It has been a busy couple of weeks where we have been focussing on taking ownership of our learning and taking responsibility for areas of the school. We have started to run some of our collective worship and work with the kitchen and some local business people to get our composting machine up and running again. Apparently we need a bucket of sawdust for each bucket of food scraps to keep the machine running efficiently. We are looking at creating a stock pile in order to be able to have a surplus of compost after Easter.

In literacy we have finished our sequence of reviews but we continue to use our skills in our theme work where we are building up a bank of reviews of countries from around the world. In maths, having finished our sequence looking at shape we are beginning to explore algebra and BODMAS. Although initially we thought this was a big challenge we are realising that as long as we are logical and we keep a clear head, we can solve much more than we thought we could.

We continue to enjoy peer reading and as always loved visiting the library last week. This is something we intend to build on. Cubs has also started, with great success, on Wednesday evenings and many of us are already attending. Our use of the learnpads is also extending as we experiment with what we can do with them and how we display our work.

Sincerely,
Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

We are very busy in Young Buds this term. Our science topic about animals and plants has taken us outside in the elements exploring our school grounds for habitats around us. The children really enjoyed searching for signs of life and where they might live. As the weeks go on we will be investigating other habitats around the UK and further afield! I am hoping to arrange a visit to Exmoor Zoo after half term so that the children can see the animals in habitats very similar to their native homes.

In maths, we have been working hard on telling analogue and digital times. You could really help this along at home by asking your children to try telling various o'clock, half past, quarter to and past times throughout the day when you're at home.

Young Buds have been thoroughly enjoying our literacy work on traditional tales so far this term too. This has included lots of story mapping, puppet shows to the class and having a go at writing stories. We have been reading and sharing many traditional stories with the class, with a focus on Hansel and Gretel. Our next story will be Jack and the Beanstalk. Keep up with reading at home Young Buds; you are all doing so well!

A special mention to Mia for reading 50 nights at home and to Layla for reaching her 100 nights at home. We are so proud of all of you for all the effort you are putting in to your learning.



Mrs Pile and Mrs Smith.

Class news – Oaks

Oaks are now emerged into their theme learning, using curiosity and perseverance to tackle new areas of learning. Children are currently focused on their project work which children will present to parents during the open morning. We have used temperatures from around the world in our maths this week; finding differences and working with negative numbers. In Literacy children are currently writing a review for a place of interest of their choice, these will also be used for display work.

Over the next few weeks children in years 5/6 will be focusing on additive reasoning in maths, linking it to our theme where possible. In literacy we will move onto the text 'Around the World in 80 days' and focus on narrative writing. You can help your child at home by working through the theme home-learning this will support their learning back in the classroom and encourage them to be inquisitive about the wider world.

I have noticed children bringing in unhealthy snacks for break time, please ensure you provide your child with a healthy snack or they can access the fruit bowl in school as we try to endeavour healthy lifestyles in school. Also make sure your child has a water bottle available in school every day.

Children are thoroughly enjoying their reading this term and are having healthy competition with each other to see who can achieve their next reading award. It is brilliant to see children reading for pleasure and suggesting books to read through the class scrapbook.

I look forward to seeing as many parents as possible on Wednesday 10th February for our open morning.

Many thanks,
Miss Hill.

Little Berries News

The last two weeks have seen the children being avid bird watchers!

After a walk down to the woods and the children spotting a Pheasant, it prompted a conversation on 'What type of animal is a Pheasant?' and so our next theme on Birds was chosen. The investigation area has been turned in to a bird spotters hut, the children have enjoyed using the binoculars to see what they can spot and we have enjoyed making bird feeders for their gardens at home.

The children were also fascinated by the ice we found outside last week, prompting us to investigate this indoors too by looking at ice and what birds live in icy climates.

We have been enjoying our new songs on shapes and first sounds. The children have enjoyed spotting shapes around their environment, can they spot any at home and have they sung any of their first sounds songs to you yet?

We are continuing to host the baby and toddler group at Little Berries on a Thursday afternoon, 1-3pm, so for anyone interested, then please do drop in.



And finally, a reminder of the clubs on offer:

Monday - Arts/Crafts

Tuesday - Arts/Crafts

Wednesday - Cookery/Outdoors/Gardening (Weather dependant)

Thursday - Multi Sports

Friday - Film Club

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

Non pupil and Occasional holidays for 2016

As you will be aware the term dates for schools are set by the local authority, but there are 5 Non pupil days and 2 Occasional holidays that are set by the Governing body.

These dates have now been set for **31st Oct-4th November 2016** (this is to enable parents the opportunity to take a week's holiday out of term time at a lower cost). As you are probably aware the government have clamped down on all schools approving holidays in term time except for in exceptional circumstances.

Two additional dates are **1st September 2016 and 3rd January 2017.**

After-School Clubs (3.15pm-4.3.30pm)/After-School Care (4.30pm-6.00pm)

We would like to remind parents that the After-School Clubs/care, which is run at Kentisbury School, can now be used on a drop-in basis, although advance booking is appreciated, where possible. The After-School Care period can be used for children to read or for the older children to do their homework, if this is of any assistance to parents.

School dinners

Can we please remind you that it is very important that school meals are paid for on ordering or at least paid up to date **every** week. It is very time consuming for the admin team to be chasing parents each week for payment. The DCC policy stipulates that payment must be made at the time of ordering a meal.

Where necessary regular late payment will result in the case being passed to DCC client support team to recover arrears.

Federation Staff Vacancies – Norse

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

Regular Eye Tests

It is important for children to have regular sight tests. Your child should have a check-up at least every two years from the age of 4 as problems can occur at any age. All NHS sight tests are free of charge for children under the age of 16. Please see the NHS choices web site for further information: www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/opticians/Pages/childrens-eyes.aspx below is a list of NHS Opticians that provide free eye tests for children.

NHS Options:

Boot Opticians
90 High Street
Barnstaple
Devon
EX31 1HR
Tel: 01271 342796

Bill & Taylor
9 Queen Street
Barnstaple
EX32 8HJ
Tel: 01271 342491

Eyewear creations
1a Bear Street
Barnstaple
EX32 7BU
Tel: 01271 377055

G C Bateman Ltd
1-2 East Gate
Joy Street
Barnstaple
EX31 1BU
Tel: 01271 343484

Vision Express
44 High Street
Barnstaple
Devon
EX31 1BZ
Tel: 01271 323130

Specsavers
Gammon Walk
Barnstaple
Devon
EX31 1DJ
Tel: 01271 373 233

Tesco Opticians
Barnstaple Retail Park
Barnstaple
EX31 2AS
Tel: 0845 601 3479

Boots Vision Screening Programme

The Federation has recently signed up for the Boots Vision Screening Programme which will help us check children's eye sight. The vision screening programme consists of a few simple, quick computer based visual tasks carried out by a member of school staff. Following the assessment, if a visit to an optician is recommended you will be notified in writing.

The vision screening programme is not a replacement for a full NHS sight test that **your child is entitled to free** from any high street optician but an indicator that a full sight test may be advisable. A full sight test also assesses the health of your child's eyes.

If you have any questions or queries about the Boots Vision Screen Programme, please contact Julia Pring: 01598 753309, Julia.pring@westexmoorfederation.org.uk

PTFA

Kentisbury & Parracombe PTFA Easter Bingo

We are holding a Bingo evening at The Old Station Inn, Blackmoor Gate on Friday 4th March. The pub have kindly agreed to donate all profits to the schools, so please come along and support us, win a prize and have a laugh! Children welcome, eyes down at 8.30pm. If you are able to donate a prize, please bring into school by Friday 26th Feb.

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel

Dates for your diary

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

Monday 22nd February – Parent Consultation at Lynton

Tuesday 1st March – Parent Consultation at Kentisbury for Kentisbury and/or Parracombe parents/carers

Wednesday 23rd March – Taiko Drumming Performance at the Landmark for the whole federation

Federation Open Day's

Parracombe School - Wednesday 10th February.

Lynton School - Thursday 11th February.

Kentisbury School - Friday 12th February.

CATERING/SCHOOL MEALS

As from September term 2016 the Governors have decided not to renew their contract with Devon Norse. This means that we will be responsible for writing our own menus, sourcing our own produce and having the freedom to experiment more. Over the next few months I will be trying out different recipes for the children and I will be meeting with the School Council for them to help write the new terms menu.

If you would like to get involved or have any recipes you would like to share with the children please feel free to contact me either through email or just popping in to see me - Lynton school kitchen.

jayne.hoskins@westexmoorfederation.org.uk