



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

12.2.16

Dear Parents/Carers

Goodness me, how this half-term has flown by. It's certainly been a busy few weeks and the children (not to mention the staff) are defiantly ready for a short break. It's been lovely to see so many parents, grandparents and friends of the federation at our Open Days this week. Thank you so much to all who were able to attend and support our children. A whole host of exciting learning took place with a habitat challenge running a Parracombe, Kentisbury enjoying a Forest School Day and Lynton holding a variety of musical performances alongside their normal learning. I know that our children have thoroughly enjoyed sharing their learning with you and hopefully it's given you a little glimpse into school life. We are hoping to make these Open Days a regular feature of each term and very much hope that you will be able to join us at our summer event.

Scholastic Book Fayre

Thank you to everyone who supported our Scholastic Book Fayre. It was lovely to see the children being able to browse through the books and thanks to your support we have been able to select nearly £550 worth of new books for our children to enjoy within their classrooms.

Absence

I'm really pleased to report that our absence rate across the federation has continued to be below the national average – thank you for helping us to achieve this. Inevitably most children have the occasional day of absence due to illness during the course of a year. In line with our safeguarding procedures, could I please ask that on these occasions you telephone your child's school by 9am to report their absence. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Morning Arrivals

Could I please ask that children do not arrive at school before 8.30am as supervision is not available until this time. If you need to drop your child off before then we are able to offer a breakfast club from 8.00am at Kentisbury and Lynton, although prior booking is needed. Thank you for your assistance in helping us to keep you children safe.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable half-term break and I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 22nd February.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock, Executive Head teacher

In collective worship we have been thinking about Lent and how this is a time to reflect, pray and make 'space' in our lives for all that nourishes us. We have also been thinking about and praying for world peace, a fair distribution of food and clean drinking water and for our family, friends and pets who are poorly.

Class news – Streams

Mr Mackenzie

Class news – Rivers

As we come to the end of the first spring half term, we are well on our way around the world!! The children have been looking in a little more detail at climate and we now have a weather centre in the classroom where we are recording information about the current temperatures in various capital cities. We are also comparing the current temperatures at the North and South Poles. This will support the children's using and applying skills in maths by developing their data handling skills, real life investigation, as well as the concept of negative numbers. We will also use it to help with calculation, i.e. "what is the difference in

temperature between?"

We will be looking at landforms over the next couple of weeks or so and making models to show areas of mountains, desert etc. in their chosen project countries. Our science continues as we have also begun to think about the different types of trees and plants, both here and in other parts of the world. We will be building on key stage 1 coverage of the human body, teeth and skeletons and looking in more depth about movement.

All this work in other subjects is also supporting their writing skills in presenting informational texts, poetry and story.

Our film reviews are now complete and we hope to go on to apply these skills when writing other types of reviews such as more detailed book reviews.

We hope you all have a good half term and the children are able to recharge their batteries ready for another busy time until Easter!

Mrs Roper

Class news – Oceans

We've been exploring our new range of KS2 books. They include some books that we've wanted to read for ages and other books that we didn't know about. Texts range from teaching us how to create games with computer code to 3D non-fiction books about predators with some high quality stories for readers aged 9-11. It's all part of our focus on reading for pleasure and we're really excited about getting stuck into our new books.

Some of us have been thinking about how we would like to improve our library area in school so that it becomes an area for us all to use, enjoy and cherish. As it was pancake day this week, maths has continued to concentrate on place value and measuring. This has meant the cooking of pancakes and measuring, sharing and dividing of ingredients (and end products). I think we are all looking forward to our half-term break, as this has been a period of coughs and colds for many of us. However, we are still really enjoying our global theme and are currently researching the lives of famous figures from around the world. Our half-term project will be to research a famous figure and their country for our theme projects. This can be produced in a medium of your child's choice – a poster, a powerpoint, a piece of written work.

I look forward to meeting with you at parents evening.

Sincerely,

Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

Mrs Pile and Mrs Smith.

Class news – Oaks

Firstly I would like to congratulate the children who took part in the netball tournament last week held at Ilfracombe Junior school. They all played very well considering the short notice and lack of practice time. They represented the federation outstandingly well and we are all proud of them, well done!

Year 5 and 6 have will start writing a biography this week of their chosen world figure that has made a considerable impact on the world we live in today. This links back to our collective worship theme last week of following a good role model. We looked into the life of Nelson Mandela, the children questioned concepts about his life and were able to also answer questions following a week of discussion and research.

After half term, year 5 and 6 will be writing a new chapter for the book 'Around the world in 80 days', therefore it is important children finish reading a version of the book by the time we return back to school.

This week we have been learning about Lent, incorporating Shrove Tuesday into our timetable and reflecting on concepts of making sacrifices, as well as making our own pancakes! Some children have decided to give up something they enjoy during Lent whilst others are going to give more.

A huge thank you to all the parents who joined in with their children on Wednesday for open morning, the children really enjoyed the joint learning and taking on a challenge, I know they appreciate your support.



Finally, I hope you have an enjoyable and restful half term and looking forward to welcoming you back to Parracombe on Monday 22nd February.

Many thanks

Miss Hill



We have had a very busy half term continuing our theme 'Around the World in Eighty Days'.

The children have been exploring the Jules Verne text, mapping Phileas Fogg's journey as we go. Currently the children are finishing writing their own chapters, detailing Phileas Fogg's exciting adventures in many different parts of the world! I am delighted at the children's enthusiasm and hard work put into this literacy unit.

In maths we have been investigating place value incorporating the value of digits, different numeral systems, tenths and negative numbers. Children are continuing to progress through Times Table Math magicians.

Recorder club has been progressing quickly. Thank you for your support at home. The children are working hard learning new notes leading towards an Easter service performance.

How can you help at home?

After half term we will be moving onto writing reviews in literacy. Any opportunity you have to share reviews at home will help widen your child's depth of knowledge. These can include film, book, music, travel, events etc. In general I am encouraging the class to use their dictionary and thesaurus. If you have these at home, you could ask your child to locate words and give you the definition.

In maths we will be adding and subtracting amounts of money to give change; any opportunity you have to help your child with this practically will help their understanding.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another busy few weeks of learning after a well- deserved half term break.

Many Thanks,

Lisa Hamer

Little Berries News

We would like to offer a warm welcome to Noah who has joined us in Little Berries. We hope your time with us is an enjoyable one.

This week the children have enjoyed looking at and talking about Chinese New Year during our story times. Can the children tell you about the story? They have enjoyed prawn crackers and pancakes throughout the week as part of our snack; have been playing with paint and shapes, trying to spot shapes in their environment; sewing heart shaped Valentine day cards and they have enjoyed challenging themselves with chop sticks!

The clubs will continue to run after half term as follows:

Monday -	Arts/Crafts
Tuesday -	Arts/Crafts
Wednesday -	Cookery/Outdoors/Gardening (Weather dependant)
Thursday -	Multi Sports
Friday -	Film Club

Please remember we are also here until 6pm for afterschool care and the children can use this time to complete any homework or add to their reading record by reading to us.

Your Little Berries Team

Admin

Forest School

If anyone is able to spare some old plant pots and potting compost for us to use at Forest School, it would be very much appreciated, just drop off at any school and we can transport it over to Kentisbury.

After school club

On Tuesday 23rd of February the Multi Skills club will commence at Parracombe school for children that have booked attend this club

[Kentisbury School](#)

PLEASE NOTE IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE A NOMINATION FROM A KENTISBURY PARENT TO FILL THIS VACANCY WE WILL HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN TO OFFER THIS POST TO A PARENT WITH CHILDREN REGISTERED TO LYNTON OR PARRACOMBE 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-4.30pm)/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.

LONDON RESIDENTIAL

All pupils from year 2 & 3 should have received a letter about the London residential, if you have not, please contact the school office. Please send replies back ASAP the cut off date is the 24th February.

Norse

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

PTFA

CHARITY BINGO
Old Station House Inn
Blackmoor Gate
FRIDAY 4TH MARCH
EYES DOWN 8.30PM

PROCEEDS TO GO TO KENTISBURY AND PARRACOMBE PTFA

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel

Dates for your diary

Parents Consultations

Monday 22nd February – Lynton

Tuesday 1st March – Parracombe and Kentisbury (To be held at Kentisbury school)

(please ring the school office to make an appointment, if you have not already done so)

CATERING/SCHOOL MEALS

Plans are underway for our new Spring/Summer Menu, which will be starting when we come back from the Easter Break. We will be going from a 3 weekly menu to a 2 weekly menu. The biggest change will be reducing the amount of sugary desserts on offer. Twice weekly we will be offering a "Pudding Surprise" and the other 3 days we will be offering Fresh Fruit Salad, Melon slices or Yoghurts. We have already brought this into practice and the children are enjoying recognising the various fruits. Homemade wholemeal bread roll and fresh soup are going to be trailed throughout the next couple of weeks and we are keen to hear the

children's comments on the new menu.

If you have any questions or would like to get more involved with what your children are eating please contact me in the kitchen.

Thank you.

Jayne Hoskins, Kitchen Manager

Enjoy a day out at Arlington Court this February half term.

Open daily 13-21 February, 11am-4pm

With the signs of spring starting to show, the Arlington estate is dusting off its winter coat and getting ready for warmer weather. **Bring this letter with you during February half term to receive free entry for one child, when an adult ticket is purchased.**

Free activities this half term:

- **Early spring trail:** exploring the grounds and looking at the arrival of spring
- **Den building:** Weds 17, 11am-3pm, work as a family to create your own shelter from natural materials
- **Pips to plants:** Thurs 18, 1-3:30pm, pick up growing tips from our gardeners and take home something to grow.

Exmoor Walking Festival: Plans are in hand for this years North Devon and Exmoor Walking Festival which is now taking bookings for the guided walks. The festival runs from Saturday April 30 to Saturday May 7 2016 inc. Please go to <http://www.exmoorwalkingfestival.co.uk/> to view all the walks and to book. You can book online on the website or by phone on 01271 863001. The brochure is still in the making and should be available in a few weeks time. We look forward to seeing you on some of the guided walks. Bryan Cath, the Festival Co-ordinator can be contacted on 01271 883131.

Simonsbath Festival: Plans are in hand for the 2016 Simonsbath Festival which each year provides a varied selection of musical, literary and visual arts events around Simonsbath. Tickets are not yet available but you can see the events already confirmed at www.simonsbathfestival.org.uk where you can also join the mailing list to be kept up to date for future events.