



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

Dear Parents/Carers

Wow! Our children looked amazing yesterday as they all fully entered into the spirit of World Book Day. It was lovely to see them all enjoying the day so much and being extremely willing to talk about their favourite book characters, the books within which they appear and their reasons for liking these characters so much. On a personal note it was good to be joined by one two other dinosaurs wearing underpants! I'd like to thank you for supporting your children in their preparations for the day and hope that they all came home buzzing about the various activities that took place.

Extreme Reading Challenge

Hot on the heels of World Book Day, please don't forget to submit your Extreme Reading entries by 14th March. The categories are: Pre-School/Early Years; Key Stage One; Key Stage Two; Staff/Governors; and 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. Entries will be judged by the Federation Council with prizes being presented at our Easter Service.

SIAMS Inspection

Parracombe has just been notified that it will undergo a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Church Schools (SIAMS) inspection on Thursday of next week (10th March). As the children of Parracombe are taught at both Kentisbury and Parracombe the inspection will cover both sites. The day will include observing collective worship, the teaching of Religious Education, talking with children, meeting with parents and governors and generally getting a feel for how being a Church School impacts upon our children's learning. Much anecdotal evidence is collected during the inspection, some of which may be quoted in the report that we receive. If your child is registered to Kentisbury and you would prefer for their views not to be reported, please let me know before Thursday of next week.

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 your children safe.

Attendance

Our attendance rates up until half-term have continued to improve across the federation with Parracombe leading the way with 97.57%, closely followed by Lynton with 96.84% and then Kentisbury with 96.36%. 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.

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.

With Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

In Collective Worship we have been thinking about Lent and, in particular, how we can use wisdom wisely and how God shows his love for us. We have been thinking about, and praying for, those who have less than ourselves, especially children who do not have access to education and cannot read and enjoy the pleasures that books provide us with.

Class news – Streams

Streams have had a fantastic start to the new half term and we have lots of fun things planned for the over the next few weeks. We shall be trying different foods from Africa, making African pottery and we are also going to have a visitor coming to talk to the children about her time living in Africa.

We are extremely proud of the new outdoor area which is being developed with a fantastic new tree house and new surfacing it is going to a lovely place for the children to play and learn.

A group of 7 snails have just taken up residence in our classroom and we will be learning about what living things need to survive.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who were able to see us on parents evening. Any parents who were unable to make this occasion but would like a meeting please see Mr Mackenzie. Mr Mackenzie

Class news – Rivers

Last week, Rivers enjoyed the opportunity to hear about the experiences Mr Stokes (our Chair of Governors) had when he recently visited Finland in the Arctic region. As part of their geography based learning, they have now written and explanatory text about different aspects of life in this very cold climate and how that affects the lives of people who live there. We are hoping that other visitors will be able to come in and share their experiences of other places around the world. If anyone is able to spare an hour we would be very grateful!! It is such an interesting and informative way of the children learning about other places.

We have begun looking at time and reading both analogue and 24 hour digital clocks. Any practice at home will support their understanding. We will move on in the next few days to solving mathematical problems involving time and looking at time differences around the world.

Our current genre in writing is narrative, as the children write their own chapter about travel to an imaginary world. We are focusing on dialogue and refining speech punctuation as well as other grammatical skills.

Our science is all about plant life found here and in other climates and the life cycle of flowering plants. We have some lovely artwork about to be displayed, so please come and see it once it is all up and running! Mrs Roper and Mrs Hamer

Class news – Oceans

Our Autobiographies are now completed, so this week we are starting to look at Around the world in 80 days by Jules Verne in depth. This is a wonderfully exciting and well written, descriptive story, by which we will be exploring the creation of atmosphere and descriptive inference. By the end of the sequence we will create our own chapter of the book. We will also be looking at the use of the passive tense as a grammatical focus.

Fractions are the key focus of this half-term in our maths sessions. Previously we have been reading, writing and drawing them. This time we are moving onto comparing and ordering a variety of fractions and next week we will be using them with all four functions. To apply our skills to real-life contexts, we will explore fractions when cooking, gardening and measuring. This will be handy, as Oceans have now cleared the school garden, and are ready for planning, preparing and planting our new scheme.

If anyone has cuttings or seedlings that they can donate to the school garden they would be greatly appreciated. We are specifically looking for herbs, vegetables and bee friendly plants.

How you can help at home:

Literacy – continue to ask children for extra description of events or items by using what we call “Writer questions”, e.g. who, when, where, what, how, why. These open questions allow us to practice and extend our descriptive language.

Reading – When reading with children, ask them their opinions or what they think the character’s opinions of an event are. Challenge them to explain or give proof to back-up their opinions through the text.

Proving inferred meaning is a key skill that is tested.

Maths – When opportunities arise for example distances involved when travelling or amounts when cooking, ask children to work out fractions of amounts ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{2}{10}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{9}$). It is also useful for them to estimate fractional amounts so that they practice and develop their ability to visualise amounts.

Sincerely,

Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

This term continues to be jam packed with lots of adventures for Young Buds. Despite the weather, our zoo trip was a huge success! The children loved seeing all the animals and they learned so much about them too. We listened to several talks about various animals and some were brave enough to hold stick insects and giant snails! Young Buds' behaviour was outstanding and we were extremely proud of all of them.



Young Buds will use their new found knowledge to write fact files about some of the most interesting animals they saw on Tuesday. In maths Young Buds will be working on multiplication and division.

We had a very busy evening meeting with parents after our trip. It was great catching up with so many of you and sharing with you how well each child in Young Buds is doing. Thank you to all who came to see us. On Thursday, we spent the day at Parracombe School doing lots of fantastic World Book Day activities including bookmark making, a story trail in the playground and creating story books. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and had a great day.



Thank you all for your continued support.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Pile.

Class news – Oaks

Oaks newsletter 02.03.15

Children have made a fantastic start at school this half term; they are intrigued, interested and excited by their learning. Outstanding effort has been put into the core task this term, we have a range of models of countries from around the world now on display in school, I must say a huge thank you to the parental support the children have had for this project.

Year 5 and 6 have now finished writing their biographies on inspirational role models, focusing on depth of detail and a range of sentence types, varying the use of conjunctions. All children have exceeded in this and they are proud of their work. We are moving onto narrative writing where children will be able to express their emotions and immerse themselves into an adventure, travelling around the world. In maths, children will be moving onto fractions next week, learning how to compare and order fractions and converting mixed numbers and improper fractions along with addition and multiplying fractions.

The sporting calendar is starting to fill up; it is wonderful to have parental support at the events so please feel welcome to come along to support your child and the federation.

For world book day this year, Kentisbury joined Parracombe for a day focused on 'reading for pleasure'. It was wonderful to see so many children and adults dressed up as a character from their favourite book. Children had the opportunity in groups to go on a story trail, make a bookmark, write a character description, write letters to story characters and build their own story book. There was a 'buzz' around the school and all children thoroughly enjoyed their world book day experience!



Miss Hill

We have had a very busy couple of weeks continuing our theme 'Around the World in Eighty Days'. The children have been exploring film reviews and are in the process of reviewing the film 'A Turtle's Tale'. We have enjoyed following Sammy the turtle's around the world adventure!

In maths we have been developing our addition and subtraction methods and choosing the appropriate method in order to solve problems.

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you during parents evening.

Many Thanks,

Lisa Hamer

Little Berries News

We hope that you all had an enjoyable half term break and we welcome all of our Little Berries back. A big welcome to CJ who has joined us, we hope your time with us is a happy one!

These next few weeks will see us incubating our very own chicken eggs, please feel free to pop in and see them. We will be counting and marking off the days of incubation, looking at what other animals come from eggs, and using pictures to show the children how they are changing over time.

We will be holding parent consultations for all children in the form of coffee open mornings from Monday 21st – Thursday 24th March. Please feel free to pop in and see us to discuss your child's progress.

Due to the popular demand of the Baby and Toddler group, this has now moved down to the Village hall and will continue to run on a Thursday afternoon from 1pm-3pm.

The clubs will continue to run as follows:

Monday - Arts/Crafts

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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

We would like to thank Paul and Nicky from the Fox and Goose pub for raising £230.40 for our PTFA, we are delighted to have received this very kind donation and really appreciate their support.

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 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.

PARENT CONTACT DETAILS

Just recently we have found that when we have tried to contact parents, that we have incorrect phone numbers, please can we ask that you notify the admin team immediately of any changes, it is imperative that we are able to contact parents in an emergency.

Easter Holiday club

The Federation will be running a holiday club on the following dates - Wednesday 6th April and Thursday 7th April further details will follow ASAP.

P.T.F.A

BINGO
TONIGHT (FRIDAY 4TH MARCH)
AT THE OLD STATION HOUSE INN
BLACKMORE GATE
EYES DOWN @ 8.30PM
THE PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO KENTISBURY AND PARRACOMBE PTFA
PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel

Dates for your diary

11.3.16 Tag Rugby tournament at Ilfracombe

24.3.16 Last day of term

25.3.16 Good Friday

Community

Multi Award Winning, North Devon All Starz return this year with one of the greatest family musicals of all time, Barnum. And they are on the search to find a cast to be in this fun filled, fast moving show.

Boys and Girls aged between 8 and 23 years old are invited to the open auditions on Saturday 16th April in the Main Hall at the Park Community School. Starting at 1pm and finishing at 3.30pm.

Those who are successful at getting into the Company and wish to audition for a Principal Role will need to stay until 6pm.

There is a £1 audition fee that must be paid on the day.

The performances will take place at the Queen's Theatre from Thursday 28th to Saturday 30th July.

Any questions please email the Chairman at tolley.angell@yahoo.co.uk



The Adventure Is Finally Here!

The Scout movement has come back to Lynton with the opening of the 1st Lyn Cubs Pack. Children from age 8 to 11 have been enjoying a varied and active program of games, challenges and adventure. Locations vary so for more information contact our GSL at aurawhitfield100@gmail.com

There have been several requests for a Beaver Colony to start up. Beavers are for children from age 6 to 8 years old and is the youngest section of Scouts. This is where we need your help – for the group to grow and evolve; we need parents and community supporters to contact us at the above email address or 01598752013. Without the adult support, we cannot offer anything to the children. Please if you can spare a couple of hours once a week during term time, then you can help to develop local Scouting, allowing young people in the area to experience fun, friendship and everyday adventure.

Barbrook Village Hall

The Big Breakfast, full cooked English breakfast in good company, proceeds to support St Bartholomew's. Debbie and Dan will be your chefs, Wednesday, 9th March, 7.30am to 9 am.

Parracombe Village Hall

Craft and chat bring along your knitting or crochet or anything, or just yourself for a friendly chat and tea and cake. Parracombe Village hall, Wednesday 9th March, 2pm to 4pm.