



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

18.3.16

Dear Parents/Carers

EASTER SERVICE

We will be holding our annual Easter Service at St Mary's Church, Lynton at 10.30am on Thursday 24th March. Please do come along and join us at this special Church Service. Children from the federation will then be enjoying a shared lunch at Lynton during which time their Easter Bonnets will be judged. The day will then conclude with Chocolate Bingo in the school hall before the children return to their respective schools/classrooms.

LOCAL AUTHORITY INSPECTION

On Friday the federation was inspected by the Local Authority as part of its on-going monitoring of schools that have been judged to Require Improvement by Ofsted. We are thrilled to be able to tell you that every aspect of the inspection judged the federation to be securely good and, in some areas, to be close to outstanding. The inspectors were very impressed by the high quality of teaching and learning that was evident in every classroom. In particular, they noted that the teachers' expectations are high and, as a result, the children engage in their learning and want to do their best. Across the federation, the inspectors felt that the climate for learning was very positive and that because the teachers know the needs of the individual children well, learning effectively meets their needs. They were also extremely complimentary about the progress that all of our children are making and the pride that they clearly show in their learning. We now eagerly await a call from Ofsted so that we can once again be recognised as the good or better federation that we truly are. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children, staff and governors for the hard work that has gone into bringing about the necessary improvements and to also thank you for your continued support. Working together we can all ensure that our children continue to access the very best possible educational opportunities to enable them to lead happy and fulfilling lives.

SIAMS INSPECTION AT PARRACOMBE

As you will know, Parracombe was inspected under the SIAMS inspection process on Thursday 10th March. We are delighted to share with you our report. The inspection found Parracombe to be good in all areas with key strengths being identified as the way in which our core Christian values make a valuable contribution to the children's personal development and increasingly to their learning; the way in which the children speak with confidence about faith and belief in an environment that encourages respect for the views of others; and the strength of relationships across the federation that enables each school to learn from the others. Our areas for development are to ensure that the central message from CARIS is more explicitly linked to our core Christian values and all aspects of school life; to provide opportunities for children to develop a personal spirituality by make stronger links between the messages they hear from Bible stories and their own stories; and to ensure that time and space is provided for children to reflect in collective worship and at other times in the school day. As at Lynton, the inspection process was extremely rigorous but our inspector felt that the federation was very much on the road to being outstanding at its next inspection.

EARLY YEARS OUTSIDE AREA

In recent weeks the early years outside area at Lynton has undergone an amazing transformation. The area has been extended, new safety surfacing laid and a playhouse erected. The children are thoroughly enjoying using this 'new' space and it is wonderful to see them playing and learning alongside one another in an area that they now feel truly proud of.

STAFFING FOR THE SUMMER TERM AT LYNTON – Year 3/4

As previously outlined in my letter to parents dated 7th March, Mr Doherty sadly remains away from work due to continued ill-health. The earliest that he is likely to return is mid-May as he is signed-off work by his GP until this time. I appreciate that this is not an ideal situation but we are delighted that Mrs Roper continues to cover Mr Doherty's absence and will do so for long as required. This is providing the children with much needed continuity and minimising the impact of Mr Doherty's absence. We are extremely lucky to have such an experienced teacher taking on this role and, despite being a supply teacher, committing so fully to the children within the class. As has been the case since September, the children will continue to be taught by Mrs Hamer on a Wednesday afternoon, with Friday's being a whole Key Stage 2 day. This enables the children to work in wider peer groups for both PE and theme learning. As is always the case, should you wish to discuss any of these arrangements with me, please do not hesitate to do so.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Well done to both our Swimming Team and our Tag Rugby Team. Both teams have represented the federation in recent competitions and all members of both teams should be really proud of their achievements. In swimming, Charlie and Haven both reached the finals and at Tag Rugby we were just one point away from going through to the play-offs. What really struck me at both events was the incredible sportsmanship shown by our children – it was exemplary at all times, even when not replicated by those around them.



Finally, I hope that you all enjoy a lovely Easter break. I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 11th April.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

In Collective Worship we have been thinking about Lent and, in particular, how our dreams and aspirations are fuelled by hope. We have been thinking about, and praying for, those who will not be spending Easter with their families and loved ones; those who are living within war zones or escaping from conflict; and those who are old or poorly.

Class news – Streams

Mr Mackenzie

Class news – Rivers

Mrs Roper and Mrs Hamer

Class news – Oceans

Our journey stories are being planned and we have been working as a class to magpie descriptive phrases and link symbols within our texts. To build this bank of description we have researched clothing and transport used by our main character Phileas Fogg. We are really surprised with the depth of our imagery and have found our research into his clothing and transport very interesting.

To finish off our sequence on fractions, we are investigating what happens when you multiply or divide them, in order to continue to develop our mathematical resilience and ability to solve problems. To finish off this term, we are exploring mean, mode and median alongside data gathering and graphing. Weather permitting we will be working outside as much as possible to record larger distances and time ourselves over these distances.

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,

Class news – Young Buds

Mrs Smith and Mrs Pile.

Class news – Oaks

Children in Oaks class have become immersed in reading for pleasure throughout the term. With the success of world book day, the reading for pleasure scrapbook and daily peer reading (sometimes in the sunshine) we have noticed a real difference in children's attitude towards reading and their love for books growing. In our library we have created a new display to showcase the children's love for reading.



With the end of term in sight, we will be finishing our current theme of 'Around the world in 80 days!' Children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about new countries, mountains, oceans and climates around the world. They have produced some wonderful scrapbooks which represent their 'book of knowledge', which they are extremely proud of.

In literacy, year 5 and 6 are coming to the end of writing their own chapter for the book 'Around the world in 80 days,' they have included a range of language as well as a variety of clauses. We will be typing up our chapters to create a class book, which will be available to read in school. In maths, we have been focusing on fractions, which have been a tricky learning journey for all, but I think we have finally cracked it! We have been adding, subtraction, multiplying and dividing fractions then applying it to real life contexts.

You can support your child over Easter by;

- Reading daily
- Revising times table facts
- Learning spellings from your child's word list
- Have an enjoyable and safe Easter. Many thanks,

Miss Hill.

We are currently exploring diary writing. As part of our theme 'Around the world in Eighty Days' we are using Steve Backshall's Deadly Pole to Pole Diaries as a focus. The children are enjoying his enthusiastic style, and learning lots of new, interesting facts!

In maths we have started investigating fractions. Children are continuing to progress through Times Table Mathematicians.

How can you help at home?

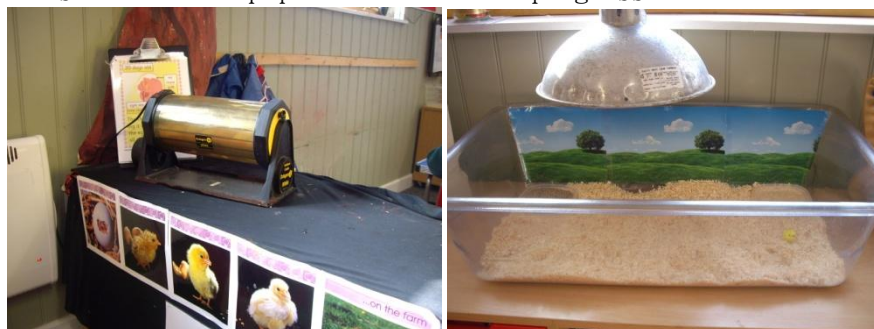
We will continue with our fraction learning after Easter and so any opportunity you have to help your child recognise, find and write fractions of a set of objects will be helpful. Easter is a great time to be dividing chocolate into equal pieces!

Many Thanks,
Lisa Hamer

Little Berries News

There is excitement in the air over our chicks and their imminent arrival; our Little Berries have been busy counting down the days until D day. We have used our focus on Understanding the World and Expressive Art and Design to talk about what is happening to our chicks on a day to day basis and how we need to treat the eggs and then the chicks when they arrive. The children have been busy making chick houses and nests, thinking about keeping them warm, safe and sheltered, using lots of different types of materials whilst talking about what different materials can be used for and what they feel like.

Please feel free to pop in and track their progress!



We have new lunchtime arrangements where our Little Berries are now joining the older children in the main school for lunch. All children are walked down in time to join the older children for a story time with the main school staff before having lunch and then joining the older children for a joint playtime on the playground. All children are thoroughly enjoying this and this is just one of many opportunities that we hope to offer the children over the next term, with the aim to aid the transition for all of our children when they join the school in Reception.

A reminder that 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.

With the weather now (finally!) seeming a little more Spring like, the children will obviously be spending a lot more time outside. Could we please ask that all children have suitable clothing for the weather, including a change of clothes and items such as sun cream etc.

The clubs for after half term will run as follows:

Monday – Arts/Crafts

Tuesday – Arts/Crafts

Wednesday – Forest school/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

Headlice

Please can we ask all parents/carers to check daily for head lice and treat straight away to ensure that any outbreaks are stopped immediately.

Parent Governor

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Graidi Taylor-Rose on to the governing body of the Federation, as parent governor for Kentisbury.

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.

Vacant positions

Mealtime Assistant Required at Lynton Primary School as soon as possible. Hours 1.5 per day. Pay £7.20 per hour. If interested please contact Betty in the school office.

IMPORTANT

As this week will be the end of the Spring term, can we please ask parents to pay for any meals that are taken and ensure that there are no payments left outstanding. We are not able to finish a term with money owing; This is also the case for parents whose children use the federation bus service.

Parents will be asked to come in and make payments where necessary.

Easter Holiday club

A letter has been sent home with pupils with the following information:-

Easter Break Holiday Clubs

We are pleased to be able to write with the details of the clubs we are able to offer the children within the Federation, during the Easter holiday. These will be held during the second week of the holiday, as follows:-

Wednesday 6th April:	Arlington Court
Thursday 7th April:	Victoria Park/Spring Crafts

We will be running the Federation minibus each day, **picking up from Lynton School/Blackmoor Gate**, as necessary. The cost will be £15.00 per child per day.

If you have any queries relating to any of the clubs, please contact either Gini Hynes (gini.hynes@westexmoorfederation.org.uk), Julia Pring (Julia.pring@westexmoorfederation.org.uk).

Easter Break Holiday Club Appendix

Wednesday 6th April: Arlington Court Spring Lambs and daffodil Trail: Follow the clues and solve the riddles along the daffodil trail around the grounds of Arlington court to claim a small prize. Followed by meeting a new flock of Arlington's spring lambs.

Minibus times: Lynton car park at 10.00am, Blackmoor Gate at 10:15 am, Arlington Court car park 10:30am
Pick up from Arlington Court at 3.30pm, Blackmoor Gate at 3.45pm and returning to Lynton for 4.00pm

What to bring: Packed lunch, plenty of non-fizzy drinks, waterproofs, trainers and welly boots, hat and gloves, layers of clothing as we will be indoors and out, sun cream, in a suitable bag for carrying.

Thursday 7th April: Victoria Park/Spring Crafts: We will be visiting Victoria Park, Bideford which has a number of different play areas. If good weather doesn't come out to play we will return to Lynton for some spring inspired crafts

Minibus times: Lynton car park at 10.00am, Blackmoor Gate at 10:15 am, Arlington Court car park 10:30am
Pick up from Blackmoor Gate at 3.45pm and returning to Lynton for 4.00pm

What to bring: Packed lunch, plenty of non-fizzy drinks, waterproofs, trainers and welly boots, hat and gloves, layers of clothing as we might be indoors and out, sun cream in a suitable bag for carrying.
If you require another form, please contact the school office.

END OF TERM EASTER LUNCH

Thursday 24th March 2016



Westcountry Beefburger in a Homemade Crusty Roll

or

**Breaded Vegetarian Burger in a Homemade Crusty Roll
served with Chips and Baked Beans**

or

Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings

~*~

Chocolate Cracknel

Kentisbury & Parracombe PTFA

Thank you to parents who supported and came to our Bingo evening last week at The Station Inn, Blackmoor Gate. We had a really great evening and raised an amazing £435.50! We would like to say a big thank you to

Shelley Kift and all at The Station Inn for organising this event for us.

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel

Dates for your diary

24.3.16 Last day of term

25.3.16 Good Friday

Community

On Maundy Thursday, there will be a service of Communion with washing of feet in St Mary's at 7 pm, and on Good Friday, Stations of the Cross will be observed at 10 am and a service for Good Friday at 2pm. On Easter morning there will be a dawn service at St John's, Countisbury at 6am and an Easter morning service of Communion for all Lyn Valley parishes in St Mary's at 11 am.

Parishioners at Parracombe are planning their own Family Service at Christ Church at 9.30 am. After, there will be enough time for those wishing to take Communion to join the congregation at St Mary's at 11 am. At St Peter's Church, Trentishoe, there will be a service of Evening Prayers for Easter Day at 3 pm.