



# West Exmoor Federation

*'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'*

22.4.16

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you all had a wonderful Easter break and managed to enjoy some quality family time. We were certainly lucky with the weather, especially given how early Easter was, and the children have very much returned to school full of the joys of Spring!

## FEDERATION REVELS

The federation is tentatively thinking about hold a 'Revels' Day at Parracombe on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May. This would include may-pole dancing and a cream tea and is our attempt at keeping the Revels tradition alive and well within our community. The day would also mark the end of our Science Week so will inevitably include our 'Family Challenge'. If you would like to be involved in this day, or have any ideas that you would like to share with us, please do get in touch with me.

## ATTENDANCE

Well done to everyone for helping to ensure that our attendance across the federation continues to improve. At the end of last term, we achieved 96.3% at Lynton, 97.1% at Kentisbury and 96.9% at Parracombe; a vast improvement upon this time last year. The two-week half-term break in the Autumn term certainly seems to have reduced the level of illness normally experienced at the end of the Autumn and beginning of the Spring term and hopefully this will be replicated next year. Next year the additional week of holiday will be after the normal half-term break to ensure an even number of weeks within each half term. It is anticipated that families wishing to benefit from a slightly cheaper holiday will be able to make use of this additional week as authorisation of term-time holiday is now only permissible in exceptional circumstances. Terms dates for next year have been circulated but further copies can be obtained for the school office.

## USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Could I please remind you that the federation provides guidelines on the parental use of social media. This has been previously circulated and is also available on our website and from our school offices. It is imperative that these guidelines are adhered to and that users of social media such as Facebook bear in mind that even comments made between 'friends' can end up in the public domain. In particular, the naming of children directly or through association or posting images of children who attend the federation without parental consent is not acceptable. Nor is posting comments which may place children at risk of harm or which could be deemed to be cyber-bullying. I very much hope that, in the interests of the safety of all of our children, I can rely upon all parents/carers to follow our guidelines.

## SWIMMING

Towards the end of the summer term, every child within the federation will undertake an intensive swimming programme. The sessions will be held at West Buckland swimming pool and be run by Aquarius Swim School. Further details regarding these sessions will be sent home shortly. It is very important that the questions regarding your child's swimming ability are answered accurately in order that all of the children are placed within the appropriate swimming groups. We will also have use of the sports hall at West Buckland and whilst not swimming or changing, Sophie Hill will be running PE sessions to enable our children to enjoy the high quality facilities available. There will be no charge for these sessions as the cost of them is being met by the PE and Sport Premium Funding, a legacy from the 2012 Olympic Games.

Jayne Peacock  
Executive Headteacher

*In collective worship we have been thinking about how the school curriculum provides a 'window' for worship. We have been looking at the world of Mathematicians thinking about what makes us wonder; for example, can everything be measured by mathematics? What about faith, hope and love? We have been praying for family, friends and pets who are poorly; the refugees in France, especially the children; and for all those who are less fortunate than ourselves.*

### **Class news – Streams**

#### **Changing the reading books**

Thank you to all those parents who are supporting their children's learning by reading daily with their children. It has a huge impact on their learning and allows them to apply their learning from each day's phonics lessons.

We would like to offer parents the opportunity to change their child's reading book before school or after school. Your child is allocated a book band 'colour'; If you are unsure of the book band your child is on then the staff will be happy to help you with this. When your child has finished their book please use the labelled draws in the stream's shared area to choose another book from that book band colour. This is a lovely opportunity to choose a book together and find the books that you feel will really capture your child's imagination. When we read with your child during the school day we will change the book if needed.

#### **This term's topic**

Our topic this term shall be 'Oh I do like to be by the seaside'. We shall be learning about marine animals, seaside habitats and a vast array of other ocean themed learning. A topic map explaining this in more detail shall be sent out next week.

#### **As part of our work this term we would be grateful for junk modelling materials.**

Mr Mackenzie

### **Class news – Rivers**

Rivers class are very enthusiastic about this term's theme. We are on our way to Rio and getting ready for the Olympic Games 2016. We're going via other countries and Europe (including Russia, France and Greece) to learn about trade links, language, the Greek's influence on our country and finding out about food supply to our shops and supermarkets, both locally and further afield. We'll also study healthy lifestyles and diet. We're particularly looking at Fair Trade and the principles behind helping farmers and other industry in other countries get a fair deal for their work and products.

We are focusing on spelling and grammar for a couple of weeks in literacy before writing persuasive letters to convert people to buying Fair Trade (we hope!). We've been using a variety of calculation methods to solve addition and subtraction problems and how rounding and estimation can help us to check our answers in maths.

We have a busy time ahead and lots to fit in before the end of the school year, but the children are already showing a real interest in their learning and what lies ahead.

Mrs Roper and Mrs Hamer

### **Class news – Oceans**

This Friday some of us from years 5 and 6 and 4 are competing in a football competition in Ilfracombe. We wish all of them taking part good luck and hope they enjoy the experience.

We are focussing on a sequence about myths and exploring the passive voice in order to add emphasis to our writing. We are enjoying it so far and looking forward to writing our own myths in various styles. Through this sequence we will explore modern day versions as well as those from ancient Greece. We will also be recapping

In maths we are consolidating our knowledge of multiplication whilst finding the areas of regular and irregular shapes. Later on we will be applying this knowledge to find out dimensions from areas and volumes of 3D objects. This will be linked to a brief look at Archimedes and moments of "Eureka".

SATs are on the week commencing the 9<sup>th</sup> of May and this year we are taking a new style of test. We are preparing well and do not need to be overly concerned about them at all. We are starting to plan the SATs breakfasts and really looking forward to getting it all over with. After then we are going to have lots of

adventures! On our return from half-term, we will be perfecting our acting and singing talents, as the cast of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", our summer production this year.

How you can help at home:

Literacy – We need to practice converting verbs from present to past and future tenses.

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 – We need to practice converting distances, weights, time and capacities. Please take opportunities to ask children how many m in a Km, how many g in a Kg, etc.

Sincerely,

Ms. Adams

### **Class news – Young Buds**

Young Buds are raring to go after the Easter break and what a term we have in store for them. Our new theme is 'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside' which the children are already thoroughly enjoying. We have a beach cafe as our role play area and all of our continuous provision challenges are activities linked to the seaside in various ways. We are busy planning lots of exciting trips to enable Young Buds to learn as much about the seaside as possible, details of these will follow once confirmed.

In literacy, we will be story writing using our current book is 'Sharing a shell'. If you have any story books that are based at the seaside, under or on the sea please bring them in for your children to share with the class.

In maths, we are working on division and data handling. We will be revisiting time this term so any practise the children can get at home to remind them of what they have already learned would be fantastic. During science, the children will be exploring floating and sinking and will move on to raft building in design and technology.

We would also like to give a huge welcome to our new reception intake that have started their transition sessions. It is wonderful to spend time with you and Young Buds love helping the younger children to feel at home in school.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Pile.

### **Class news – Oaks**

The children have come back to school refreshed and reenergised ready to learn, after the Easter break. This an important term for Year 6 especially, as it is their last term before moving onto secondary school. They will soon start passing down their responsibilities and teaching their peers how to be good role models within the federation.

Our new theme is 'Road to Rio', looking at; global connections, Ancient Greece (origin of the Olympics), North and South America (in more detail Brazil), the Olympics and healthy lifestyles through diet and exercise. The home-learning tasks were sent out last week, the core task will complement a project the children will be working on in school. Over the coming weeks, children will be researching the Rio Carnival and as part of the creative curriculum will be designing and making their own costume to wear to our very own Rio Carnival. As part of the project children will be collecting recycled goods which they could use to form part of their costume.

This week we had a visit from the North Devon orthodontists, who shared their knowledge about healthy eating, looking after our teeth and needing braces in later life. They also taught the children about the effect sugar has on our teeth and which foods and drinks we should only consume in moderation due to high sugar content. This reiterates the children's learning from the previous week and sugar in our diets and making sensible choices. We also looked at healthier alternatives and made our own 'wholemeal pitta pizza faces!'



If any parents or members of the community think they can provide a valuable learning experience to the children, which is related to our summer theme please get in touch.

As part of healthy eating, we will be starting to grow our own fruit and vegetables in the school garden which when harvested we intend to cook a healthy meal. If you have any seeds or bulbs for donation they would be very gratefully accepted.

In literacy, we are focusing on 'Greek Myths', the children will be planning, writing, editing and sharing their own version of a Greek myth. *You can support your child by researching Greek myths, gods and goddess' and cities within Greece.*

In maths, we will be focusing on multiplication and division, revising methods previously learnt and applying it to a context through problem solving. *You can support your child by learning time's table facts and the related division facts at home.*

Finally, now the weather is improving it is vital that all children have a labelled water bottle and sun hat in school at all times.

Many thanks,  
Miss Hill.

### **Class News– Oaks Years 3 and 4**

We are currently exploring Greek Myths and will be doing so for the next few weeks. The children are looking forward to writing their own, having plenty of ideas for their monsters already!

During maths we are about to investigate the relationship between multiplication and division.

#### **How can you help at home?**

As always, working through their multiplication tables will help enormously.

It would be great if you have the opportunity to research and share a Greek myth at home. As the children are discovering, there are many to be enjoyed!

Many Thanks,  
Lisa Hamer

### **Little Berries News**

Our Little Berries have returned from the Easter break to a world of Mini beasts. We are using the lovely Spring weather to spend lots of time outside where the children are thoroughly enjoying the new outdoor nature area. Our mud kitchen has been serving up delicacies such as mud pie and Tiger soup! We have been down to the Forest school area on mini beast hunts and the children are enjoying painting their own mini beast pebbles.



All of the children are enjoying our new routine of joining the older children at lunchtime and our school starters have begun their transition days down in Reception where they are joining the older children on a Monday morning and a Thursday afternoon.

The toddler group will now continue to run at Little Berries on a Thursday afternoon from 1–3pm.  
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.

### 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.

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel

### Dates for your diary

24.04.16	Meet the Life Guard assemblies- Lynton 9.30am, Parracombe 11.00am, Kentsibury 1.00pm
02.05.16	May bank Holiday
03.05.16	Whole School photograph @ Kentisbury for Little Berries, Kentisbury and Parracombe children.
09.05.15	Y6 SATs Week
13.05.16	Y6 Rounder's Competition @ Ilfracombe Academy
17.05.16	Whole School photograph @ Lynton
19.05.16	Y5/6 Kwik Cricket Tournament @ Instow Cricket Club
23.05.16	Science & Internet Safety Week
30.05.16	Half term, back to school on Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June
07.06.16	Y7 Junior Lifeguard Day @ Putsborough
08.06.16	Y2 Tennis event @ Tarka Tennis Centre
20.06.16	Y5/6 Beach Soccer Taster Day
22/29.06.16	Y6 Bikeability
28/29.06.16	Life Education Bus
04.07.16	Federation Sports Day @ Kentisbury
05.07.16	Ilfracombe Academy Induction Day for Y6
06.07.16	Y5/6 Trip to Essex Dance
07.07.16	Swimming programme begins
14.07.16	Summer Production – Charlie & the Chocolate Factory (tbc)
21.07.16	Leavers Service/Last Day of Summer Term

## Community

### St Mary's Parachute Jump!

Friends of St Mary's Church, Parracombe are holding a fund raising day, Monday 30th May including a Teddy Bears parachute jump.

### Gemma Bowen Runs the London Marathon



On the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016 I will be running this year's London marathon. That's over 26 miles! I'm raising money for a charity that's especially close to my heart 'Breast cancer now'. Less than a year ago, in my second year of uni, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Unless you've been there yourself you have no idea of how this diagnosis changes you as a person. Your entire outlook on life changes. I was 32. I had

no choice but to have a total left sided mastectomy. Not only did I go through diagnosis and surgery as a single mum, I also continued on my nursing degree at the same time. I have yet to have my second operation in the summer to have my right breast removed. Some of you know me well enough to realise that cancer does not frighten me! I flatly refuse to let it win. My early diagnosis and surgery meant that I have survived cancer not once but twice! And best of all I will be around a long time yet to spend quality years with my two children. Other people aren't so lucky. Every 45 minutes another woman dies from breast cancer. So in the time it takes you to do your weekly shop at Tesco that's at least 2 lives lost! We can do something about

this. Help me to raise money for 'Breast cancer now'. I'll do the hard part; **I'll run every single mile** (dressed as super woman no less). Your part is easy **all you have to do is sponsor me** you can use the paper copy at Lynton school or go online and look for my 'Just giving page' <https://www.justgiving.com/Gemma-Hampshire1>

Thank you, Gemma Bowen, Izzy's mum x

Lynton & Lynmouth Bowls Club

The Lynton & Lynmouth Bowls Club will be holding a fun, 'Have a Go' session to introduce both young and old to the sport. It will be held at the club on 4<sup>th</sup> June from 2.30pm – 4pm and you just need to turn up; everything you need will be provided. The session will be followed by tea/coffee and cake!