



# West Exmoor Federation

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

17.6.16

Dear Parents/Carers

## **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR THE QUEEN**

It was lovely to see the children celebrating the Queen's Birthday last Friday. The children from Lynton, together with the KS2 children from Parracombe and Kentisbury, took part in a lovely Church Service at St Mary's. We were treated to an over-view of the Queen's Life by Streams; a choral version of AA Milne's Buckingham Palace by Rivers; and prayers by Oceans and Oaks. The Key Stage 1 children from Parracombe and Kentisbury spent the morning baking red, white and blue fairy cakes and in the afternoon they had a 'tea-party'. Little Berries spent the morning making crowns and flags and then joined the tea party during which they sang and performed an Action Rhyme about the Royal Family and the Young Buds sang the National Anthem. At both the Church Service and the Tea Party the choir sang – they seem to become more confident with each and every performance and it's a true delight to hear them sing.

## **LIFE EDUCATION BUS**

The Life Education mobile classroom (Life Bus) will be making its annual visit to us next week (28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> June). Life Education Wessex is a specialist charity provider of Health and Drug Education and all of the children from across the federation will take part in interactive, fun and age-appropriate programmes that will help them to understand the wonders of the human body and how to look after it. Children in KS1 will learn about healthy eating, being a good friend and the safe use of medicines. Children in KS2 will consider the effects and risks associated with the use of drugs, including medicines, alcohol and tobacco. The children will also learn about the skills of friendship and how to cope with bullying and peer pressure. If you would like to find out more about Life Education, please visit [www.lifeeducationwessex.org.uk](http://www.lifeeducationwessex.org.uk)

## **TEACHER INTERVIEWS AT LYNTON – WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE**

We will be holding interviews for our new Year 3/4 teacher at Lynton on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. During the day the candidates will be asked to teach a lesson, meet with the School Council and attend a formal interview. We would like to invite parents/carers to meet the candidates prior to the interviews at 8.15am in the school hall. Tea, coffee and Danish pastries will be provided.

## **SPORTS DAY – MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

Don't forget that our annual Sports Day will be taking place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July. This year the event will be hosted by Kentisbury Primary School. The sports will begin at 10.30am and be followed by a picnic lunch on the field before the children return to their respective schools in the afternoon. Please do come along and support your children and, if you wish, join us for lunch afterwards. Fingers crossed for a dry day – should the weather be dreadful we will decide by 8.30am as to whether or not we will cancel the event.

## **SUN SCREEN & HATS**

It's a pity that the sun seems to have vanished from the sky today, but let's hope that it's just a brief blip and that summer will return over the weekend. With the sun now at its strongest, I would like to remind you that all children should come to school with a sun hat and wearing a covering of sun-cream. Children should also bring into school a named bottle of sun cream to self-administer during the course of the day. If the sun is particularly strong, we may have no alternative but to exclude children without sun hats and/or sun cream from taking part in activities that are held outdoors.

## **CHANGES TO STAFFING**

In recent months the Governors have been tasked by the Local Authority to streamline some of our non-teaching support (this is a process that many schools are currently being asked to go through). As a result, the Governors undertook an extensive review of non-teaching provision across the federation and, following advice

from the Local Authority, put together a new staffing structure. The proposed structure was put forward to staff and unions for consultation and approved earlier this term. During the course of the consultation, Betty Wilde and Serena Kirkman both put themselves forward for voluntary redundancy to take effect from September and this has now been approved by the Governors and the Local Authority. Betty has served Lynton Primary School for nearly 30 years and will be greatly missed by us all – she takes with her a huge wealth of experience and I'm certainly trying to figure out how to take a photocopy of all the information that she holds in her head!! Serena has also been a longstanding member of staff, joining the Parracombe team in 2000, and will be equally missed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Betty and Serena for the dedication and commitment that they have shown to their respective schools and the federation over the years. There will still be an administrator at Lynton as we will be appointing a new Administrative Assistant for September who will provide basic admin support to Wendy, Jacqui and Mel and provide 'front of house' support to parents/carers, children and staff. Should you wish to discuss any of these changes with me, please do not hesitate to do so.

## ATTENDANCE

Thank you to everyone who has continued to assist us in maintaining a much improved level of attendance. Unfortunately, in recent weeks there has been a slight decline from the end of the Spring Term with Lynton decreasing from 96.3% to 95.9%; Parracombe decreasing from 96.9% to 96.3%; and Kentisbury decreasing from 97.1% to 95.6%. Obviously we do not want any child to come to school if they are genuinely unwell, but I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the findings below that stress just how important good school attendance is to the educational success of children.

### **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.

Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock  
Executive Headteacher

*In collective worship we have been continuing to think about how the school curriculum provides a 'window' for worship. We have been looking at the world of Music and Art, considering the awe and wonder that both can create and how they enable us to communicate without the need for spoken words. We have been praying for family and friends of Jo Smith; the teams participating in the Euros and praying that their fans will all behave responsibly; and for those who are less fortunate than ourselves.*

<b><u>Class news – Streams</u></b>
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Mr Mackenzie
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### Class news – Rivers

Rivers class are busy writing Greek myths at the moment and enjoying creating evil mythical creatures, heroes/heroiness and imaginary places. I've been so impressed with their enthusiasm for writing and I gave way today (Wednesday) to pressure to "please can we continue writing after playtime?" So nice to hear. We are also looking at other ways the Greeks have influenced our country, i.e. architecture and the Olympic Games. We will then move on to this year's Olympics in Rio. A big thank you goes to Carla from Lee Abbey, who is from Brazil and came in to speak to our class and Oceans about some the aspects of life in her country. We all learnt such a lot, including us teachers.

Rivers are also working very hard on their understanding of fractions (not an easy concept) and finding fractions of amounts and equivalent fractions.

Our Russian nesting dolls are almost complete with some very interesting designs of their own. We have been listening to the opera, The Snow Maiden, by the Russian composer Rimsky-Korsokov, whilst painting. They enjoyed hearing about the legend that the music tells. We're also listening to other classical music by Russian composers. They have quite an ear for the stories told through the music.

We are looking forward to our debate next Thursday about "What the pros and cons are to belonging to any group or community". This is linked with an awareness of the EU referendum using ideas brought in from home and ones discussed in school. We may have some budding public speakers amongst us!

Thank you to all the football fans out there who have supported the children in keeping track of the Euro2016 in France. Our score sheet is developing nicely and has given the children the opportunity to find co-ordinates and neighbouring countries in atlases and will also help with their maths when we get nearer to the finals. We're hoping England get past the game this week unscathed (but not holding our breath). We also have a French student coming into class over the next two weeks who will support MFL (Modern Foreign Language) and geography through sharing other aspects of life in France.

Mrs Roper and Mrs Hamer

### Class news – Oceans

Whilst yr 6 have been developing life skills on Puttsborough beach, yr 5 have been taking their first look at yr6 papers. They felt that they are very doable and not half as bad as they thought. Some people even said that they quite liked them.

We have started play rehearsals in earnest now and we are all very excited about this year's production "Charlie and the chocolate factory" characters are learning lines, songs are being practiced and the town hall is booked!

In maths we are focusing on core functions but exploring efficiency and real life contexts. We will be sending our work to the maths team at Ilfracombe academy to share our explanations, understanding and to develop our mathematics even further.

Sincerely,

Sarah Adams



### Class news – Young Buds

We have a very exciting term ahead of us in which Young Buds will be learning all about the Olympics. We started with an immersion week that involved lots of fun packed activities to introduce the children to the Games as they are too young to really remember London 2012. This included a special Teddy Bear Olympics day which the children (and their teddy bears) thoroughly enjoyed! During the day they made wooden discus' using a saw, their own javelin using knives, and even their own hurdles using twigs and string. They then used all the equipment they had made to compete in various events and running races. A fantastic day was had by all.



As part of this topic we will also be learning about healthy eating and the different food groups. We will be cooking and tasting some of the fantastic vegetables that are currently growing in our school garden. The children have already dug up some potatoes which they all agreed were the best potatoes that they had ever had! We also plan to make our own Rio style carnival head dresses and musical instruments.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Pile

### Class news – Oaks

We have started the last half term of the year with a bang!

Before half term we received some exciting news – Tilly, Lillie, Isla, Isabelle and Jade's writing has been chosen to be printed in a book published by Young Writers. They entered a competition a while ago and have received the news that their short stories have been chosen for publication! This is a huge achievement and we are all very proud of them – well done girls!

Last week I took the year 6 children to Putsborough beach for the day to learn about how to become a junior lifeguard – we had a fantastic day, learning the basics of surfing, rescuing someone from the sea, first aid and exploring the rock pools.



The school garden has been transformed over the past few weeks; we have a wide range of fruit and vegetables growing along with many new plants and flowers. The children have taken care and are nurturing the garden. We are currently having a tomato investigation and a mini challenge – to see if adding salt to the compost will encourage the growth of tomato seeds.

We have a busy few weeks ahead of us and it is important the children stay focused on their learning to get the most out of the following weeks. At the end of term we will celebrate with the school production, children will soon be bringing home their lines if they have a speaking part along with costume ideas. Please continue to support your child at home with their weekly homework and daily reading.

Many Thanks,  
Miss Hill

We have been busy investigating Fair trade this week as part of our persuasive writing learning.

In numeracy we are continuing to investigate the properties of shape and coordinates.

We look forward to a very busy and exciting term ahead!

Lisa Hamer

### Little Berries News

What a busy couple of weeks we have had! Our Little Berries finished off the last half term with a wonderful trip to the Queens theatre to watch The Gruffalos child; the performance was fantastic and it was an amazing experience for the children.

The children have all returned from the half term break to a Summer, seaside and beach theme. This has seen us making a giant sunshine, our investigation area is currently sand, sea shells and pirate ships and the children are doing lots of name recognition from pebbles with their names written on.

Last week saw us making lots of very pretty crowns and flags as well as the children learning a new song as part of the Queen's Birthday celebrations.

We still have copies of the Little Berries group photo for sale at £12.50. If you would like a copy then please bring the money in a named envelope and we can give you a copy.

Finally, a reminder that the Baby and Toddler group is still running at Little Berries every Thursday from 1–3pm.

Many thanks

Your Little Berries team

### Admin News

#### **VACANT POSITIONS**

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

#### **Lynton Primary School – Admin Vacancy**

We are looking to appoint a new administrator at Lynton to support our admin team across the federation. The successful candidate will have excellent communication, administrative, organisational and IT skills. A GCSE or equivalent level in English and Maths is required. Minute taking experience is desirable. The post is a Grade B position (£7.20 per hour) and is for 32.5 hours per week, term time only (38 weeks). Please email [admin@westexmoorfederation.org.uk](mailto:admin@westexmoorfederation.org.uk) or telephone 01271 883263 for further information. Applications should be made via a handwritten letter together with a current CV including two referees. Within the

federation we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. A DBS disclosure is required for this post. Closing Date: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Parracombe Primary School – Mealtime Assistant** Required as soon as possible. Hours – 1 per day. Pay – £7.20 per hour. If interested please contact Jacqui in the school office.

**Parracombe Primary School – Cleaner Required**

Devon Norse have a vacancy for a Cleaner at Parracombe Primary School. You will be responsible for carrying out general cleaning duties including mopping, vacuuming, dusting etc to ensure that the School is maintained to the highest standard. You will be contracted to work 9 hours per week, Monday to Friday, for 41 weeks per year, working term time plus 1 week at Easter and 2 weeks in the summer. Full training and uniform will be provided. This position is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure, cost of which will be met by the employer. Working times are 1 hr 48 mins per day – usually evenings but flexible cleaning times can be arranged. Monthly Pay: – £245.16

For an informal chat regarding this vacancy please contact Ross Swinton on 07825 532445 or to request an application form please phone 01392 351160

**Lynton Primary School – Relief Catering Support**

In September we are taking over the running of our school meal service from DevonNorse. This will provide us with far greater flexibility and enable us to offer our children a locally sourced, healthy and balanced diet that best suits their needs and preferences. Jayne Hoskins and Vicky Sprigg will continue to run our service, but we are looking for a small number of local people to join a ‘supply bank’ to provide short-notice cover in the event of either Jayne or Vicky being absent. If you would be interested in joining our ‘supply bank’, please contact Jayne Hoskins via Lynton School on 01598 753309.

**TRIPS/ACTIVITIES**

During the summer term there are many activities and trips happening across the federation, so there will be letters coming home frequently that require permission slips etc. Please check with your child, if they have received any letters and return the slips to school asap.

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel

**Dates for your diary**

20.06.16	Y5/6 Beach Soccer Taster Day
22&27.06.16	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**

Exmoor Stumblers will be holding a “Bric a Brac” sale and Strawberry Tea in aid of Unicef, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June at Parracombe park



## Lynton and Lynmouth Events

DAY	DATE	NAME	GENRE	PROMOTER	LOCATION
SUNDAY	19 JUNE	EMMA by Jane Austen	OUTDOOR THEATRE	The Plough Arts Centre	MANOR GREEN, LYNMOUTH
SATURDAY	25 JUNE	CALVERT COASTAL 100	CYCLING EVENT	CALVERT TRUST EXMOOR	WISTLAND-POUND RESERVOIR
SATURDAY	25 JUNE	CALVERTSTOCK	MUSIC FESTIVAL	CALVERT TRUST EXMOOR	BLACKMOOR GATE
WEDNESDAY	29 JUNE	THE RAILWAY CHILDREN	OUTDOOR THEATRE	Chapter House Theatre Co.	MANOR GREEN, LYNMOUTH
SUNDAY	3 JULY	EXMOOR SPORTIVE	CYCLING EVENT	Exmoor Sportive	LYNMOUTH MANOR
SUNDAY	17 JULY	TOTAL TRIUMPH	CLASSIC BIKES	Taunton Charity Ride	LYNMOUTH FORESHORE
	2 – 20 AUGUST	MACBETH by Shakespeare	OUTDOOR THEATRE	Pleasure Dome Theatre	VALLEY OF ROCKS
SATURDAY	13 AUGUST	THE TEMPEST by Shakespeare	OUTDOOR THEATRE	The Plough Arts Centre	MANOR GREEN, LYNMOUTH
FRIDAY	26 AUGUST	'THE UNEXPECTED GUEST' by Agatha Christie	THEATRE	Atlantic Theatre Company	LYNTON TOWN HALL
THURSDAY	1 SEPTEMBER	MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM by Shakespeare	OUTDOOR THEATRE	Chapter House Theatre Co.	MANOR GREEN, LYNMOUTH
SATURDAY	3 SEPTEMBER	TRI THE BEAST Half Triathlon (The Goat)	SPORTS TRIATHLON	Xman Events	MANOR GREEN, LYNMOUTH
SUNDAY	4 SEPTEMBER	TRI THE BEAST – Full Triathlon (The Beast)	SPORTS TRIATHLON	Xman Events	MANOR GREEN, LYNMOUTH
TUESDAY	6 SEPTEMBER	MARK STEEL IS 'BACK IN TOWN' BBC RADIO 4	STAND-UP COMEDY Recording + live audience	LLTC	LYNTON TOWN HALL
SUNDAY	25 SEPTEMBER	LYN FOOD FESTIVAL	FOOD FESTIVAL	LYN FOOD FESTIVAL	LYNTON TOWN HALL
FRIDAY	7 OCTOBER	KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS	MUSIC EVENT	LLTC	LYNTON TOWN HALL
SUNDAY	9 OCTOBER		SPORTS EVENT		LYN VALLEY AREA

FRIDAY	21 OCTOBER	PAPER CINEMA	CHILDRENS THEATRE	BEAFORD ARTS	LYNTON TOWN HALL
SATURDAY	12 NOVEMBER	GARY DELANEY	STAND-UP COMEDY	The Plough Arts Centre	LYNTON TOWN HALL