



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

20.07.2016

Dear Parents/Carers

MUSINGS

It seems hard to believe that the end of another school year is upon us and that once again we are preparing to say Goodbye to our Year 6 children as they move on to the next stage in their education. This year we have children moving on to Ilfracombe Academy, Pilton Community College and West Buckland School and we all wish them much success and happiness and pray that their hopes and dreams for the future are fulfilled. Thank you for sharing your children with us and entrusting them into our care. It has been our privilege to support and guide them during their informative primary years and to watch them grow and flourish into the amazing young people that they have become.

The end of the academic year is always a time of great reflection and this year is no exception. It has not been an easy year. The education system has been buffeted around by a Government that has aspired to educational excellence for all through a new curriculum with a more rigorous testing regime. I am not at all opposed to the desire to enable every child to excel; as parents we want our children to achieve their very best. However, it has felt as though the system laid at our feet was being constructed whilst we navigated our way through the year with guidance from the DfE not being provided until the year was underway and then undergoing numerous 'tweaks' as the year progressed. Our Year 6 children took tests that, were considerably harder than those taken in previous years and for which they had only studied two years of a six-year curriculum. However, despite these challenges, every Year 6 child rose admirably to the task in hand and, across the federation, collectively they have attained above the national average; true testament to their hard work, as well as that of their teachers and teaching assistants and of which they should all be incredibly proud.

In an educational climate that is so driven by test results it would be easy for us to focus purely upon those subject areas that we are judged by. However, I am extremely proud of the fact that as the year has progressed we have maintained a broad and balanced curriculum with opportunities for all children to shine. Our summer production was true testament to that with every child taking an active part and fully immersing themselves into a world of dance, drama, song and imagination. Equally our intensive sports and swimming programme at West Buckland over the last three weeks has really inspired our children and it has been wonderful to see them all make such incredible progress. These are the events and activities that our children will remember long into adult hood and which help shape our children and enable them to develop as life-long learners.

LYNTON BUILDING WORKS

Over the summer holiday there is some fairly extensive building work taking place at Lynton. The Key Stage Two toilets are being completely remodelled and refurbished to provide the children with a changing room/cloakroom area and separate toilet facilities. The practical area adjacent to our Year 3/4 classroom is also undergoing a substantial make-over, as is our library. You may well have noticed some of the 'awesome' furniture that has been delivered this week and I can't wait to see how this transforms our library space.

WALKING WITH DINOSAURS – SUMMER HOME LEARNING PROJECT

Next term the entire federation will be following the same theme, Walking with Dinosaurs. To kick start the term we will be holding an enrichment day at Lynton School on Monday 5th September. During the day the children will take part in called Sophie as she prepares to start a new school. During the summer holiday it would be wonderful if your child could design and make a dinosaur mask to bring into school on the 5th September to enable us all to enter into the spirit of the day.

NEW ADMINISTRATOR

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have appointed Mrs Vikki Brown as our new administrator at Lynton. Vikki will take up her post on 2nd September 2016 and we very much look forward to welcoming her to the team.

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Holly Rose who has just passed Stage 3 Musical Theatre and Grade 4 Ballet. This is a remarkable achievement, especially as she took both exams the week prior to our performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory! Well done Holly and we look forward to you taking another leading role in our production next year.

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who works or volunteers within the federation for their incredible commitment and hard work throughout the year. We have three good schools that really do provide our children with the best possible opportunities and this wouldn't be possible without everyone working so hard for the good of the children. A special thanks must obviously go to Betty Wilde and Serena Kirkman who both leave at the end of this term; as well as to Anne Roper who has been a steady constant to Rivers throughout Jim Doherty's absence. I really do feel blessed to have such a dedicated team who so clearly care about our children.

FINALLY

I hope that you all have a wonderful summer break and that you are all able to enjoy some precious family time. I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school on Friday 2nd September.



Jayne Peacock
Executive Head teacher

Class news – Streams

Mr Mackenzie

Class news – Rivers

What a busy couple of weeks we have had! The children did themselves proud during Sports Day and have put a huge amount of effort into our Charlie and the Chocolate Factory production rehearsals.

It has been wonderful welcoming our soon-to-be year threes during our transition sessions. We have enjoyed writing chocolate inspired poetry and pricing up Willy Wonka inspired treats.

I would like to say what a pleasure it has been to teach years three and four this past year. It has been a joy to share in their enthusiasm and see their many achievements as a result of all their hard work.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you a wonderful summer and look forward to an exciting term ahead

Mrs Hamer

Class news – Oceans

Using the sporting facilities at West Buckland has been amazing. The faces of the pupils, as they entered the full-size sports hall were something to behold. Their progression in both swimming and controlled movements has been equally amazing. Although it is the end of term we have still been very busy preparing and practising our school production. As well as this we are creating our school leaver's book and thinking a lot about all the things that have happened over the past 6 years within the Federation in readiness for our school leaver's service on Thursday next week.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped us in Oceans this year. The current year 6 have a large character and have been a joy to work with. They will be sorely missed within the Federation. I would also like to say thank you to Gilliam Hall, Steph Ryder, Julie and Bernard Robins.

Sarah Adams

Class news – Young Buds

Well what a hectic few weeks it's been! All members of Young Buds have impressed us with how well they have coped with the busy end to the year. Thank you so much to all those of you who came to watch the children perform in 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', they made fantastic Oompa Loompa's we think you'll agree! The children have also loved their swimming lessons and the progress they have made is fantastic. If your child wasn't a particularly confident swimmer beforehand now is a great time to build on what they have learnt and living in a coastal area this is such an important life skill. The children have worked so hard at all areas of their learning this year and as we approach the holidays we would like to request that regular reading is kept up over the holidays as in six weeks children can forget an awful lot and it would be such a shame for them to return in September having 'gone back'. Finally Mrs Pile and I would like to thank you all for your continued support this year, we will miss our lovely Year 2's so much but look forward to hearing about their progress at Parracombe and are excited to continue the learning journey with Reception and Year 1. We hope you all have a fantastic holiday and the sun shines for us all!



Mrs Smith and Mrs Pile

Class news – Oaks

As we approach the end of the school year, I reflect upon the amazing year we have experienced in Oaks class. It has been wonderful watching the children grow and mature over the year, taking in those 'awe and wonder' moments. Everyone in Oaks Class would like to wish Charlie, Riley and Rhian the best of luck as they move onto secondary school in September and would like to thank them for their quirky personalities and outstanding talents they have brought to the school throughout the past year – it has been a pleasure to teach you!

It is with great sadness that we also say goodbye a talented member of staff, Serena Kirkman. Oaks Class wish you all the best with your future plans and adventures. I know the children will truly miss your presence when they return in September.

This week I had the pleasure of taking Rhian and Charlie on a PE Gifted and Talented trip to Bath University. We had a tour of the outstanding facilities, even getting a glimpse of GB athletes training. They also had a Judo lesson, led by two GB Judo players who are training for the 2020 Olympics. Followed by a badminton and volleyball taster session. The children were inspired by the training village; hopefully this will allow them to aspire to their potential sporting abilities.



Next week, we are swimming at West Buckland on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday morning, we are joining Lynton to celebrate the children's home-learning followed by our own 'Rio Carnival'. Finally, on Thursday we will start the day with the leaver's service held at St. Mary's Church Lynton.

Have a brilliant, relaxing summer and I look forward to welcoming the children back in September.

Many Thanks,

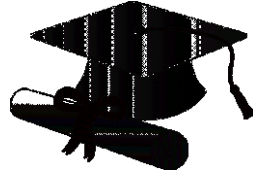
Miss Hill.

What a busy couple of weeks we have had! The children did themselves proud during Sports Day and have

put a huge amount of effort into our Charlie and the Chocolate Factory production rehearsals. It has been wonderful welcoming our soon-to-be year threes during our transition sessions. We have enjoyed writing chocolate inspired poetry and pricing up Willy Wonka inspired treats. I would like to say what a pleasure it has been to teach years three and four this past year. It has been a joy to share in their enthusiasm and see their many achievements as a result of all their hard work. Thank you for your continued support. I wish you a wonderful summer and look forward to an exciting term ahead!

Lisa Hamer

Little Berries News



So the time is here for us to wish a fond farewell to our eldest Little Berries. We wish them every happiness and good luck in September.

A reminder that our first day back is Friday 2nd September 2016. We hope that all of you have a wonderful Summer break and we look forward to seeing you then.

Your Little Berries team.

Admin News

VACANT POSITIONS

Parracombe Primary School – Mealtime Assistant Required as soon as possible. Hours – 1 per day. Pay – £7.58 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 Devon Norse. 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.

WEF Governing Body

The government have recently made changes to the regulations of governing bodies. The new legislation requires a federation of 3 schools or more to have only 2 positions for parent governors. So the 2 parents that are currently in place are serving all parents/carers from across the federation and not for specific sites. The governors would like to all parents/carers to be aware that regardless of the position on the governing body, all are available to offer support/help and advice.

GOVERNOR VACANCY

We have 2 long standing Governor's, Karen Birch & Kate Robinson who will unfortunately be leaving the federation, Karen & Kate will be sorely missed, they have both been very active, committed and valued member's of the governing body. Both Kate & Karen will be moving away to start a new life with their families in the near future. We wish them every happiness.

We are now looking for 2 new governors's to become part of our successful existing governing body.



The West Exmoor Federation is looking for 2 Co Opted Governor's 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 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.

You will become part of a team of successful governors working together to support the Federation. There are many training opportunities within the federation and beyond to help you fulfil this role. 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) 01598 763338.

A MESSAGE FROM THE KITCHEN

The first day back at school (Friday 2nd September) Pupils will be offered a Fish and Chip meal. Menus for the new term will be sent home with the children on the first day back.

LULWORTH COVE RESIDENTIAL

The final payment of £50 is now overdue, please send in payment asap. Cheques should be made payable to DCC.

Many thanks

LONDON RESIDENTIAL

The final payment of £55.00 will be due the first week back to school in September, but it would be very much appreciated if payment could be made before the end of term if at all possible.

Many thanks.

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui & Mel would like to thank you for your support during the last year and wish you all a lovely holiday.

Our best wishes to year 6 pupils that will be leaving us, we will miss you very much.

Wendy, Bett, Jacqui and Mel

Dates for your diary

21.07.16 Leavers Service/Last Day of Summer Term

02.09.16 1ST day of term.

COMMUNITY

BIKEABILITY IN THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVERS!

If your child is heading for secondary school in September, you can now sign up your child for Bikeability Level 3 during the summer holidays. This free and fun four hour cycling course truly prepares your child for cycling to college! Sessions run from Barnstaple, Bideford, Braunton, Holsworthy, Okehampton, South Molton and Torrington, so there is always a course running near you!

Did your child not have the opportunity to do Bikeability Level 1 and 2 at primary school yet? We also run a two-day catch up course in Barnstaple!

All courses are fully funded by Department for Transport in partnership with Devon County Council and delivered by your local provider Westcountry Cycle training. Feel free to sign up your child with a friend; we'll then allocate them in the same group!

Dates of all courses are available via www.westcountrycycletraining.co.uk/whatson.html and on Facebook; look for West country Cycle Training. All places must be booked in advance via email: westcountrycycletraining@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

South Molton Fatstock Show, Sunday 04 December.

Once again, we are hoping to produce a 2017 Calendar to sell with the proceeds going towards our chosen charity, which has yet to be decided.

The theme for the calendar is 'Country Life' and we thought it would be a good idea to encourage children of primary school age to take part. We are therefore writing to all primary schools in the area to enlist their help.

We would like the children to take a digital photograph during the summer holidays depicting the theme and for the school to chose the best one/two photograph/s overall. Once all entries have been submitted along with the child's name, age group and primary school, the Fatstock Show Committee will select the 12 photographs to be used for the calendar and inform the successful participants accordingly. Entries need to be with us by early September and should be forwarded to m.edwards@auctionmarts.com.

THE READING AGENCY AND LIBRARIES PRESENT

THE BIG Friendly READ

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2016

Libraries in Devon are celebrating 100 years of the world's favourite storyteller – Roald Dahl. The Big Friendly Read, Summer Reading Challenge 2016, launches on **Saturday 16th July** and is open to all children aged 4–11 years.

If your children are interested, please pop into your local library at any time during the summer holidays and your children can sign up to the Summer Reading Challenge and get a free collector folder. They are then ready to start collecting the special Big Friendly Read cards. The cards include Quentin Blake illustrations from some of Roald Dahl's best-loved stories – you can collect all six cards as you read any library books of your choice. It's fun, it's friendly and, best of all, it's totally FREE. More information relating to the Big Friendly Read can be found at www.bigfriendlyread.org.uk