



# West Exmoor Federation

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

16.09.2016

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you have all had a good summer and that, when possible, you've been able to enjoy the sun when it has shined. It's been lovely to welcome the children back to school and to see them all so refreshed and ready for an exciting year of learning. It's also been a true privilege to welcome our new reception children; it's amazing how quickly they have settled into the routine of school life. They all seem so happy and I certainly know that my little man is thoroughly enjoying being a 'school boy'!

## **WALKING WITH DINOSAURS**

I'm sure that it didn't escape your attention that we had an amazing Dinosaur Day last Monday. It was a truly fantastic way to start the term and a real honour for our children to work with a real-life palaeontologist. The children spent the morning working on a paleontological excavation site, locating and identifying replica fossils from some of the most iconic dinosaurs of the past. They learnt about each dinosaur's habitat, diet and location and discovered how these huge ancient reptiles - some ferocious hunters, some gentle giants - ruled the Earth for 160 million years. However, I don't think any of us can deny that the high-light of the day was a visit by Crunchy, a three-month old t-rex and his seven-year-old sister, Milly! It was an amazing experience that I am sure none of us will ever forget and it has certainly kick-started our term's theme of 'Walking with Dinosaurs' with a bang!



## **DINOSAUR OPEN MORNING**

On Friday 21st October we will be holding a Dinosaur/Science themed Open Morning across the federation. Further details will follow in our next newsletter. On the day, the children do not need to wear school uniform. However, they should be wearing something that is dinosaur related. This will be an ideal opportunity for those children who made Dinosaur Masks over the summer holiday to wear them again and, for those who didn't make mask, plenty of time to make one if they so wish.

## **RUGBYTOTS**

Streams and Young Buds thoroughly enjoyed their first Rugbytots session earlier this week. Their coach, John, was extremely impressed with all of the children and was extremely complimentary about their behaviour. We will be holding a celebratory Rugbytots session towards the end of this term so that we can showcase the skills that the children have developed. More details to follow.

## **ANCIENT ADVENTURES**

Many congratulations to Issy, Jade, Isla, Lillie and Tilly who have all had their writing published in 'Ancient Adventures'. The girls all entered a Young Writers competition when they were given the opportunity to write their own adventure in the form of a mini saga, with the challenge of keeping to 100 words. It's true testament to their creativity that their writing was selected for publication and we are all extremely proud of them. Well done girls!

## HOME READING DIARY

As you will have seen, your child has brought home a new Home Reading Diary. We are really keen to encourage every child to read at home on a regular basis and we hope that the reward system within the diary will help to motivate even our most reluctant readers. Certificates will be presented to the children in celebration assembly when they meet the milestones within the diary, with prizes being awarded to all children who manage to read at home for 200 or more nights during the course of the academic year. Please do support your child with this initiative; reading to them, or with them, or simply listening to them read is the most valuable thing that you can do to help your child progress at school. Within the Diary, there are prompts to help you support your child and if you would like any further assistance or guidance, please do not hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher. Please encourage your child to take good care of their Reading Diary. However, if they do lose it, replacements are available from the school office at the cost-charge of £3.

## RECORDERS

This year we are intending to raise the profile of music within the federation. As part of this, every child will be learning the recorder. Your child will shortly be bringing home a recorder which is theirs to keep and practice on. However, they must have it in school with them on a daily basis, so it may be advisable for it to 'live' in their book bag. We are hoping to have our first federation ensemble performance at Christmas and are all really excited about our aspiration to ensure that every child is able to read music by the time that they leave primary school. Please feel free to name your child's recorder and, as with their Reading Diary, encourage them to look after it. If necessary, replacement recorders can be purchased from the school office for £3.

## WATER BOTTLES

We have recently purchased federation water bottles for each child. Each child will be given a bottle to keep and we will ensure that they are run through the dishwasher on a weekly basis. However, if you so wish, your child may bring their bottle home for more frequent washing. All we ask is that they bring it back to school on a daily basis. If they lose their bottle, a replacement can be purchased from the school office for £2.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM & PE KITS

It has been lovely to see the children looking so smart in their uniforms over the last couple of weeks. It is an expectation that all children will wear the proper uniform; ie, grey or black skirts/trousers/shorts; white/green/gold polo-shirt with federation logo and green jumper or fleece with federation logo. Flat, black shoes should also be worn together with white/grey/black socks. We also expect all of our children to have the correct PE kit in school each day. This should consist of black shorts, white t-shirt and black/white plimsolls or trainers. Should any aspect of providing your child with the correct uniform cause you difficulty, please do not hesitate to speak with their class teacher or myself.

## MORNING ARRIVAL

I would just like to remind you that children should arrive at school between 8.30am and 8.40am in order that they are ready for morning registration by 8.45am. Supervision of children arriving earlier than 8.30am is not possible, unless they are attending the breakfast club at Little Berries or a pre-arranged breakfast club at Lynton. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock  
Executive Head teacher

*In collective worship we have been thinking about God the Father and Jesus the Son. We have also been thinking about and praying for those who are less fortunate than ourselves.*

### **Class news – Streams**

Here's what we will be learning about during the next 2 weeks. It would be great if you could talk to your children about what they will be learning about.

We will be continuing to develop our use of cursive handwriting and use of capital letters and full stops whilst writing our story about Harry and his bucketful of dinosaurs. We will also be revising the use of adjectives with the year 2 children.

In Maths we will be looking at recognising and creating patterns using shapes and numbers. We will then be learning to explain how a number can be split into tens and ones.

Our work on topic will focus on science and art over the next two weeks. We have started to explore different habitats and will be finding out about prehistoric habitats and how they differ from now. Streams will also begin to look at painting and colour mixing skills.

Mr Mackenzie

### **Class news – Rivers**

In literacy we are about to start a new text – How to Train Your Dragon. We will be using the text as a starting point for our instruction writing. You can help your child in literacy by making sure you listen to them read and ask them relevant questions regarding their understanding. I have given the children bookmarks with example questions as a prompt.

In maths we are continuing our focus on place value. One of the most useful skills is recognising thousands, hundreds, tens and units in 4-digit numbers. We will then be moving onto recognising and converting Roman Numerals.

Our topic sessions are really extending the children's knowledge and understanding of life in the Stone Age. We are will be building model caves in class and creating cave paintings in art and D.T.

Many thanks, Miss Martin.

### **Class news – Oceans**

Our themed studies started with a roar this year as we all enjoyed our first Monday, "Walking with Dinosaurs," excavating fossils and exploring the full range of dinosaurs and questioning why there was so much variety in the prehistoric world. This exciting start to the year is to be followed next week by a trip to Lulworth Cove, where we will go fossil hunting on the beaches and study the rock formations and history of the area. We are on the hunt for anyone with experiences or artefacts related to our theme which would really help to bring our learning alive and bring our local community into the classroom. Speaking of bringing our classroom alive, we are hoping to add some plants to our room and the school as a whole and would gratefully receive any cuttings or plants that could be donated to us (please no flowering plants to avoid irritating my hay-fever).

Within literacy, we are starting with a sequence about instructions, which will allow us to refresh our memories about sentence construction and extend our writing through the use of a dictionary and a thesaurus. Our presentation in all subjects is also a focus. We are working towards writing a set of instructions to help us to walk a pet dinosaur safely. In our mathematics we are also going back to the beginning and exploring numbers and the number sequence. We have been reading and writing numbers and are now ordering them and placing them on a line. In art we are experimenting with Batik and using it to make art in the style of cave art. We have started learning how to read and write music and at the same time we are learning to play the recorder. If you have a working musical instrument that you no longer want, please come and see me as I am going through our stock of instruments and trying to develop it to include wind, brass, string and percussive instruments.

Many thanks in advance for the help and support we receive this term.

**How you can help at home:**

Literacy – please 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, specifically at this stage we are looking at adverbs, prepositions and adjectives.

Reading – When reading with children, ask them to retell the story in their words to check that they are understanding what they have read. Extend their understanding by challenging them to explain or give proof to back-up the events included in their version of the story. Being able to recount a story in precis, is a key skill that is tested.

Maths – When opportunities arise, for example cooking, using timetables etc. allow children to estimate, measure and find differences of amounts / times.

Sincerely, Ms. Adams

**Class news – Young Buds**

Young Buds have been really enjoying the start of the New Academic Year. Firstly, we would like to say well done to all of our Reception children who have settled into school life brilliantly and are definitely getting used to the routines of their new school. They have been busy taking Bertie and Betsy on all sorts of wonderful adventures already including a trip to London to see the sights. Bertie and Betsy cannot wait to see what the rest of the Reception children have in store for them throughout the year.

The whole class have been enthusiastic about our current topic ‘Walking with Dinosaurs’. In literacy, we have been reading Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs Go to School, the children have then been writing their own versions of the story. In maths the children have been learning about odds and evens. We have made our own dinosaur bones out of salt dough and on Thursday, the class began making fossils which they will be able to next paint next week after they have been baked.

Currently Young Buds are taking part in Rugby Tots as part of their PE curriculum on Mondays. It is vital that they all have their full PE kits with them for those days as they will not be able to take part if they do not.

Many thanks, Mrs Smith and Mrs Pile

**Class news – Oaks**

Oaks have all made a fantastic start to the new school year! Year 3 have settled in very well and the rest of the children have all been very welcoming. We have started the term with various ‘wow’ moments to kick start our new topic, ‘Walking with Dinosaurs’. The children thoroughly enjoyed the dinosaur workshop where they were able to find and classify fossils along with meeting a tyrannosaurus rex! The following day a dinosaur footprint was found in the playground at Parracombe School and about which the children have asked many inquisitive questions. A new reading area has been created in Oaks classroom which allows the children to indulge in a magical world.

Year 5 and 6 are writing instructions in literacy, where their final piece of writing will focus on ‘how to catch a dinosaur’. They have learnt how to use prepositions, imperative verbs, time connectives, adverbs and compound sentences – all of these elements will help the children construct the writing of their instructions. In maths, we have been investigating patterns which have included positive and negative numbers, square and cube numbers, factors and prime numbers.

Finally, in PE this half term we are focusing on basic movement skills and building them up to apply to competitive games and sports. Ask your child what their movement challenge has been this week!

Please continue to support your child with their home-learning, reading and learning of times tables.

Many Thanks, Miss Hill.

Years three and four have settled in quickly to our new academic year. It has been a delight getting to know our new year three. They are an enthusiastic group with a fantastic attitude to their learning. We look forward to great things from them this year!

In maths we have been looking for patterns in number and sequences. In literacy we have been exploring

instructions and writing our own instructions for taking care of a dinosaur.  
The children have been working hard, and we are pleased to note the effort put into their home learning.  
Thank you for your continued support.  
Lisa Hamer

### **Little Berries News**

Welcome back! It is lovely to see so many of our Little Berries returning after the Summer break with tales of their Summer holidays; we hope you had a lovely break. A big welcome to our new starters; we hope you enjoy your journey with us!

Our Little Berries have begun the term as explorers as we delve into the world of dinosaurs. We have been talking about and describing dinosaurs, their time and journey on Earth, making their own dinosaurs and dinosaur worlds and looking at how to care for our very own dinosaur egg.

Our afterschool clubs and care are up and running again. Please feel free to see us if you would like to book your child/ren into any of the clubs. They are as follows:

Monday – Art and Craft

Tuesday – Sports

Wednesday – Forest school/Gardening

Thursday – Art and Crafts

Friday – Film

Please note we now have a new mobile phone in Little Berries which is solely for the use of clubs and afterschool provision. If you want your child to stay on, are running late or need to contact us for any other reason re. Clubs, please text us on 07397295457. We will not be using the phone for phone calls, solely texting but will check it regularly for any updates.

We are looking forward to the rest of the term ahead – Here's to some happy dinosaur exploring!  
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.

##### **Lynton Primary School – Relief Catering Support**

We are still looking for a small number of local people to join a 'supply bank' to provide short-notice cover in the kitchen 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.

##### **Lynton Primary School PTFA**

We need you! If you are interested in helping to raise money for worthwhile resources for the children and school, please join us. We are having a meeting on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm in the staff room at Lynton School. Please do not feel that you are committed to 'joining' just come along and see what you think. Feel free to grab me for a chat before the meeting if you would like more information.

Many Thanks, Sharla Bowden - Chair of Lynton PTFA

##### **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.





# YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

The West Exmoor Federation is looking for 2 Co Opted Governor's and 1 parent Governor 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.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

Would you please ensure that your children's school clothes, PE kit and shoes are clearly marked with their name, so that they can be easily identified if they become lost. If you are interested in purchasing name tags for this purpose, we have registered the Federation with a Company called 'My Nametags' who are able to supply stick on tags. Orders can be made on line at [www.MyNametags.com](http://www.MyNametags.com), quoting the Federation's ID number 22517. Alternatively, we do have some order forms in school, should you wish to complete an order form. A small donation will be made to the Federation each time the ID number is used.

### **NHS Y1, 2 & 3 Flu Immunisations - Reminder**

We have been informed by the NHS that they are not prepared to accept consent forms on the day of vaccination, so would you please arrange to **return these by the 23rd September.**

Many thanks.

Wendy, Vikki, Jacqui and Mel

### **Kitchen News**

As of this term we are no longer working with Devon Norse Catering. This means more freedom to design our own menus and source local and better quality produce. Our biggest change is to have all of our meat from Besshills Farm based at Arlington where everything we order is as fresh as can be.

We are still working in line with Nutritional Balanced Healthy Food and offer a mixed fruit medley 3 days a week with seasonal fruit, this week the children have all enjoyed the fresh pineapple and blueberries! If your child has any special dietary requirements, please make sure the school is informed or speak to myself in the kitchen. If you feel you would like to share an idea or recipe with the school, please contact me and we may be able to add it to the next menu due out in February.

We are also pleased to inform you that we will be continuing to offer milk, at lunchtime, to all children across the Federation.

Many thanks, Jayne Hoskins – Kitchen Manager

### **Dates for your diary**

19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016 – Lulworth Cove Residential, Year 5 & 6

30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 – 3.30pm – Lynton PTFA Meeting in Staff Room

21<sup>st</sup> October 2016 – Dinosaur Open Morning

## **COMMUNITY**

### **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 choose 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](mailto:m.edwards@auctionmarts.com).

### **Beaford Arts Centre event at Parracombe Village Hall, 8th October**

THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY, by Scratchworks, tickets and info from Karen on 01598 763276. See poster at Parracombe School.

### **Welcome to Lynton Cinema Film Club**

The club hosts a film or two a month based on members preferred choices from the avant garde to popular classics.

Membership is open to anyone wishing to join for a fee of £10 per annum, plus a £3 charge per viewing of each film the members choose to attend.

Non members will be able to attend at a fee of £5 per showing, but preference for seating will be given to members first.

Each film will be selected from a pool of films chosen by members based on the following criteria:

1. A film you have missed and would love to see on a big screen.
2. A film you have seen, but should be seen on a big screen to do it justice.
3. A film you have seen and is so fantastic you want everyone to see it.

We hope to show a diverse range of films at weekends as a matinee showing, with the occasional late night horror or Sci-Fi specials. Dependant on funds our long term plans are to provide a Saturday morning club for parents and toddlers, special showings of silent films with live soundtracks and links with local film festivals and events.

To join please contact: Lynton Cinema Film Club, C/O John Arbon Textiles, 19 Queen Street, Lynton, Devon, EX35 6AA or email [mill@jarbon.com](mailto:mill@jarbon.com) requesting a membership form.

Our next presentation is the wonderful "Philadelphia Story" on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Based on a Broadway Play, the film is about a socialite whose wedding plans are complicated by the simultaneous arrival of her ex-husband and a tabloid magazine journalist. It is considered one of the best examples of a comedy of remarriage, a genre popular in the 1930s and 1940s, in which a couple divorce, flirt with outsiders and then remarry.