



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

17.10.2016

Dear Parents/Carers

OFSTED

As you will know, Lynton was inspected by Ofsted last week. We are still awaiting our report but the initial feedback was extremely positive and we look forward to being able to share the report with you after half-term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the children, staff and governors from across the federation for working tirelessly to make the federation the vibrant learning community it now is.

HARVEST THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our Harvest Festival Services at St Mary's in Lynton and Christ Church in Parracombe. The children gave thanks and reflected on how lucky they are through songs, poetry, prayers and readings. A wonderful bounty of harvest produce was collected, all of which our Year 6 children will take to the Freedom Centre in Barnstaple to help those in our community who are less fortunate than ourselves.

OPEN MORNING

By now you should have received an invitation to our open morning on Friday 21st October. If you are able, please do come and join in with a morning of fun-filled activity. The day will start with Collective Worship at 9am and be followed by a short lesson of phonics, guided reading or Fun Fit; all of which you are welcome to join in with. Afterwards our Dinosaur Challenge will begin! I think we're all looking forward to seeing how many imaginative ideas the children can come up with as they consider how life might be if we were to co-exist with dinosaurs. Throughout the course of the morning there will also be an opportunity for your child to show you their books and to talk to you generally about their learning. Your child's class teacher will also be on hand to answer any questions that you may have.

PARENT CONSULTATION

Parent Consultations will take place on Monday 7th November. The consultations for parents/carers of children at Parracombe and Kentisbury will take place at Parracombe this term. This consultation allows you to find out how your child has settled into the new school year and to spend some time discussing particular points of interest that relate to your child's development and progress, as well as their targets for the coming weeks. Please call into the school office, or telephone Mel, Jacqui or Vikki, to book a convenient appointment.

HOME LEARNING

I have been absolutely amazed by the quality of some of the home learning that the children have been bringing into school over recent weeks. It's made me feel rather guilty as I've not yet started exploring dinosaur swamps, volcanoes or any of the other exciting home learning projects with Henry! In fairness we have been talking about it and Henry has decided that he wants to make his swamp out of green jelly, but life is busy and finding time can sometimes be a little challenging. I'm sure that I'm not the only parent feeling like this at the moment, but we will get it done and the learning that will come from it, for both us, will more than compensate for the time spent on something other than what we would normally do at home. As a federation we made the decision to replace traditional homework with family home learning because of the immense value of children learning alongside their parents. Creating things together, talking about learning, turning ideas into reality, spending high quality time with one another and taking a practical interest in what our children do at school are vital to enable them to become life-long learners. I know it can be tricky, but I thank you all for engaging so whole-heartedly in this aspect of school life. A celebration of home learning will take place across the federation in December so there is still plenty of time to roll up your sleeves and help your child create something amazing.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Over the last week the children have been designing Christmas cards. Over half-term they will be professionally

printed as large, square cards and shortly after half-term your child will be bringing home a sample card. The cards will be available for you to purchase in packs of 12 at a cost of £4.50 per pack when you order up to 3 packs, any subsequent pack will be just £4. I would like to stress that the company we are using is not the same company that let us down so badly last year.

“WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?”

How often does this question result in the reply, “can’t remember” or “nothing”? Knowing that this is not the case, I have been experimenting on Henry with questions that illicit a slightly more productive conversation on the way home. Questions such as “What did you do today that was kind?”, “What was the best thing that happened today?”, “What was the funniest thing that happened” or “What can you do/do you know this evening that you couldn’t do/didn’t know this morning?” are proving quite successful. At first they were met with “I’m not sure” but after modelling a response based on my own day Henry is beginning to talk quite openly and I’m getting a much better insight into his day at school. I’m also finding that asking positive questions stops him dwelling on minor issues that he may have encountered during the day such as tripping over in the playground. That said, on the rare occasion that something more upsetting has happened, because he is now in the habit of freely talking about his day, he finds it easier to express his worries and we are able to calmly talk about them and, if necessary, explore possible solutions. It may be that your child already talks openly about their day when you pick them up or meet them at home but, if not, you might like to try some of these suggestions.

FINALLY

I hope that you have a lovely half-term break. The children certainly deserve a well-earned rest – they have worked incredibly hard this half-term and have made some really good progress. I look forward to welcoming them all back to school on Monday 7th November.

Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock
Executive Head teacher

In collective worship we have been thinking about Harvest and the People of God. We have been giving thanks for all the wonderful things within our world, whilst thinking about and praying for those who are less fortunate than ourselves, especially those people in Haiti who have suffered the effects by Hurricane Matthew.

Class news – Streams

Over the next 2 weeks Streams will be using their knowledge of traditional tales to write dinosaur stories. We will be writing the story of The 3 Little Triceratops and T-Rex and the 3 Apatosaurus. At home, you could try this verbally. How could you retell the story of Jack and the Beanstalk with dinosaurs

In maths, we will be using our number bonds to help us solve problems quickly. For example, $90 - \underline{\quad} = 83$. We will be using our knowledge that $7 + 3 = 10$ so $90 - 7 = 83$. It is really important that the children understand number facts and aren't always relying on counting with their fingers. So whatever stage they are at, whether it is knowing their bonds to 5, 10 or applying their bonds to help solve $40 + \underline{\quad} = 100$. We take our time to explore the different representations, images and problems to make sure that this knowledge is secure.

In science, we will be looking at adaption. Starting with how plants adapt to their environment then moving onto animals. The children will be creating their own seed transportation too. Finally, we will finish with our big family science day challenge!

Mr Mackenzie

Class news – Rivers and Oceans

In maths we have been focusing on converting measurements. We have been working together to convert recipes from kilograms to grams using place value charts. We then used our recipes to make dinosaur biscuits. We are moving on to rounding numbers to the nearest ten, hundred, thousand, ten thousand and one hundred thousand. In literacy we have been writing our own compound sentences and continuing our dinosaur explanations. Afterwards we have been editing and crafting our writing to ensure that it is our best work. Next week will be science focused and we will be exploring rocks, fossils and evolution.

Sincerely,
Miss Martin and Sarah Adams

Class news – Young Buds

Firstly, we would like to say a huge 'well done' to the children who have read at home for 25 nights. Well done Mia, Lily-Rue, Dougal, Timea, Henry B, Jack, Reuben, Henry P, Joe, Bailey and Levi. Keep going everyone! It has also been wonderful to see so much fantastic home learning coming in from the Year 1's and 2's. The children are preparing for the Harvest festival on Friday where they will be joining the children from Parracombe, singing our very own Harvest Samba and where they will display some of their lovely Autumn art work. We welcomed a visit from Reverend Rosie this week who came to talk to the children about Harvest and the idea of being thankful for the things we have.



The children thoroughly enjoyed looking at Habitats as part of their Science topic work and enjoyed outdoor learning where they then made their own dinosaur habitats, considering many different elements such as shelter, camouflage, prey and predators and things habitats might need such as water and food. Then on Wednesday we had a fun filled day at Combe Martin Wildlife and Dinosaur Park. The children were impeccably behaved and a pleasure to take out for the day, we all loved seeing the huge variety of animals on show as well as many close encounters with dinosaurs, which we discovered were lurking everywhere!

Next week we will be beginning a new literacy sequence writing 'Dinosaur reports' inspired by our day out at the Dinosaur Park, as well as looking at patterns in maths.

Mrs Smith and Mrs. Pile

Class news – Oaks

This week, James O'Sullivan from Ilfracombe Academy came into school to run some sporting sessions. With year 3/4 he focused on problem solving skills and team work. Then he ran a sports hall athletics session with year 5/6, the children recorded their scores which will be put together. These results will confirm which children have made the final for the North Devon sports hall athletics competition, which will be held early next year.

Back in the classroom, children have been creative through making their own cave art design, using sand and choosing their own paint brushes from natural materials, such as leaves, stones and sticks. We have put all of our designs together, so children can make up their own story to match the images.

In literacy, year 5 and 6 are immersed in their writing, producing a detailed information text about dinosaurs. They are learning to use sub-headings, paragraphs, a range of punctuation and a variety of sentences; simple, compound and complex this allows the children to experience varying the length and content. Next week, children will finish their first draft before editing/up-leveilling so they can finally produce an informative poster.

In maths, year 5 and 6 have been 'mastering' number and place value through applying it to real life contexts and experimenting using a range of resources to show and explain their thinking. After half term we will be

moving onto addition and subtraction.

You can support at home through asking your child to rapidly re-call number bonds to 10, 100 and 1000 as well as learning their times table and division facts for the 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 times tables. This will support their learning back at school after half term.

Please encourage your child to read daily and practice their spellings.

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy your half term.

Many thanks,
Miss Hill.

Tag Rugby Festival

A huge well done to years three and four for representing the West Exmoor Federation so wonderfully at the Ilfracombe learning community tag rugby festival. The children enjoyed playing against other schools, and some children managed to take home well deserved medals!



Years 3 and 4

In literacy we are continuing to write our own dinosaur information texts. The children are working hard to make their dinosaurs read like scientific discoveries!

In maths we are continuing to investigate number and the number system. We are currently rounding and ordering numbers including decimal numbers. Any opportunity you have at home to demonstrate money and measurements as decimals would be a huge help to your child.

Many Thanks
Lisa Hamer

Admin News

Aladdin Pantomime 13th December 2016

If you haven't done so already, please could you complete and return the reply slip on the letter by **Friday 21st October at the latest to enable us to secure the tickets.** Payments should please accompany the reply slip, as these will need to be paid to the Queen's Theatre at time of confirming numbers.

Many thanks
Wendy, Vikki, Jacqui and Mel

Lynton PTFA

The Auction of Promises on the 18th November at The Cottage Inn is shaping up to be a fantastic evening; we already have some amazing donations for the auction. We are still accepting donations of any 'promises' or items. If you would be able to donate anything or have any ideas for places we could contact for donations, please feel free to come and speak to me.

Many thanks

Sharla Berry – Chair of Lynton PTFA

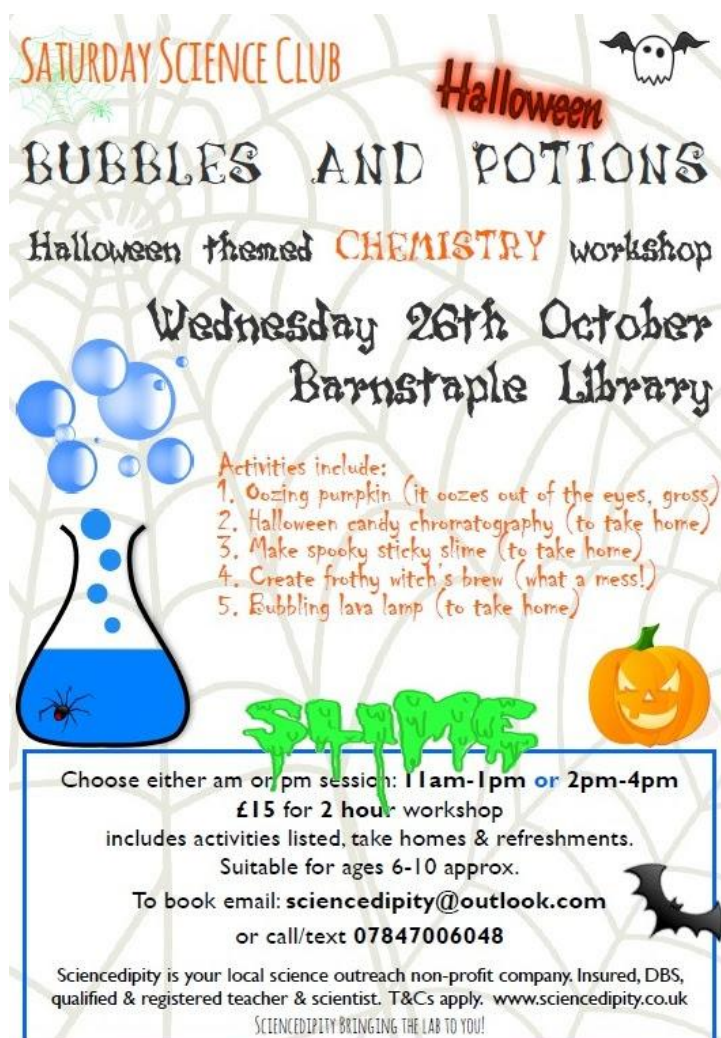
Dates for your diary

19.10.16	Stephen Shield Cross Country – Torrington
21.10.16	Open mornings at Lynton and Kentisbury
21.10.16	Family Science Challenge from 9am
07.11.16	Parent Consultations from 3.30pm

COMMUNITY

Half Term Science Workshop at Barnstaple Library – 26th October 2016

These chemistry based workshops promise to be exciting, different and educational! During the 2 hour hands-on workshop, children will learn about chromatography, polymers and chemical reactions but with a Halloween twist! There is a morning or afternoon workshop to choose from, lots of things to make & take home and the price is £15 per child.



SATURDAY SCIENCE CLUB

Halloween

BUBBLES AND POTIONS

Halloween themed **CHEMISTRY** workshop

Wednesday 26th October

Barnstaple Library

Activities include:

1. Oozing pumpkin (it oozes out of the eyes, gross)
2. Halloween candy chromatography (to take home)
3. Make spooky sticky slime (to take home)
4. Create frothy witch's brew (what a mess!)
5. Bubbling lava lamp (to take home)

Choose either am or pm session: **11am-1pm** or **2pm-4pm**

£15 for 2 hour workshop

includes activities listed, take homes & refreshments.

Suitable for ages 6-10 approx.

To book email: **sciencedipity@outlook.com**

or call/text **07847006048**

Sciencedipity is your local science outreach non-profit company. Insured, DBS, qualified & registered teacher & scientist. T&Cs apply. www.sciencedipity.co.uk

SCIENCE DIPITY BRINGING THE LAB TO YOU!

October half-term fun

Whether you like to celebrate the harvest, craft a bat, find the spooky knitted characters, ride on Robocob or dare yourself to walk the grounds at night, there's something to suit everyone this half-term.

Find out what's on at Arlington Court:
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/arlington-court
01271 850296



 National Trust

October half term at Arlington Court

Open daily until 30 October, 11am-5pm

Bring this flyer with you during October half term to receive free entry for one child, when an adult ticket is purchased.



National
Trust

Special events

Celebrating the harvest, 22 & 23 October, 11am-3pm

A magnificent display of crops from the kitchen garden, recipe suggestions, hints for storage and family activities.

Hallowe'en crafts, 24, 25 & 28 October, 12-4pm

Bring your imagination and make some spooky Hallowe'en crafts.

Spooky night walk, 28 October, 5.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.15pm & 8pm

Spooky tales of unusual happenings as you walk through the grounds of Arlington Court; each walk lasts about 45 minutes - Adult £5, Child £3.50

Do you have some spare time during the day?

Arlington Court is looking to recruit volunteers to join their garden team helping with annual tasks such as planting spring bulbs, lifting summer bedding, collecting autumn leaves and preparing beds in the winter. As well as keeping the Arlington garden growing, you'll also be able to pick up hints and tips for your own garden.

Full training will be given, as well as an induction to the site, plus benefits such as a discount card and free entry to National Trust sites. The time you're able to give can be flexible, from once a week, once a fortnight or on a more ad hoc basis, and can range from a few hours between school runs to a whole day.

If you'd like to find out more please contact the garden team on 01271 851130 or email arlingtoncourt@nationaltrust.org.uk

For more information visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/arlington-court

or call 01271 850296

All Workshops Will Take Place At The Guildhall, Butchers Row, Barnstaple, EX31 1BW
Book Via Box Office: 01805 624624 Or Via www.theploughartscentre.org.uk



Transl-Mania

Play In A Day (7-12 Years)

Wednesday 26th October 10.00am-4.00pm

Sharing Performance at 3.30pm

To celebrate the Halloween season we will be creating our very own spooky, eerie and funny play with lots of weird and wonderful creatures!



Plough Play Story (3-6 Years)

Tuesday 25th October, Thursday 15th December

Thursday 16th February at 10.00am-11.00am & 11.30am-12.30pm

Explore a fairy story then bring it to life with characters and costume. A fun one-hour drama workshop.



Santa & His Helpers

Play In A Day (7-12 Years)

Tuesday 20th December 10.00am-4.00pm

Sharing Performance at 3.30pm

Santa & His Helpers Play In A Day – Get festive with us as we celebrate the arrival of Christmas by creating our very own merry play! Santa, Elves, Presents, Reindeers and a whole lot of mischief!



Treasure Island

Play In A Day (7-12 Years)

Wednesday 15th February 10.00am-4.00pm

Sharing Performance at 3.30pm

Jim Hawkins takes us on an adventure and meets Long John Silver and many other menacing pirates! Get on board to join us for our adventure!