



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

21.11.2016

Dear Parents/Carers

'THE BEHAVIOUR OF PUPILS IS OUTSTANDING' (Lynton Ofsted Report, October 2016)

It gives me great pleasure to share with you our Lynton Ofsted Report. Over the last two years all of the staff from across the federation have worked relentlessly to ensure that our children receive the very best possible education. We are extremely proud of what we now offer our children and we are delighted that this has been recognised by Ofsted. When Lynton was inspected last month all areas of the school were found to be at least good, with behaviour being considered outstanding. Lynton was found to be a 'caring and nurturing place to learn', where children are 'challenged to achieve well' and where they 'thrive as they move up through mixed-age classes'. It was recognised that our children 'make good progress across the curriculum', that 'by the end of Key Stage 2, attainment is above national averages' and that our children 'are provided with exciting learning opportunities that are carefully planned and provide rich learning experiences'. It was noted that 'the school community cares for everyone' and that the children have 'frequent opportunities to develop deep respect for each other and for those from different cultures.' As you can imagine we are absolutely delighted with the outcome and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for working so tirelessly to make Lynton such a wonderful place for our children to learn within.

ARMISTICE DAY AT WOODY BAY

On the 11th November our Key Stage 2 children attended the annual Armistice Day Service at Woody Bay Train Station. As always, it was an extremely poignant service, with Axe, the loco that served on the Western Front, providing the focal point. The children read out poems that they had written, many reflecting on the horror of war and the desire for peace. A two-minute silence was then observed after the Last Post before the children placed poppies in the memorial garden, many inscribed with the names of local people who lost their lives in battle. Throughout the service the behaviour of the children was impeccable and they were an absolute credit to themselves, their families and the federation.

SECURITY AT LYNTON

It has been brought to my attention that on a couple of occasions we have been a little late in locking the gate that leads from Bottom Meadow Car Park into the back playground. Inevitably this does occasionally happen as class teachers get held up talking to parents or attending to children at the start of the school day. We had already identified this as a potential security risk and have received quotations to install an electronic access system which will automatically lock the gates at the start of the school day. A similar system will also be installed on the gate that leads from the rear playground to the staff carpark, thereby ensuring that the site is fully secure throughout the day. We are currently awaiting an installation date to be confirmed but, in the meantime, I am asking staff to lock the rear gate as soon as the school bus children have arrived. I appreciate this means that parents arriving in Bottom Meadow Car Park after the school bus will have to walk to the main entrance, but as the safety of our children is paramount to us all, I hope that you will not mind this temporary inconvenience.

COLLECTION AFTER CLUBS

With the darker evenings upon us, could I please ask that all children are collected from after-school clubs from within the school. Children at Kentisbury should be collected from Little Berries, whilst children at Parracombe and Lynton should be collected from the main office areas. If you wish your child to walk home unaccompanied, please write a brief letter giving consent for your child to do so. Many thanks.

ATTENDANCE

Thank you very much indeed for your continued support in helping us to maintain good levels of attendance. I am very much looking forward to presenting many of our children with their bronze attendance award at the

end of this term. One area of attendance that is not improving greatly is the number of sessions missed for medical or dental appointments. I fully appreciate that it is not always possible to arrange medical appointments outside of the school day and that this is further complicated if you rely upon public transport to attend such appointments. However, whenever possible, could you please try to arrange routine appointments and/or check-ups for the school holidays and try to limit other appointments to just a half day of absence; thank you.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising endeavours for Children in Need on Friday. It was lovely to see the children being so enterprising and really entering into the spirit of thinking about those less fortunate than ourselves. Across the federation we managed to raise £305.62 which is truly amazing given how small our schools are and a real accolade to how wonderful our children are.

Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock
Executive Head teacher

Class news – Streams

Over the next 2 weeks the children will be researching and writing their own dinosaur or animal fact files. We will be exploring how non-fiction texts are set out to look exciting to the reader. We will also be learning to extend out sentences using the conjunctions 'because' and 'so'. In maths we will be learning about 2d and 3d shapes. As part of our DT work the children will be designing and making parts of their costumes for the Nativity. Next week is national 'Road Safety Week'. We will be taking this opportunity to take the children out to learn about road safety.

Recorders

As some of you may have noticed, the children have been given their very own recorders. These are for the children to keep. Learning an instrument is a great opportunity to develop the children's responsibility and self-discipline. Recorder lessons will be every Monday afternoon so please make sure these are brought in on this day. We will be sending home the tasks for the children to practice. Unfortunately, if the recorders are lost or damaged a replacement will need to be purchased. They are available from school office.

Parent readers

If you are able to offer any help reading with the children we would be extremely grateful. Any help at all would be beneficial to the children's reading.

Mr Mackenzie

Class news – Rivers

In literacy, we are looking at poetry and we will be looking at the text 'Tell me Dragon' as a starting point. We are starting a new reading incentive in class where the children can travel around a map of the world when they read each night. The incentive is designed to motivate the children to read every night as this will greatly improve their progress in literacy. You can help you child by making sure you listen to them read and sign their reading record.

In maths, we are focusing on calculations. We are starting on mental strategies for addition and then moving on to the written method. We will then be moving onto subtraction next week. Their maths homework this week is to encourage them to talk about how they reach an answer to a maths calculation. The purpose of this homework is to deepen their understanding of calculating by explaining it to another person.

In our topic sessions, we are continuing our work on the Stone Age and the Iron Age. In R.E, we are working on our Christianity project and looking at the Creation and the Fall. Furthermore, we are extending our French vocabulary and looking at common greetings next week.

Many thanks
Miss Martin

Class news – Oceans



We have been joining the rest of the country at this time of remembrance, by taking a brief look at 1st world war poets and their choice of language, use of personification, simile and metaphor. Some of us read our poems out at the Woody Bay service standing in front of the “Axe” engine which was actually involved in the war effort. We have been using this subject as a vehicle for us to develop our own use of descriptive techniques and exploring different ways in which we can plan poetry, using art, music and movement to fill our descriptions, in readiness for our final sequence of this term, an extra chapter to our class book, “Stig of the dump”.

Oceans are continuing to explore all four functions in maths (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). We are now comfortable with addition and subtraction, checking our work using the inverse and converting our calculations into real-life word problems. Next week we will be moving onto exploring multiplication and division before we focus on shape just before Christmas. We will be doing a series of short assessments just to monitor our progress towards the end of the term. Please feel free to come in and chat about your child’s progress at any point.

How can you help at home?

Literacy:

Ask children for comparisons between things, focussing on the accuracy and inference of their choices e.g. If you see a big dog, ask them how big it is and ask for an object or another animal that they could compare it to when describing it to someone.

Reading:

When listening to your children read, ask them why the author has chosen specific descriptions, what images these descriptions put in the reader’s mind and what these descriptions tell you about the character.

Maths:

When possible ask children what the time is and how long it will be until dinner, until you reach your destination, until you are going out or how long a journey / activity will take.

Sincerely,

Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

Firstly, we would like to thank all of you for your support during our recent Ofsted inspection, the inspectors commented on what a ‘privilege’ it was to come and spend time with the children in Young Buds which was a lovely compliment (and one which they thoroughly deserve!). The children have continued to display fantastic learning attitudes and it has been particularly wonderful to see the Reception children begin to really ‘fly’ with both their reading and their writing. We are now looking forward to finishing off our dinosaur work in the next week or two before moving on to an action packed build up to the festive season including writing letters to Santa, making Christmas cake, tree decorations and an ‘Elf’s workshop’ role play area. Next week the Year 1’s and 2’s will continue to work on their non-fiction dinosaur writing which will then be displayed in the school, as well as subtraction in maths, with a focus on mental agility. As many of you may have noticed our library area has been given a ‘face lift’ and is now a really lovely welcoming space. We would now like to decorate and personalise it with photos and need your help! We would love some pictures of you sharing and enjoying reading with your child, either their favourite book or maybe yours as a child and some ‘quotes’ about why you or they love the story would be even better. If you can help then please email any pictures, perhaps with a message attached, to Mrs Smith – nicola.smith@westexmoorfederation.org.uk. Finally, as the weather worsens we would like children to bring their coats directly into school in the morning and hang them on the coloured pegs above the book bags, instead of leaving them in the pavilion, to ensure they are not going out in inclement weather in order to fetch their coat.

Finally, the Young Buds made a fantastic effort for Children in Need on Friday, there were spots galore and we raised over £70 for this fantastic cause! Thank you all so much for your generosity.



Many thanks,
Mrs Smith and Mrs Pile.

Class news – Oaks

Firstly, thank you to all parents who attended parents evening it was a pleasure to see you and discuss your child's learning with you. If you were unable to make your appointment and would still like to discuss your child's learning, please ring the school office to make a new appointment.

In literacy, year 5 and 6 have composed their own WW1 poetry using a range of figurative language. The children have been fully immersed in their learning and have taken on this sensitive subject in a mature manner. I have been astounded by some of their final poems and imagery created through powerful language. It was a pleasure to listen to some of their group poems being read out as last week's Woody Bay Remembrance Service. Next week, we will be moving onto a narrative unit where we will be reading, exploring and discussing our new core text, 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King. If you have a copy at home, it would be great to start reading it with your child.

In maths, we have been securing our knowledge on addition and subtraction using a variety of methods. All children can use mental and written strategies, apply to a context and use problem solving. Next week, we will be moving onto multiplication and then division. You can support your child at home by revising times table and the related division facts up to 12 x 12.

Some children have started to bring in their core tasks, it is amazing to see the final outcomes and the time and effort which has gone into creating their projects, well done! I look forward to receiving the rest of the core tasks by Friday 2nd December.

Many Thanks,
Miss Hill.

Little Berries News

The children have had a busy couple of weeks. The eldest of our Little Berries thoroughly enjoyed joining the Young Buds class during their first Forest school session where they made dinosaur eggs, used the tools to dig, climbed, balanced, jumped and of course, drank hot chocolate! We look forward to our next Forest school adventure!

Last week's British Legion poppy appeal saw our Little Berries looking at our poppies and then working together collaboratively to make their own giant poppy....please feel free to come in and see it.

This week's Personal, Social and Emotional focus has seen us use National Anti bullying week to talk about our friends, kindness and using kind words, being friendly and helping one another.

The Baby and Toddler group is continuing to run on a Thursday afternoon from 1-3.

Many thanks, Your Little Berries team

Admin News

TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHY

PARRACOMBE AND KENTISBURY SCHOOLS

The School photographer will be visiting on Friday 25th November. Any parents wanting family photographs of siblings should attend **Kentisbury School at 8am** and then children taken to their own school for registration.

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform.

We have been notified that orders should be returned promptly due to the Christmas holidays.

Admission to Primary School - September 2017

The application process for reception places for September 2017 opens is now open and closes on the 15th January, 2017. If you have a child who will be starting school next year (born between 01.09.12 and 31.08.13) it will be necessary to apply for a place either online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline or by calling the Admissions Team via their helpline on 0345 155 1019 for a hard copy of the admission form.

Important-After School Clubs/Little Berries

With the safety of children and parents/carers in mind, we have, as you will know, installed security lighting up the school path, a large lamp post to help to light up the area between the school grounds and Village Hall car park and security lights around the school. As the security lights are very exposed, we are forever having to change the bulbs or replace these and so unfortunately from time to time, these may not all be working at the same time. For this reason can we please ask for your safety and for the safety of your children, if you are picking up from school after dark, that you please carry a torch, to prevent any accidents.

Many thanks

Wendy, Vikki, Jacqui and Mel

Governor News

We are delighted to welcome 3 new governors to the Federation, Allan Sensicle (Co-Opted governor), Ronald Moughton (Co-Opted governor) and Tamar Madine (Parent governor).

Lynton PTFA

Unfortunately we had to postpone our Auction of Promises due to the adverse weather conditions. We once again thank you all for your support and we will let you know when we arrange another date. We decided we will draw the raffle on the last day of this term so if you would like any raffle tickets please go and see Vikki in the office. There are lots of fabulous items in there and it would make a great addition to your Christmas holidays.

Many thanks

Sharla Berry – Chair of Lynton PTFA

Dates for your diary

25.11.16 – School Photographs for Parracombe and Kentisbury

07.12.16 – Lynton Christingle Service from 2.30pm to 3.30pm at St Mary's Church Lynton (children will need to be collected from St Mary's Church at 3.30pm if parents not attending service - we will send a reminder closer to the time).

08.12.16 - Parracombe and Kentisbury Christingle Service

13.12.16 – Pantomime Visit @ Queens Theatre

14.12.16 – Christmas Lunch

14.12.16 – Parracombe and Kentisbury Nativity, St Thomas 10am, Christ Church 5pm

15.12.16 – Lynton Nativity at St Mary's Church 10am & 6pm

16.12.16 – End of Term

Christmas Fayre
at
Lynmouth Pavilion
Sunday 11th Dec 10am-4pm

Street Market
Arts & Crafts Stalls
Elf Workshop 10am-12pm
Xmas Choir 11am & 2pm
Meet Santa from 2pm
Pre-booking only
Competition Results & Raffle Draw 4pm
Face Painting
Donations to Children's Hospice
Lunch Specials
Served all day

FREE EVENT

Win a Hamper
(25p entry) with
marsdens
Devon Cottages

Limited places to meet Santa.
Bookings essential please call to book 01598 753484

Elf Workshop is open to all Children.
Make xmas crafts to enter in our competition to be drawn at 4pm

The Park is now closed.

COMBE MARTIN

WILDLIFE AND DINOSAUR PARK

Our new indoor soft play area is open WEEKENDS 10:30am - 4pm

This ticket entitles adults to free entry to the Soft Play Area when paying full price for a child. In order to be entitled to this deal all you need to do is cut out and bring this ticket to Combe Martin Wildlife and Dinosaur Parks Soft Play Area any weekend between now and January 29th.
We are open 10:30 – 4pm (last admissions 3pm).

