16.12.2016

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an absolute privilege to be in school with our children over the last few weeks. So many fantastic events have taken place – Christingle Services, Lantern Parades, Christmas Lunches, Carol Singing and the Pantomime visit to name but a few; my only regret is that I can’t physically be in three places at once and have inevitably missed some of the wonderful things that have been happening. However, even if I’ve not been there in person I have been there in spirit and have enjoyed hearing all about it from the staff and children. However, the true high-light of this week has been the four nativity performances that have taken place across the federation. Without exception, each and every child has excelled themselves as they’ve retold the Christmas Story through ‘Whoopsy Daisy Angel’ and I think many of us shed a tear or two during all of the performances. The children are an absolute credit to you and the federation and I am extremely proud of them all.

**ARCHITECTURE WORKSHOP**

Next term the theme across the federation with be ‘Temples, Tombs and Treasures’. The first day back to school will be an activity day when the children will create their themed classroom door for the term. On Thursday 5th January the whole federation will then come together for an enrichment day. The children will all take part in a practical Architecture Workshop working with a presenter ‘animateur’ to use maths and art to visualise, design, create and analyse a variety of large structures in the school hall at Lynton. Alongside the workshop a range of other activities will be run by federation staff to kick-start our theme for the term. In order to maximise the time that the children have within the Architecture Workshop **it will be necessary to extend the school day slightly for Lynton Key Stage 2 children only**. Therefore, **children in Rivers and Oceans will not finish school until 3.45pm** on this day. If this is going to present you with any difficulties, especially if your child travels home on school transport, please let us know.

**THANK YOU**

With the year drawing to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the federation staff, including governors, for their endless commitment to the children within our schools. 2016 has been a challenging year for everyone with probably an unprecedented number of inspections with two Church School Inspections taking place as well as three Ofsted Inspections! Throughout it all everyone has remained completely focused on doing what is right for our children to ensure that they receive the very best possible education and that each and every one of them makes the progress that they are capable of, whilst also having fun, making memories and developing a real love for life-long learning. I am very fortunate to have such a dedicated team and without whom the federation would not be the vibrant and exciting place that it is for all who learn within it.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all of your support over the last year and for allowing us to share your children with you. They are all remarkable and it is true honour to be able to watch them grow and flourish.

I wish you all a truly enjoyable Christmas and I hope that you have a healthy and happy New Year. I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school in 2017.

Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock

Executive Headteacher

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| **Class news – Streams**Firstly, I would just like to say a huge well done to everyone for both Nativity performances, they were all fantastic! I hope you all enjoyed the performance.**Spring term learning**Our topic after Christmas will be 'Fairy Tales' The children will be learning to retell traditional tales. We will then be writing our own alternative fairy tales. We will be learning about our local area and we will be arranging a school trip to explore the different features in the local area. The children will be designing and making their own fairy tale land using their knowledge of different geographical features. In maths, children will be learning about money and telling the time.We are lucky enough to have Rugby tot returning to run sessions every Monday morning. Please make sure the children have their PE kit on Mondays and Fridays. We will be sending out a more thorough curriculum map after Christmas. Have a Merry Christmas and a happy new year!Mr Mackenzie |

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| **Class news – Rivers**After Christmas, we will be starting our topic on writing formal letters.  You can help your child in English by making sure you listen to them read and ask them relevant questions regarding their understanding.  I will be continuing to focus on encouraging the children to read every night after Christmas.In maths, we have started our topic on division. One of the most useful ways to help your child is to encourage them to learn their times tables over the Christmas holidays.  We will then be moving onto understanding how to solve word problems involving both multiplication and division.Next term, our theme will be ‘Temples, Tombs and Treasures’ and we will be focusing on the Mayan Culture.  Having recently returned from Mexico, I am looking forward to sharing my experiences with the class next term.Many thanks Miss Martin |

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| **Class news – Oceans** There seems very little left to say at the end of this term and the end of 2016 except for thank you all for your continued support, energy and commitment towards our endeavours. Our nativities were wonderful and the quality of our performances never fails to amaze me. Next term we will be starting to prepare for our school production “Mary Poppins”. Our theme next term is “Temples, Tombs and Treasures” and our starting text is “Danny the champion of the world”, maths will continue to consolidate the use of all four functions but our focus will be on fractions, percentages and decimals.Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.Sincerely,Sarah Adams Lemon |

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| **Class news – Young Buds**The last two weeks of term have been jam packed with lots of festive learning and activities for Young Buds! Firstly, we’d like to say a huge thank you to the children’s Grandparents and Great Grandparents for coming in and making our ‘Bring a Granny/Grandpa’ morning such a massive success. The class thoroughly enjoyed spending time with them and listening to their stories of Christmases when they were little. Some also brought in wonderful toys and books that they were given as a child and we were lucky enough to see some beautiful photographs as well. This may become an annual event from now on! The class worked extremely hard on their Christmas performance this year and what a triumph it was. It was lovely to see so many family members come and enjoy this with the children. We are very proud of how well the children coped with performing in front of so many adults, especially our reception children as it was their first big performance. Young Buds also performed Jingle Bells on their recorders and did a brilliant job. Well done Young Buds. Mrs Peacock would like to say a very special thank you to Mrs Freer for making the children’s costumes – they looked amazing – thank you!As well as performing ourselves, Young Buds also went to see Aladdin at The Queen’s Theatre and had a fantastic time. As always, their behaviour was outstanding and they were a credit to the school and to their families. After such a busy week, Young Buds enjoyed snuggling up in their pyjamas with hot chocolate and marshmallows to watch the Polar Express on Thursday afternoon. It was a much needed chill out time for them to enjoy a Christmas film together ahead of their final day and Christmas party on Friday. When we return in January, our new topic will be ‘Temples, Tombs and Treasure’. Within this we will be looking at Fairy Tales in Literacy and continue with 2D and 3D shapes within Maths. Last, but not least, we’d like to wish all you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. IMG_6828Many thanks,Nicola Smith and Sally Pile.  |

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| **Class news – Oaks** The children have enjoyed a festive-filled end of term; they have supported the community in decorating the Christmas trees in church and have made Christingles with many then attending the service. The children have learnt about the true meaning of Christmas and reflected upon how they celebrate and who will be in their thoughts. We have been impressed with how thoughtful and sensitive the children have been. The children wanted to show what they have learnt through their Christmas performance, which hopefully you were able to see. Thank you to all the parents who attended the performance and provided support at home with learning songs and the recorder.In the new year, please ensure your child’s clothing is clearly named and children always bring a coat to school and have their PE kit every day. We are aware that the Christmas holiday is a busy and special time of year for families and so we have decided not to send homework home. However, as always we would appreciate it if you could continue to support your child with their reading and timetables and practice past spellings.We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing you in the new year when we will be exploring our new theme ‘temples tombs and treasures!’Many Thanks Mrs Hamer and Miss Hill. |

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| **Little Berries News**Our Little Berries have all enjoyed the lead up to Christmas with our festive activities and Christmas parties. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New a Year and we look forward to seeing you all when we return on Wednesday 4th January. Best wishes, Your Little Berries team |

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| **Admin News**Can we ask all parents and carers that when a letter home is received that requires a permission, that the slip is always returned to the school to enable your child to participate. The slip is also required if you do not want your child to participate, as we are unable to assume one way or the other. Many thanks.**Absence**If your child is absent from school, it is very important to notify the School before registration takes place for each day of absence. If no reason is given for your child’s absence we are required to mark this as an unauthorised absence, many thanks for your support in this matter.**Head Lice****Please can we remind you to check regularly for head lice and treat straight away to ensure outbreaks are stopped immediately. We understand that the treatments are very expensive but we have been told by the health centre that you can get them on prescription following an appointment with a doctor. There are also special sprays available as an extra preventative measure, as they say ‘prevention is better than cure’ and these may help those who are particularly prone to head lice.** With many thanks,Wendy, Vikki, Jacqui and Mel**Kitchen News****Spring 2017 Menu**We are sending a copy of the new menu home with this newsletter. As mentioned in the last newsletter I have kept the popular items and replaced the not so popular ones. On Wednesday 4th January, the menu will be Spaghetti Bolognaise, Vegetarian Pasta Bake or Jacket Potato.If you have any suggestions or recipes you would like me to consider for the next menu change in the Summer Term, please don’t hesitate to come and see me or speak to Vikki in the office.Many thanksJayne Hoskins – Kitchen Manager |

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| **Dates for your diary**04.01.2017 Start of Spring Term09.01.2017 Rugby Tots starts for Reception & KS130.01.2017 Scholastic Book Fayre running this week08.02.2017 Ofsted Celebration for Parracombe & Kentisbury09.02.2017 Ofsted Celebration for Lynton13.02.2017 Half Term23.02.2017 Forest School begins for Years 3/4 27.02.2017 Parent Consultation Evening02.03.2017 World Book Day21.03.2017 Y6 G&T Basketball24.03.2017 Red Nose Day28.03.2017 Tag Ruby Qualifiers 31.03.2017 Federation Easter Service @ St Mary’s, Lynton31.03.2017 End of Term |

**COMMUNITY**

**Code Club at Barnstaple Library**Would you like to learn how to make computer games, animations and websites?
Then Code Club is for you.

For children aged 9 - 11
Wednesdays 4pm - 5pm

Booking essential. For more information or to sign up please contact the library.
01271 318782
barnstaple.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

**1st Lyn Scout Group**

You may or may not be aware that we intend to open a Scout Troop in the New Year and this cannot be achieved without signing up new adult volunteers. We are not asking you to necessarily fulfil these roles yourselves but we are asking for your help filling them. You may know someone who could be perfect for one of the roles, they could be; a relative, a friend, a neighbour, a work colleague, another parent or maybe just someone you know who is inclined to help with community projects.

We have several spaces to fill across all the sections - Beavers (6-8yrs), Cubs (8-10yrs) and Scouts (10-14yrs) - and all ages and abilities will be considered.

Please spread the word and either give out our details or get in touch with us. I think we all agree that scouting is something that the kids in the Lyn Valley area need and it would be such a shame if the group were to close due to adult support after a successful launch year.

gsl1stlyn@gmail.com
01598752013

Thank you.