



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

13.01.2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new term and year. I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas and that the New Year has got off to a happy and healthy start. It was lovely to welcome the children back to school and to hear about their adventures and exploits over the festive season.

CRAFTY DOORS

As is now becoming customary, our term started with all of the children taking part in a 'Temples, Tombs and Treasures' Craft Day to create their classroom 'theme' doors. It is lovely to see how each teacher and class interpret the theme in a slightly different way and I have enjoyed many discussions with the children who have been eager to show me their contribution to their classroom doors and tell me what they are hoping to explore and learn about this term through their theme.

ARCHITECTURE WORKSHOPS

The children had an amazing day last week when they took part in our Architecture Workshops. They learnt so much about 2D and 3D shapes and how the understanding of shape is a crucial part of designing and building structures. The younger children learnt how 2D shapes can be used to make 3D shapes and how these, in turn, can be put together to make a variety of structures. The older children built upon this further, learning how different shapes can be used to strengthen structures and make them more able to withstand a variety of forces. The application of this was considered too, for example how architects design buildings to withstand earthquakes. It was lovely to see all of the children working together so well to tackle the challenges set and to see how considerate and supportive they were of one another, but equally how competitive they were once their own structures were being put to the test and judged!



CELEBRATING OFSTED – PARTY TIME!

As you know, we have now received all of our Ofsted Inspection Reports and we are absolutely thrilled that all three have recognised just how good our schools are. We are extremely proud of what we offer our children and, with my 'Mummy' hat on I know that our provision is hard to match locally - I certainly wouldn't have Henry attending school anywhere other than the federation. In order to celebrate our inspections, the Governors and I are planning two parties for our children and families. You are warmly invited to attend these events and help us say 'thank you' to our wonderful children and staff for all their hard work. Both parties will start at 12pm with a buffet lunch and be followed by entertainment from Captain Coconut. If you so wish, there will also be an opportunity to have a look around our schools and talk with staff and Governors. The party for Parracombe and Kentisbury will be held on Wednesday 8th February at Kentisbury School, whilst the party for Lynton will be held on Thursday 9th February at Lynton School. Please do come along and join us at one of our parties and help us celebrate.

SCHOOL LUNCHES – 19TH JANUARY

On 19th January our annual school census will be carried out. On this day all children in Streams, Young Buds and those in Key Stage Two who are eligible for a free school meal will be provided with a school lunch. This is because the level of

funding that we are given to cover the costs of universal infant free school meals and other free school meals is determined by the number of children who take lunch on this day.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAYRE

We will be running our annual scholastic book fayre between Thursday 26th – Tuesday 31st January. The book fayre will be based at Lynton with children from Kentisbury and Parracombe having an opportunity to visit the fayre during school time. Further details will be sent home shortly.

ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

Sainsbury's will be relaunching Active Kids on 25th January. Please do collect your vouchers and encourage friends and relatives to do the same. We are able to exchange the vouchers for a variety of high quality cooking and sports equipment which enhances the equipment that we already have.

TUMMY BUGS

Unfortunately the Christmas break does not appear to have completely rid us of the numerous bugs that are currently doing the rounds. In order to minimise illness, I would like to remind you that children should not return to school until 48 hours after their last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea.

Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

Our theme this term for Collective Worship is Love which is reflected in our federation ethos of CARIS. We have been sharing St Paul's letter to the Corinthians and, in particular, exploring how love is patient. We have been thinking about and praying for those who are less fortunate than ourselves and those who have living in the shadow of war and political unrest.

Class News – Streams



Over the next few weeks Streams will be getting fully immersed in the world of Fairy Tales. The children have been learning to retell the story of 'Little Red Riding Hood'. The children from Year 1 and 2 will now be adding their own creativity to the story and changing the characters and settings. We will be doing lots of drama such as plays and puppet shows to develop our understanding of the features of a fairy tale. It would be fantastic if you chose a fairy tale for your bedtime stories at home to support the children further.



In DT we will be making books with moving mechanisms such as pop ups and slides. Each week will be learning to make a new mechanism before creating a class book. In Science, we will be learning to identify the different parts of plants, what they need to survive and their different variations regarding seed transport and defence. The children will then be growing their own bean stalks and troll cross heads.



In Maths we have been revising the topics covered in Autumn before moving onto money. We will be learning to recognise each coin and its value before moving on to giving change. The children in Foundation will also be focusing on shape, particularly 3d. They will be identifying and building shapes.



Recently, the children have been introduced to Robinson and Nelly, the class soft toys. Each child will have the opportunity to take Robinson or Nelly home for the weekend to look after. In their bags they have a camera and diary so that the children can record their adventures. If there is any particular activity or adventure you would like to take Robinson or Nelly on please write your name on the list on their notice board in the classroom. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to write and speak in front of their peers when they share their adventures back in school.

Thank you to Kelly Peacock, who has volunteered to hear children read in the afternoon. If any other parents are able to hear children read, we would be extremely grateful. Please speak to any of the staff in Streams to arrange a time.

Mr Mackenzie

Class news – Rivers

In literacy, we are writing letters to a person who inspires us and persuading them to partake in a skype conversation. The children have responded well to our new reading incentive in class where the children can travel around a map of the world when they read each night. I have extended this further and now the children can travel around space every night they read. You can help your child by making sure you listen to them read and sign their reading record. I am focusing on reading comprehension this term so it is important to check that the children understand the content of what they are reading as well.

Next week in maths, we are focusing on fractions and equivalent fractions. We will be moving on to adding and subtracting fractions and then comparing fractions, decimals and percentages. I am still focusing on times tables with the class and will be setting work each day so they can practise their multiplications.

In our topic sessions, we are studying the Mayan Civilisation and their way of life. In R.E, we are continuing work on our Christianity project.

I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxed Christmas.

Many thanks Miss Martin.

Class news – Oceans

Our theme this term is temples tombs and treasures. We will be exploring this theme by looking at the Mayan culture past and present. We have already started our art which will look at making Mayan masks and will also look at weaving. In maths we are starting with shape looking at properties, angles, area and perimeter whilst also solving problems to do with shape using multiplication, division, addition and subtraction. In English we will be reading "Danny the champion of the world" whilst also fine tuning our comprehension skills. This half term we are focusing on the skills of skimming and scanning to retrieve data efficiently. We are starting off our writing with a formal letter which we hope will persuade people who inspire us to have a Skype interview with the whole class at some point. We will let you know how this goes and how many Skype interviews we have coming up.

How can you help at home?

Literacy:

When looking at products or events ask children to evaluate them looking for positives and negatives.

Reading:

When listening to your children read, ask them for the meanings of more challenging words. If your child is unable to be specific, ask them to read around the word to try and build up possible meanings for the word.

Maths:

Help children practice their times tables specifically X6, X7, X8 and X9

Sincerely,

Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

Young buds have had a flying start to the term. We all enjoyed our craft day creating some new art work for our classroom theme door as well as having a brilliant day at Lynton doing some mathematical problem solving activities which allowed us to create our own structures. All of this means the children are raring to go with our Fairy tales theme! This week we have begun to learn and retell the story of 'Little Red Riding Hood' and next week we look forward to changing the setting of the story and imagining what might have happened if it had been set in London. In Maths we have been doing lots of work on 2d and 3d shapes, so if you are able to do some 'shape spotting' whilst out and about over the weekend that would support the children's learning greatly. We also welcomed John back from Rugby tots, all the children love their afternoon with him and the progress they are making with their skills is really wonderful to see. This week you will have received some 'camera words' and your homework packs. Just a reminder, the camera words should be practiced as often as possible (reading initially, then moving on to writing). The homework pack is designed for you to pick and choose which activities you would like to do at home over the course of the term and each piece can be brought in as and when they are completed. We really appreciate all the support you give your children at home with their learning and would like to reassure you that the time and effort you put into reading, homework etc. really does make a huge difference to the children's attitudes and attainment within school. Thank you.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Pile.

Class news – Oaks

Years 3 and 4 Oaks

The children have settled well into this Spring term. They are doing a great job with their new classroom responsibilities. It is great to start the new year with the exciting topic Temples Tombs and Treasures!

We have started our literacy this year with letter writing. The children are currently busy drafting their letters to a person they admire. They have chosen a wide range of people from authors to astronauts and we look forward to eagerly awaiting their replies!

In numeracy we are exploring shape. In particular, we are exploring angles, direction and symmetry. The children will have an opportunity to demonstrate their learning during our treasure hunt at the end.

Science Club

I am delighted with the response I have had to science club. This week we investigated solids, liquids and viscosity through making slime!

Many Thanks,
Lisa Hamer

The children have come back to school with a positive attitude to their learning; they are full of curiosity and excitement about our new theme, 'temples, tombs and treasures'. Last week, the children experienced our 'wow' day to start of the topic which had a mathematical focus on building structures. Children used a range of mathematical shape language throughout the day and were able to explain how to build a strong structure. As always it was fantastic to see strong teamwork and collaboration across the groups.

In maths, year 5 and 6 are currently exploring shape. We will be learning about polygons, angles, circles and calculating missing angles. You can support your child at home by asking them questions about their learning and even getting them to show you.

In English year 5 and 6 are currently writing letters to an inspirational person of their choice, we are hoping for some written replies and even a skype conversation. You can support your child at home by helping them with their research and constructing high quality questions to ask as well as showing children letters which you have at home so they come familiar with the layout.

Many thanks,
Miss Hill.

Little Berries News

We have started this term with the theme of 'Frozen'. We will be using the children's knowledge of the film 'Frozen' to help them to understand the concept of the cold weather and the science behind ice and water, melting and freezing. During our learning we will discover how the cold and icy weather affects our climate and we will look at the effect that this has on our bodies and what we can do to stay warm.

We will also be focussing on grouping and quantities and practicing lots of letter writing and writing our name. As an extension to your child's learning please help them to practice writing their names at home and if you would like any help or resources to support this learning then please do not hesitate to talk to one of our practitioners.

Best wishes,
Your Little Berries team

Admin News

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.

With many thanks,
Wendy, Vikki, Jacqui and Mel

Dates for your diary

26.01.2017	Scholastic Book Fayre running this week
08.02.2017	Ofsted Celebration for Parracombe & Kentisbury
09.02.2017	Ofsted Celebration for Lynton
13.02.2017	Half Term
23.02.2017	Forest School begins for Years 3/4
27.02.2017	Parent Consultation Evening
02.03.2017	World Book Day
21.03.2017	Y6 G&T Basketball
24.03.2017	Red Nose Day
28.03.2017	Tag Ruby Qualifiers
31.03.2017	Federation Easter Service @ St Mary's, Lynton
31.03.2017	End of Term

COMMUNITY

Micro Medics (3-7 year olds)

We have the opportunity of hosting a Devon Antenatal and First Aid Micro Medics first aid course specifically designed for children age 3 to 7 years at Lynton School in the afternoon of Saturday 11th February. The two and a half hour course is run by a fully qualified first aid instructor, costs £18 per child and includes a certificate and booklet. If you would like your child to participate please email julia.pring@westexmoorfederation.org.uk or call 01598 753309.

Baby and Child First Aid

We are also hosting a Baby and Child first aid course at Lynton School on the morning of Saturday 11th February. This two and a half hour course is for parents, grandparents or anyone else who looks after your baby or young children covering essential skills like CPR, choking, other childhood illness and meningitis. Places are £20 per person, young babies are welcome. If you would like to participate please email julia.pring@westexmoorfederation.org.uk or call 01598 753309.

Lynton Baby and Toddler Group

For parents, carers and extended family of babies and toddlers from bump to 5. Drop in sessions every Thursday morning between 9:30-11:30am during term time at Lynton School.

email: julia.pring@westexmoorfederation.org.uk, call 01598 753309

CALVERT TRUST EXMOOR HOPES FOR A SHARE OF TESCO'S BAG CHARGE FUND

Calvert Trust Exmoor is asking residents of North Devon to vote this month to help them receive a grant from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative. Tesco has teamed up with Groundwork to launch the monthly funding scheme, which sees grants of £5,000, £2,000 and £1,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – being awarded to local outdoor community projects. Voting is open in stores from 2 January to 28 January 2017. Customers cast their vote using a token given to them at the checkout in store each time they shop.

Calvert Trust Exmoor will use the grant to fund accessible play equipment for a new inclusive play area, which will be open to both residential guests and local visitors.



Artist's Impression of the accessible play area

Fiona Walker, Community Fundraiser at Calvert Trust Exmoor, said, “We are so pleased to have been chosen by Tesco to be part of Bags for Help; this grant and the accessible play area it supports will make a huge difference to our guests and visitors. Please do visit your local Tesco store and vote for us this month!”

You can vote for Calvert Trust Exmoor in the following North Devon Tesco stores: Barnstaple Rose Lane (EX32 8PG), Barnstaple Extra Taw View (EX31 2AS), Barnstaple High Street (EX31 1EZ), Westward Ho! (EX39 1LH), Braunton (EX33 2DU), Ilfracombe (EX34 9RH), Bideford (EX39 4AJ)