



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

30.01.2017

Dear Parents/Carers

The last two weeks seem to have flown by and the children's enthusiasm for their learning has lighted up even the darkest of January days. It has been lovely so see them so engrossed in this terms theme of 'Temples, Tombs and Treasures' and my recent visits into the classrooms have revealed a real treasure-trove of excitement. This has been very much endorsed this week by Susan Theobald, an independent Education Leadership Partner, who we continue to commission on a termly basis. She brings with her a wealth of experience, an extremely critical eye and is working with us to help us move towards our ambition of being outstanding.

OFSTED PARTIES

I hope that you have all received your invitation to our Ofsted Parties on the 8th and 9th February. I really do hope that you will be able to come and join our federation community as we celebrate our Ofsted success. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to speak with myself, Mel or Vikki.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAYRE

Many of our children have already enjoyed visiting the Scholastic Book Fayre at Lynton. There are a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books on sale and for every book purchased we are able to select new books to replenish our current library and classroom stocks. If you would like to visit the fayre yourself, it will be open to all parents/carers after school on Monday.

SHILANGU

On 10th February we will be holding a non-uniform day for Shilangu, the boy who we sponsor in Swaziland. We ask that each child brings in a minimum donation of £1. We have just received an update on Shilangu's progress, which you can see by visiting:

<http://www.gowork.co.za/csp/web/201612Dec.php?child=-2119267780&Page=20518025&user=LUXXag0ueWmi>

MUSIC MARK

I am delighted to tell you that the federation has just been selected by Devon Music Education Hub to join Music Mark, a national association for music education. This is in response to our recent developments in music and in recognition of how we value music as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. It also acknowledges the strategy that we have in place for music and our desire to provide for all children. As you know, each child in the federation is now learning to play the recorder and read music. A growing number of children are also learning to play the piano, keyboard or violin and the choir, run by Sarah Adams, continues to go from strength-to-strength. With the support of the Devon Music Hub we will hopefully have a number of woodwind, brass and string specialists providing a music day for us later this term, as well as a coral master running some sessions for us in the summer term. It is anticipated that in the Autumn we will pilot Skype music lessons for those children who demonstrate a particular aptitude during these sessions. Our choir will also be performing on the Babcock Stage at the Devon Show, which will be a real opportunity for us to showcase our wonderful children.

500 WORDS WRITING COMPETITION

Last week we launched the 500 words writing competition across the federation and even managed a mention on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show! Since then, many of our children have been eagerly writing their entries and we will ensure that they have plenty of time to craft their writing prior to the closing date on 23rd February. Who knows, maybe we will have a winner within our midst – if not, it has given the children a real purpose for their writing and we will be holding our own prize giving across the federation. For further information about the competition please visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>

ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

Sainsbury's have now relaunched Active Kids. 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.

ART SHIRTS

At Lynton, we are on the hunt for unwanted, long sleeved adult shirts that can be cut down to make suitable art shirts for our older children. If you have any shirts to spare, please do send them in with your child. Many thanks

Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

Our theme this term for Collective Worship is Love which is reflected in our federation ethos, CARIS. We have continued to explore St Paul's letter to the Corinthians and, in particular, considered how love is kind and forgiving. We have been thinking about and praying for politicians around the world in the hopes that they will make wise decisions. We have also been thinking about those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Class News – Streams

Streams will be finishing their alternative Little Red Riding Hood stories this week. They have come up with some brilliant original ideas; from Cody's story which is set in the circus to Millie's African Fairytale idea, they are all fantastic. In Maths, we will be continuing with money. It would be great if the children could practice by buying items in the shop and discussing this further at home. In DT we have been learning about different moving mechanisms in pop-up books. The children will be designing and making their own pop-up book this week. In Science, we have germinated our seeds and will be conducting investigations into the how different factors affect growth.

Mr Mackenzie

Class news – Rivers

In English, we are writing newspaper reports documenting an explorer's discovery of the Mayan Civilisation. The children will be working towards creating a drama performance of their reports at the end of the topic. You can help your child in English by making sure you listen to them read. 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.

In maths, we are focusing on shape and angles. This week in particular we have been looking at symmetry, parallel and perpendicular lines. We are still concentrating on learning our multiplication tables and the children are encouraged to practice their times tables at home.

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

Many thanks Miss Martin.

Class news – Oceans

Choir sang brilliantly at the over 60's party on Saturday evening alongside the adult choir, the "Lyntones". Their colourful performance brightened up the room with a selection of songs from musicals. Well-done and thank you to all who supported and took part, it made for a lively and entertaining start to the evenings celebration.

We're still exploring shape in Oceans, having looked at why triangles are the strongest shapes and having used this question to guide our exploration of angles, area, perimeter and symmetry we are continuing to explore the properties of other shapes and look at volume in our problem solving. We will be investigating the making of Mayan pyramids as a maths investigation this week and writing-up our findings to make an in-class display. We've also finished our letters to persuade people who inspire us to have a Skype interview with us. We will let you who writes back and agrees to take part in an interview with us.

Sincerely,
Ms. Adams

Class news – Young Buds

Young Buds have been enjoying our theme of 'Fairy Tales' as part of our whole federation theme of 'Temples, Tombs and Treasures'.

In literacy, we have been working on our own versions of 'Little Red Riding Hood' and will very soon be moving on to a

new fairy tale.

In maths, we have moved on to work with money. The children will be learning the value of each coin before moving on to setting practising buying items in a shop setting and giving change. You can help at home by giving your child opportunities to pay for items in shops and challenging them to work out what change they should get.

In Geography we will be making maps of the local area before creating our own fairy tale lands and in Science we are learning about the structure of plants. The children will then be growing their own bean stalks and troll cress heads

If you have any yoghurt pots and toilet rolls in your recycling bin we would be very grateful for them in school next week ready for growing our own cress heads in a couple of weeks.

Keep up the reading at home and your camera words Young Buds! Lots of you have earned badges for nightly reading and some children in years one and two have earned credits for their spellings at home already. Remember, years one and two, to practise writing them in sentences as well as learning each spelling. There is a new set waiting at school for those who complete the first set. Reception children, keep up the amazing work with your camera words. Can you spot them during your nightly reading?

Mrs Smith and Mrs Pile.

Class news – Oaks

Children have been writing letters the past week and the level of questioning and writing has been outstanding. On Monday we walked down to the post office and posted our letters, we are hoping for some replies shortly. We are now writing biographies, focusing closely on grammatical structures such as sentence types and up-leveled conjunctions.

In maths, we have moved on from shape to general arithmetic – looking at all four operations and problem solving. You can support your child by asking ‘quick-fire’ questions which they can answer mentally. For example; $15 \times 5 =$, $27 + 13 =$, $48 \div 4 =$ and $1099 - 100 =$.

On Monday 30th January, Oaks class will be visiting the school book fair held at Lynton. Children will be able to look at new books and will have the opportunity to purchase their favourite ones.

We are focusing on comprehension, skimming and scanning for information in reading. When your child is reading independently, it is important to check their understanding of what they have read and ask questions to challenge their thinking.

Many thanks, Miss Hill.

Little Berries News

For the last week we have been exploring Chinese New Year by preparing our own stir-frys, working out the children's Zodiac signs and exploring new textures whilst encouraging fine motor skills by cutting and snipping pasta. We have also been focussing on the colours red and gold. Next week we will be discussing Valentine's Day and talking about the people we love who are close to us, and making Valentine's heart biscuits.

Best wishes,

Your Little Berries team

Admin News

Vacancy - 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.

With many thanks,

Wendy, Vikki, Jacqui and Mel

Dates for your diary

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| 26.01.2017 | Scholastic Book Fayre running this week |
| 08.02.2017 | Ofsted Celebration for Parracombe & Kentisbury |
| 09.02.2017 | Ofsted Celebration for Lynton |
| 10.02.2017 | Non-Uniform Day – Raising funds for Shilangu |
| 13.02.2017 | Half Term |
| 23.02.2017 | Forest School begins for Years 3/4 |
| 27.02.2017 | Parent Consultation Evening - Lynton |
| 02.03.2017 | World Book Day – Come dressed as your favourite book character |
| 06.03.2017 | Parent Consultation Evening – Parracombe & Kentisbury (at Kentisbury) |

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| 21.03.2017 | Y6 G&T Basketball |
| 24.03.2017 | Red Nose Day – Fund Raising |
| 28.03.2017 | Tag Ruby Qualifiers |
| 31.03.2017 | Federation Easter Service @ St Mary's, Lynton |
| 31.03.2017 | End of Term |

COMMUNITY