



# West Exmoor Federation

*'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'*

10.03.2017

Dear Parents/Carers

## **WORLD BOOK DAY**



being such good sports!!

Thank you so much to all the children and staff who made World Book Day such great fun last week. It was lovely to see every child within the federation entering fully into the spirit of the day and to hear the children talking so animatedly about why they had chosen to dress up as their particular character. We are very fortunate that our children so obviously enjoy reading which is, in no small part, thanks to the emphasis that you put upon this as parents/carers at home. During the course of the day there were book character 'cat walks', board games created around favourite books, book quizzes, etc, taking place across the federation. At Lynton the staff collaborated to dress up as crayons from 'The Day the Crayons Quit' – thank you for

## **SWIMMING GALA**



Last Friday I had the great pleasure of accompanying our swimming team to the Ilfracombe Area Partnership for Learning Primary Schools Swimming Gala. The team comprised of Pippa, Abigail L, Rosie, Poppy, Isla, Jade, Charlie O, George, Aine, Alfie, Elliot, Libby, Haven and Reuben. I was extremely proud of each and every team member; all of whom swam extremely well. A special mention must go to Jade, Pippa and Haven who all got through to the finals in their events; an excellent achievement. As always, the children's behaviour was impeccable and they all looked extremely smart in their team kit. A parent supporting our team even overheard a parent from another school commenting on how smart our team looked!

## **HEALTH & SAFETY AUDIT**

Earlier this week a Health & Safety Audit was carried out by the Local Authority at Parracombe and Kentisbury. I am delighted to tell you that we achieved 100% compliance. Such a high level of compliance is virtually unheard of and all credit to my fantastic admin team that works tirelessly to ensure everything is kept in order. However, I'd like to say a special thank you to Wendy and Jacqui who met with the auditor and ensured that everything was fully in place prior to his visit.

## **RED NOSE DAY**

Don't forget that we will be celebrating Red Nose Day on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March. If possible children should wear something red to school and bring with them a minimum donation of £1 to support this very deserving cause.

## **COATS, SOCKS & TATTOOS**

It is lovely to see the children looking so smart in their uniforms at the moment – thank you very much for assisting us with this. However, we have noticed that a growing number of children are wearing rather colourful socks!! Whenever possible, could you please ensure that your child is wearing white, black or grey socks or tights. Also, if your child has a temporary tattoo applied could you please make sure that it is removed before they come to school, especially if the tattoo is visible. Finally, quite a few children are coming to school without coats. As you know, we encourage all of our children to go outside, even if it is drizzly, so could you please double check that your child does bring their coat to school every day. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

## **MOTHER IVEY'S BAY**

Family holidays provide vital time to enjoy each others company and to regroup away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and the many pressures and time constraints that are put upon us. However not all families are able to afford this luxury. Is your family on a low income? Were you unable to afford a holiday last year and won't be having one this year either? If so, we could make an application for your family to be considered by the Family Holiday Association for a break at Mother Ivey's Bay cararvan park near Padstow in Cornwall. Please speak with me, in the strictest of confidence, if you would like to discuss this further. Further information can be found via:

### **SLEEPLESS BRITAIN**

Is your child getting enough sleep? Did you see Panorama earlier this week? It is reported that a rapidly growing number of children are exhausted and that this is impacting on their health and education. Research shows that lack of sleep can affect our children's concentration and behaviour and reduce their academic performance by up to two school years. Increasingly as parents we are struggling to get our children to sleep and substantial evidence now links the use of TV, phones or tablets prior to bedtime to many children finding it difficult to switch off. Research shows that night time sleep is just as important as healthy eating and exercise for children to develop. Those who don't get enough sleep are more likely to be overweight because they tend to crave and eat sugary or starchy food during the day to give them energy to stay awake. Primary aged children should have between 10 and 12 hours of sleep per night and if our children are well rested and have had sufficient sleep, they should get up fairly easily in the morning, be alert and happy for most of the day. If you are concerned that your child is not getting enough sleep, or if you struggle to get your child to sleep, you can find advice and further information at [www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Childrenssleep](http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Childrenssleep). Also, if you are on Facebook, there is information regarding the Panorama programme on the CBeebies page and some helpful advice on how to establish a harmonious bedtime routine. Certainly in school we are noticing that the children seem quite tired at the moment and we would very much appreciate your support in trying to ensure that, whenever possible, all of our children have a good nights sleep.

### **EASTER SERVICE**

We will be hold our Federation Easter Service at St Mary's, Lynton on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 10.30am. Children from across the federation will be taking part and would warmly invite you to join us as we celebrate this important time in the Church year.

Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock  
Executive Headteacher

*Our theme this term for Collective Worship is Love which is reflected in our federation ethos, CARIS. We continue to explore St Paul's letter to the Corinthians and, in particular, have considered how to be generous with our time and resources. We have been thinking about those who are poorly or lonely and praying for a world within which everyone has enough to survive.*

### **Class News – Rivers**

After we have finished our topic on adverts, we will be looking at narrative in literacy and the children will be writing their own story. 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.

In maths, we are continuing our topic on measurement. We have been working on area and perimeter presently. One of the most useful ways to help your child is to encourage them to learn their times tables. We will then be moving onto money and understanding how to tell the time.

We have started our science topic on forces this week and will be continuing this over the next few weeks. The children have been conducting their own science investigations and developing their scientific thinking.

Many thanks, Miss Martin.

### **Class News – Oceans**

Our biographies are now completed, so this week we are looking at reports (from newspapers to police reports). By the end of the sequence we will have created a variety of reports and become the federation police force to solve a mysterious case. We will also be looking at the use of the passive tense and commas for our grammatical focus.

Fractions will shortly be our key focus in our maths sessions. We will be reading, writing and drawing them and then we will move onto comparing and ordering them before using all four functions with them. To apply our skills to real-life contexts, we will explore fractions when cooking, gardening and measuring. This will be handy, as Oceans will be clearing the school garden, ready for planning, preparing and planting our new scheme.

How you can help at home:

Literacy – continue to ask children for extra description of events or items by using what we call "Writer questions", e.g. who, when, where, what, how, why. These open questions allow us to practice and extend our descriptive language.

Reading – When reading with children, ask them their opinions or what they think the character's opinions of an event are. Challenge them to explain or give proof to back-up their opinions through the text. Proving inferred meaning is a key skill that is tested.

Maths – When opportunities arise for example distances involved when travelling or amounts when cooking, ask children to work out fractions of amounts ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{5}$ ,  $\frac{2}{10}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $\frac{1}{6}$ ,  $\frac{1}{9}$ ). It is also useful for them to estimate fractional amounts so that they practice and develop their ability to visualise amounts.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Adams

### **Class News – Young Buds**

Young Buds had a fantastic World Book Day this year, and I think you'll all agree that their costumes were amazing! We enjoyed sharing our favourite stories, talking about different characters and even some role play. It was a great effort by everyone, well done.



Now that spring is on the way, Young Buds have been busy planting various things at school such as potatoes and beans. We will be watching them grow very closely and will also be keeping diaries of our plants. We will also set up an experiment with some of the seeds to see what affect different conditions have on growing plants. In maths we are concentrating on number again and you can help the children with this at home by counting in 2's, 5's and 10's and could challenge your child by changing the starting points, for example 2, 22, 32, 42, 52 etc or by counting backwards!

In Literacy we will be finishing our work on instructions by learning about writing in the past/present/future tense as well as looking at suffixes. We will then move on to a History based topic that will be learning all about the life of Walt Disney, linking in with our fairy tales theme.

Young Buds will be raising money for Red Nose Day this year by decorating and selling biscuits for 50p each. These will be available to buy from 3pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March so please support them by either popping into school to buy one or sending your child in with some money.

Finally, a huge thank you to all of the parents who came in to see us for parent's evening on Monday. It is always such a pleasure to share with you what your children have been achieving in school. If you were unable to make it, please feel free to make an appointment with either of us after school as we'd love to meet with everyone if possible.

Many thanks,  
Mrs Smith and Mrs Pile.



## Class News – Oaks

Years 3 and 4

It was lovely to meet so many parents at our Parent's evening this week. It is wonderful to be able to share all of your children's progress.

We have been very busy these past few weeks with our persuasive writing, measuring in math's and extra activities.

As usual, World Book day was lots of fun. The children arrived in fantastic costumes; they took great pride in showing them off during our catwalk! We had fun making board games based on the fortunate and unfortunate events that happen to the characters in their favorite book.

We have also started our forest school sessions. Currently the children are problem-solving, working out how to build ancient Mayan style pyramids. Soon we will be moving onto using the natural materials around us to solve Mayan maths problems.

We are currently enjoying our science investigations into forces and magnets. At the start of the week, our budding scientists generated many questions in class. It has been a joy to watch them discover the answers for themselves.

Finally, we will be continuing with our recorder lessons building up to the Easter service. Please can all children have their recorder with them in school each day.

Many thanks,  
Lisa Hamer

Firstly, I would like to say huge congratulations to the West Exmoor Federation swimming team who competed against six other schools last Friday at Ilfracombe pool. We made three of the finals, with the results being incredibly close. We are very proud of you, well done.

On Monday morning, children in Oaks class walked into a 'crime scene' set up in the classroom. Year 5 and 6 children became investigators; they carefully collected evidence which led them to work out what had gone missing – the prize box. Our literacy unit is writing reports therefore children used the crime scene as a learning stimulant to write a police report about what had happened. I was amazed by the children's curiosity, their inquisitive thinking and questioning. To support your children with report writing at home, show them suitable newspaper articles which

they may be interested in. You can ask your child questions about the article.

In math's, we are approaching the end of our current unit; reasoning with measures. Children have learnt how to find the perimeter and area of a range of shapes. Ask your child how to find the area of the shape? Can they measure an object at home?

Finally, please ensure your child has their PE kit in school every day including trainers.



Many thanks, Miss Hill.

## **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**

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, 10.30am
31.03.2017	End of Term

## **COMMUNITY**

### **Vacancy at the Valley of the Rocks Hotel:**

Looking for hard working, self-motivated individuals to join our team of housekeepers at The Valley Of Rocks Hotel. Hours per week vary based on guest bookings, but regular start-stop times. Would suit stay at home mums, and/or someone looking for a weekend job. Please pop in or call 01598 752349 and ask for the head housekeeper.

### **Mother Ivey's Bay**

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[www.familyholidayassociation.org.uk/apply-for-a-break/](http://www.familyholidayassociation.org.uk/apply-for-a-break/)