

West Exmoor Federation

'Educating with love, for life in all its fullness'

Autumn Term 2019 – Newsletter 5 – 13th December 2019



Quick Reminders

Please see the diary dates below as a reminder for all of the festive activities next week.

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

Oh my goodness me, how on earth has a third of the school year already passed us by; it doesn't seem like 5 minutes ago that we were welcoming our new reception children to the federation – how they have all grown (physically, emotionally and academically) since their first few days at school in September; we are all so incredibly proud of them. As always, it has been an exceptionally busy term with our children enjoying an action packed range of enrichment events as well as working incredibly hard with their learning within (and out) of the classroom. The term really did get off to a BANG with a visit from the incredible science group, Wonderstruck; this was shortly followed by an incredible residential to the Eden Project for our Year 5 & 6 children; and the, amongst other things, we've been enthralled by visiting poet Joshua Siegel; enjoyed a visit from the Life Education Mobile Classroom; participated in Harvest and Christingle Church Services; held a Remembrance Service at Woody Bay; benefitted from professional football coaching and participated in numerous sporting events with other schools across North Devon such as Cross Country, Tag Rugby, Tennis and Athletics. I genuinely believe that our children are incredibly lucky to enjoy such a broad and balanced school experience and I would like to thank all of my staff for always going the extra mile to ensure that our children have the very best school experience.



COUNT DOWN TO CHRISTMAS

As we enter the final week of term, there is a great deal happening across the federation. On Tuesday, Lynton will be holding their Carol Service and Nativity at St Mary's at 10.30am and 5.30pm. Christmas Lunch will be enjoyed by all on Wednesday and Parracombe and Kentisbury will also be holding their Carol Service and Nativity on this day (10.30am at St Thomas', Kentisbury and 5.30pm at Christ Church, Parracombe). On Thursday we will be making our annual visit to the Queen's Theatre to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and Friday will see an array of fun activities taking place as we prepare to finish for the Christmas holiday. I very much hope that you will be able to join us at least one of our Christmas Services – I know that it means a great deal to our children to have your support.

HERE COME THE GREEKS!

Next term the main hook for our learning will be the Ancient Greeks. To get the term off to a flying start we will be joined by an Ancient Historian who will run an action packed enrichment day for our children. For Lynton children this will be on Thursday 9th January and for the children of Parracombe and Kentisbury, this will be on Friday 10th January. During the day our children will have the opportunity to become a Greek warrior and join the Hoplite army; learn about democracy; discover many 'Eureka!' moments of the Ancient Greek period; explore daily life; immerse themselves into Ancient Greek myths and legends and find out about the history of the Olympic Games. In order to enable our children to enter fully into the spirit of the day, it would be wonderful if they could come to school dressed in an Ancient Greek costume. This does not need to be elaborate or shop bought. Ideas can easily be found on the internet and an information sheet is also included at the end of this newsletter.

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READING

If I have one wish for our children next year, it is that every child has the opportunity to read at home on a daily basis. I know only too well how challenging this can be but the difference that a few minutes of reading with or to your child each day can make to them is phenomenal. Here are just 10 reasons why daily reading is so important:

1. **Children who read often and widely get better at it.** After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.
2. **Reading exercises our brain.** Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain than watching TV, for example. Reading strengthens our brain's connections and builds new connections.
3. **Reading improves concentration.** Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.
4. **Reading teaches children about the world around them.** Through reading a variety of books children learn about people, places and events outside of their own experience.
5. **Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.** Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.
6. **Reading develops a child's imagination.** As we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.
7. **Reading helps children to develop empathy.** As children develop they begin to imagine how they would feel in a situation that they are reading about.
8. **Reading is fun.** A book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space and is light to carry; you can take it anywhere and ensure that you are never bored with a book in your bag.
9. **Reading is a great way to spend time together.** Reading together on the sofa or at bedtime and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.
10. **Children who read achieve better in school.** Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English. Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.

DECISION SPELLING INFORMATION SESSIONS

You may have heard your child talking about Decision Spelling. This is a new spelling programme that we have recently introduced across the federation. Early next term Mrs Taylor and myself will be putting on information sessions for parents/carers to explain how the programme works and how you can support your child with their spelling at home. Although in its infancy across the federation, we are already seeing a very positive impact on our children, especially those who are less confident with spelling, and we look forward to telling you more about the programme next term.

PARKING

Once again, can I please ask that all parents/carers dropping off and collecting children from school park in a sensible and safe way. At Lynton all children who travel to school by car should be dropped off in Bottom Meadow Car Park, not outside of the main school entrance or in the Crown car park. At Parracombe the road should not be blocked as this makes access for the federation minibuses difficult and is a great source of irritation to the residents of Parracombe. If appropriate parking is not available outside of the school, please use the village hall car park and walk down the hill to meet your child from school. Finally, at Kentisbury the staff car park should not be used and drivers are urged to enter and exit the main car park with care to ensure the safety of those walking through the car park.

With Best Wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

In collective worship this half-term we have been thinking about the people of God, including Abraham and Moses. We have also been thinking about Advent and Christmas and consider where and in whom, we find inspiration.

Reception , Year 1 & Year 2 – Streams and Young Buds

Christmas service and Nativity costumes

Nativity rehearsals are well under way and the children are working exceptionally hard in preparation for our Christmas services next week. Those children who need costumes should have been notified. Please bring in your costume as soon as possible. If you are not able to obtain a costume or you are unsure whether you need to provide one for your child, please speak to member of staff.

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Maths

Well done to the children who have been using Mathletics. The leader board has been dominated by children in KS1. Please continue to use Mathletics over the Christmas period. Mathletics is available as an app on android and apple store.

In the new year, the children will be starting a unit on 'Money'. This will include:

- Recognising coins and notes.
- Combining coins to make a particular total
- Finding different combinations for the same amount
- Adding and subtracting amounts
- Giving change

Money is a mathematical concept which can really be developed at home. Please take some time to explore the learning objectives above with your child at home.

Thank you

Thank you to all the parent volunteers for their help this term. We are extremely grateful for all your help. Reading one to one with children is an invaluable learning experience and we are always looking for more volunteers. At the West Exmoor Federation, we pride ourselves on hearing the children read on a regular basis. This is made possible by the continued support of the community. If you would be interested in hearing children read, please speak to your class teacher.

Lynton reading and spelling workshop

At the last parents evening many parents requested some guidance with reading and spelling strategies. We would love to offer a short workshop on Thursday 16th January. We would like to arrange this at a time most convenient for the majority of parents. We will place a poll on the school notice board to collect preferred times. We will confirm the time of the workshop before the end of term.

Year 3 & 4 - Rivers & Oaks

These past few weeks have been very busy across the federation. In maths, year 3/4 have been mastering addition and subtraction. The focus has been using column addition/subtraction to solve a range of calculations. Regular mathletics practise at home will support this unit in maths and weekly work is added to each child's mathletics homepage. Decision spelling has been implemented across the federation. Daily spelling lessons have been supporting our learning in English. We have been practising our spellings in a variety of ways. Take a look at <https://www.theschoolrun.com/teachers-tricks-make-spelling-easy> or speak to your class teacher for ideas.

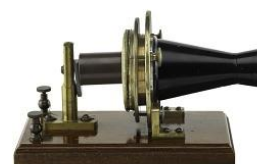
The children have represented the federation at cross country events and rugby training days. Their behaviour has been impeccable and it has been a pleasure to take them out and about.

Year 5 & 6 – Oceans and Forests

The children have finished writing their explanations on how a telephone works and they have completed their maths unit on long multiplication and long division. They all worked extremely hard and completing their end of term assessments last week. We are all looking forward to the Christmas festivities in the last week of term.



This week, Oceans class have been working on creating art canvases for the school hall. They display our school values CARIS (Curiosity, Achievement, Respect, Inspiration and Support) and show that our values are at the heart of everything we do.



Sports News

Year 5/6 took part in an Athletics Competition, at Ilfracombe Academy. It was an energetic and rewarding afternoon spent competing in a variety of Athletic events. The children were challenged with activities such as relay and long jump. They tried their best and we came fourth in the events.

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Maths News

Top Ten Athletics pupils

Students	Activity Points	Live Points	Total Points	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Livy W	5870	0	5870	2	1	
Archie F	4620	771	5391	2	0	
Finley T	810	4204	5014	2	0	
Phillip C	3190	2	3192	2	0	
Henry P	2580	0	2580	2	0	
Tiarna F	1880	214	2094	1	0	
Tayla D	1850	0	1850	1	0	
Christopher C	1360	456	1816	1	0	
Timea L	1450	14	1464	1	1	
George B	1300	22	1322	0	0	

Little Berries News

Little Berries Book Appeal
Raffle Hamper

Dear Parents/Carers,

Due to the wonderful success of our book bag borrowing service we are hoping to purchase additional books to extend our library.

We are looking to raise £50 and would like to ask for your help.

We have enclosed some raffle tickets with the hope that you will sell them, at a £1 a strip, to your friends and family. Please can we ask that all sold tickets are returned by Wednesday 18th December.

Please don't forget to put your name/number on the back of each ticket.

Thank You



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Admin

Kentisbury & Parracombe Schools - Cashless system from 6th January

Following the successful introduction of a cashless system at Lynton School, we are writing to inform you that from the 6th January, we will also be introducing the online payment system at the other two Schools. Further details will be sent out, prior to the end of term, in readiness for the new year.

Logs for the Yurt wood burner

As you may know we now have a nice new cover for the yurt, which is used regularly during our Forest School lessons. We have been advised to light the wood burner each week, to help keep the cover in good condition, but unfortunately we have become very short of wood. If you are able to supply some logs, even one or two, this would be much appreciated. One log per child would keep the wood burner a light for quite some time, so any quantity would be a great help.

We Will Rock You Choir Trip

Please see Miss Constant regarding the choir trip (open to all KS2 choir members) as places are still available.

Governor News

Meet the Governors - Esther Bray - Parent Governor



My name is Esther. I grew up in Cornwall where I attended a small, village primary school. My secondary school education was in a larger comprehensive school, where I completed my A levels. I graduated from Cardiff University with a Masters degree in Pharmacy in 2003, then moved to Worcester where I worked as a Hospital Pharmacist whilst also completing a Clinical Pharmacy diploma. I moved to North Devon in 2007 to take up the role of Antimicrobial Pharmacist at North Devon District Hospital.

I am married to Matthew. He is a dairy farmer and his family have always lived and farmed in the area. We have two boys, Henry who is in year 3 at Parracombe and William who is in Year 1 at Kentisbury. Ever since Henry started at Kentisbury, I have been very impressed with both the quality of the care and education he has received.

As a family, we attend Brookdale church in Ilfracombe. I am keen to support the federation in bringing Christian faith into the children's daily lives. I have experience of helping at youth groups and the summer holiday club within our church. I enjoy learning about the running of the three schools and supporting the federation by being part of the governing body.

Parent Governor Vacancy

If any parent of any pupil in the Federation would like to know more about the Governing Body, and its' work, with a view to becoming a governor could they please contact me on the contact below, or via any school office.

jan.stokes@westexmoorfederation.org.uk

Jan Stokes; Chair. West Exmoor Federation Governing Body.

Diary Dates

17 th December	Lynton Nativity and Carol Service, St Mary's church, 10.30am and 5.30pm
18 th December	Kentisbury and Parracombe Nativity and Carol Service, St Thomas' church, 10.30am and 5.30pm
18 th December	Christmas Dinner
19 th December	Federation Pantomime visit to Queens Theatre, Snow White
20 th December	End of Term

Community

From the Rectory

While the date of the election was debated, voices were questioning the wisdom of electioneering as people prepared for Christmas. How many candidates would really want to disturb festive preparations with their political message and how

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amenable would voters be to their time of partying being interrupted with political broadcasts? Or Nativity Plays happening alongside polling booths?

It got me thinking about the first Christmas and the way the birth of Jesus is told in Luke's gospel. The story begins with the Emperor Augustus calling for a census – a huge political event when everyone had to go back to their home towns to be registered. When you think about it, this was much more disruptive than an election during Advent!

Jesus was born in Bethlehem precisely because of this big political event, because Joseph had to go home to be registered and Mary, pregnant with Jesus, went with him. I am sure in those days the census would have only recorded adult males – but if it did include the members of a man's household too, I wonder if Jesus was born in time to be registered, or did God's Son come into the world an unregistered person? No doubt there was plenty of partying going on in Bethlehem with extended family members taking the opportunity of the required journey to meet up and spend time with each other in a way not usually possible. The inns were full of such visitors, perhaps making it a holiday season.

So Christmas happened hidden from view in a place where they fed the animals. Now Christians believe it began the biggest interruption to normal life of all time!

In a time of politics and partying, Jesus' birth, is the best interruption to human life on offer. God enters into the midst of creation, of culture, of family life as one of us, to show us what a human living in the fullness of Love is like. God comes to us as a helpless, homeless child, while everyone else had their eyes on politics and partying, to show us how God loves and values each and every child, each hidden life, each and every one of us: we are deeply precious in God's sight.

My prayer for us all this Advent and Christmas-tide is that we allow God's love to interrupt our partying and our politics with the knowledge of how precious every life is. Then we can cast our vote in the way we each believe will best benefit the most vulnerable people in our world and we can celebrate Christmas with the fullness of the true joy of knowing we are loved can bring.

God bless, Samantha

Revd Samantha Stayte, The Rectory, 20 Lee Road, Lynton. EX35 6BP. Tel. 01598 752289.

Forthcoming Services

St Mary's Sing for Joy – Saturday 14th December @ 11am - an informal, more modern worship service lasting approximately 40 minutes with refreshments afterwards.

Parracombe Carol Service – Sunday 15th December @ 6pm

Crib Service at St Mary's – Tuesday 24th December @ 4pm

Plough Sunday at Christ Church, Parracombe - Sunday 12th January @ 11am



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Free Home Safety Visits

Dear Parents and Carers,

You are eligible for a FREE Home Safety Visit and it's easy to arrange.

What is a 'Home Safety Visit'?

- It's a FREE visit from a trained technician who will advise on any fire or safety risks in the home.
- FREE equipment may be provided. This can include: smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, extension leads, fire retardant bedding, smoke alarm testers and more.
- It's a FREE advice service: Our technicians are trained to look for risks that you may not have thought of.
- It's available to any household with children.
- We will discuss electrical safety including the safe charging of phones and tablets.
- We will identify and advise on fire safety risks such as overloaded sockets to help prevent the chance of a fire starting in your home.
- We will discuss an escape plan for you and your family.

We want to help to keep your family safe from fire.

Contact us by phone or
email:
Quote code **401**

Make the call!
0800 05 02 999
firekills@dsfire.gov.uk



Ideas for an Ancient Greek Costume

Greek Girl

- A long chiton (see instructions below)
- A large rectangle of fabric for a cloak (a bed sheet is ideal)
- A wide sash/belt of contrasting fabric
- Two brooches for the chiton
- A necklace and earrings as desired



Greek Boy

- A knee length tunic (see instructions below)
- A wide sash/belt of contrasting fabric
- Sandals



To make the boy's tunic

1. Take a large piece of rectangular fabric (an old bedsheet is ideal)
2. Fold it in half along its width
3. On the folded edge cut a hole for the head
4. Bind the waist with the wide belt, overlapping any additional fabric at the sides so that the tunic doesn't come open!
5. Trim the length so that it comes to your knees
6. A t-shirt and shorts can be worn underneath for modesty

To make the girl's chiton

1. Take an old single bedsheet or similar and fold the top third down on itself to make a flap. Now fold the whole thing in half the other way;
2. Wrap the sheet around yourself, making sure there's no gaps;
3. Fasten the front and back with a brooch at each shoulder;
4. Use the sash as a belt to hold the hole thing together!
5. A T-shirt and shorts can be worn underneath for modesty



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