



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

24.03.2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Red Nose Day

Thank you so much for supporting our fundraising for Comic Relief today. The children looked really colourful in their various shades of red and it was lovely to see so many different fund-raising activities taking place across the federation. Well done everyone – it's always sobering to think about those less fortunate than ourselves but equally uplifting to think that today we have helped to make a difference.

Easter Service

Don't forget that we will be holding our federation Easter Service at St Mary's, Lynton at 10.30am on Friday 31st March. All of our children will be taking part in this service and you are warmly invited to join us. In the afternoon our PTFAs are organising a range of activities. At Lynton the children will be taking part in a Chocolate Bingo, whereas at Kentisbury there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of Parracombe and Kentisbury. Bishop Sarah of Crediton will also be visiting Kentisbury during the afternoon and parents are invited to meet with her and join us for a cup of tea and a piece of cake at 3pm.

School Funding

I am sure you have seen recent media coverage regarding the school funding crisis. School funding levels vary considerably across the country based on historical precedent. Devon is one of the forty most poorly funded local authorities in the country. On average a primary school pupil within Devon receives about £290 less per year than the national average.

The government has pledged to introduce a new National Funding Formula (NFF) aimed at applying a consistent and fairer approach to funding and eliminating the anomalies that currently exist. This is welcomed in principle. In January the Department for Education released details of the formula and produced illustrative figures on how individual schools would be impacted. The formula is quite complicated but as well as a basic per pupil amount that will apply across the country, there are a series of pupil and school based factors including a lump sum and things like "sparsity" which means how isolated a school is and a variety of factors that consider deprivation levels in any area.

If the NFF is introduced as currently published, small rural schools like ours are set to benefit very slightly which of course is welcome. But overall Devon schools are no better off with estimates showing that 61.9% of Devon children will attend schools which are 'losers' from the new formula. Our gain is at the expense of the majority, notably secondaries, who face significant budget cuts. The new formula is being fiercely contested by schools and local authorities who will lose out so there is no certainty about how it will end up.

Within the federation we are currently in a strong position; primarily because being federated has already enabled us to make the many savings that other schools are now having to achieve. The governors have a legal duty to set a balanced budget and we have been able to achieve this for the next three years. We do not, therefore, envisage the NFF to present us with an immediate challenge. However, we are campaigning for fairer funding for all and urging the government to ensure that funding for schools is maintained in line with inflation. Should you wish to find out more about the NFF please do not hesitate to talk with myself or our Chair of Governors, Jan Stokes.

Year 6 SATs Preparation

Our children in Year 6 are currently preparing for their SATs in May. We try to keep the tests as low-key as possible, but with just a few weeks to go it is inevitable that the 'S' word is a little more prominent. It has been encouraging to see so many of our Y6 children taking it upon themselves to do a little additional revision at home. It's also been good to see so many of them voluntarily attending our SATs clubs at Lynton and Parracombe. All of the children have revision guides and just a few extra minutes a day, especially when overseen by parent/carers, really does make a difference to their confidence. Therefore, if at all possible, I urge you to spend a few minutes a day over the Easter holiday assisting your child with their revision. It would also be really helpful if you could try to ensure that they get plenty of rest over the holiday so that they return to school recharged for the start of the new term and our countdown to SATs week (8th – 12th May).

Mother's Day Greetings in the North Devon Journal

Many of the children from across the federation have been writing Mother's Day messages for their Mum's or Granny's which will be published in this weeks NDJ. Don't forget to buy a copy if you would like to read your message.

Clubs for Next Term

A letter will come out next week regarding clubs for the Summer Term. Please complete and return as soon as possible so that we can prepare club lists prior to the first day of term. Clubs will resume on Tuesday 18th April. There will be some changes to the extended child care being offered at Kentisbury between 4.30pm and 6pm. Half-hour sessions will now be available but all sessions will need to be booked a week in advance – further information will be available in the letter next week.

Supervision of children waiting for buses

If your child uses school transport between Kentisbury and Parracombe in the morning, could I please ask that you ensure your child is properly supervised whilst waiting for the bus to arrive. I am particularly concerned about the number of children climbing on the hedged bank at Kentisbury as it is not very stable. Many thanks.

Menu

Jayne Hoskins is currently putting the finishing touches to our new Summer Menu. It will include some of the children's favourites as well as one or two new dishes to keep the menu fresh and interesting. A copy of the new menu will be sent home next week.

Year 3/4 London Residential

Following events in London earlier this week, I would like to advise you that at present our planned residential will go ahead. However, we will continue to monitor the situation carefully and adhere to any advice offered by the Local Authority or Government. The nature of our trip means that our children will not be using public transport and the amount of walking will be kept to an absolute minimum. After Easter I will set up a closed Facebook Group for parents to join so that you can follow us closely during our time away and I will ensure that regular updates are posted as to where we are and what we're up to. If you would like to discuss the trip with me personally, please do not hesitate to do so. We will also be holding a meeting for parents at 3.30pm on Thursday 4th May at Parracombe and Friday 5th May at Lynton when the finer details of the trip can be discussed; parents are welcome to attend either meeting.

Finally, thank you so much for your continued support this term. There is a wonderful buzz across the federation and it is lovely to see all of our children enjoying their learning so much. I hope that you have a lovely Easter break and look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school on Tuesday 18th May.

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 talents and our care for others. We have been thinking about those who are supported by Comic Relief and praying for those who were caught up in recent events in London and for those who are homeless and without family or friends.

Class News – Streams



Science

There has been a big focus on science in our topic work this half term. Our main experiment will focus on how plants react to light. This experiment has come about after a group of children came to me to settle a debate:

1. Plants are not alive
2. Plants do not move

We will be watching to see how our bean seed reacts when growing in a 'Plant maze' and discussing the characteristics of something that is alive as the experiment progresses.

Maths

We will be continuing to explore addition and subtraction. Starting with our mental arithmetic and recall of number bonds to 10, 20 and 100. Next we will be learning to partition numbers in tens and ones to add 2 digit numbers efficiently. After that we will be looking for patterns. How can we use one number fact to derive another? For example, $33 + 10 = 43$ is the same as $23 + 20 = 43$ then moving onto inverse $43 - 10 = 33$.

Literacy

We have now finished our work on instructions and have moved onto non-fiction writing. The children are now learning about the life of Walt Disney as part of our learning about animation. This will include using different tenses and suffixes correctly.

Finally, a huge thank you to Eve Parkinson, Kelly Peacock, Naomi Gubb-Fradgley and Pat Taylor for their time to support the children's learning. There is real feeling of community in the school when everyone comes together.

Thank you,
Mr Mackenzie

Class News – Rivers

After Easter, in literacy we will be focusing on narrative and writing an adventure 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 after Easter.

In maths, we are continuing our focus on money and finding change from amounts. We will then be moving onto understanding how to solve money word problems involving all four operations.

Next term, our theme will be 'Splash' and we will be focusing on the water cycle. We will also be learning about the Lynmouth Flood in our local history project.

Many thanks, Miss Martin.

Class News – Oceans

In year 5 and 6 we are planning which texts we want to write next term. Rather than having these texts chosen for us we are trying to work more independently by choosing the topics we would like to write about for each genre. We have been discussing all the different ways we could explore next term's theme of "SPLASH". The Lynmouth flood is an area where we will be doing a local history study but some of us are really interested in the Titanic and military ships.

In maths we are still exploring fractions, what they are, how we use them, how to add and subtract with them and how they link to percentages. We will be investigating what happens when you multiply or divide them, in order to continue to develop our mathematical resilience and ability to solve problems.

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. Shading halves, quarters, fifths, tenths, eighths, sixths of shapes is a very good exercise without being too test-like, as is drawing a reflected image and playing battleships.

Sincerely,
Ms. Adams

Class News – Young Buds

Thank you all for supporting our Red Nose Day events today. The children enjoyed decorating and selling biscuits and are so delighted they have raised money for our chosen charities, which they have been learning about during their RE lessons.

Next week in Maths the Reception children will be working on securing '1 more and 1 less' of numbers to 20, whilst KS1 children will be focussing on subtraction. If you are able to practise adding and subtracting 10 from any number at home (e.g. 4, 14, 24, 34 etc.) that would be greatly appreciated. In Literacy, the Reception children will be practising writing captions independently and the KS1 children will be learning about homophones – words which sound the same but are spelt differently and have different meanings, e.g. to, too, two or their, there and they're.

From Monday 27th March, we are going to be changing our routine at the end of the day. The safety of our children is our number one priority and as we have different groups of children travelling on two buses, attending clubs, or being picked up directly from school, the end of the day can be particularly busy. To make this time of the day run more smoothly we will, as of Monday, hold the children behind the security gate outside the Foundation Stage area at the end of the day. When the supervising adult sees each child's parent/carer they will be sent directly up the path to the adult collecting them. Once those children going straight home with a parent/carer have been collected, we will walk the club children up to Little Berries and then take the Combe Martin bus children down to the main car park for collection. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Also, we'd just like to make a couple of small requests. Firstly, please can we ask that you ensure all items of clothing are named. Secondly, please don't allow your child to bring in any toys from home as keeping track of them during the day is a difficult task and can cause upset when things inevitably get occasionally lost or broken.

Finally, don't forget our home learning celebration on Thursday 30th March. We would love you to come in to school at 9am to give the children the opportunity to share with you all their fantastic home learning, as well as joining us for the prize giving assembly.

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter break.

Many thanks,
Nicola Smith and Sally Pile.

Class News – Oaks

Years 3 and 4

We have been incredibly busy this week! Years 4 and 5 have had a fantastic time at Lee Abby Beacon Centre. The children worked together in groups, problem solving, supporting and challenging each other during different indoor and outdoor activities. As usual, the children were a credit to the Federation and themselves.

Years 3 and 4 have enjoyed building pyramids, carving Mayan hieroglyphs, and making Mayan style pottery during our forest school sessions.

We have also begun preparations for our Easter service. We hope to see you there for our Easter story and recorder performance.

Lisa Hamer

Once again, we have had some outstanding home-learning produced this term – children we asked to produce an interactive piece of work to show an element of life during the Mayan civilization. As you will know from the children's personalised invitations sent home, our pop-up museum will be in Parracombe school hall on Monday 27th March between 2-4pm and on Tuesday 28th March between 9-10.30am. We would love for you to come and explore the children's learning with us.

Year 5 and 6 have been writing their Mayan reports in English, which we will finish next week. After Easter, in English children will take on various independent writing challenges, which will allow them to have choice on what they write and how they write it. In maths, we are currently learning fractions; finding equivalences, adding and subtracting fractions, simplifying fractions and ordering/comparing. This area of learning will continue up until Easter.

You can support at home by:

- Encouraging your child to read a range of texts and question their understanding of what they have read.
- Practice all times table facts up to 12 x 12 and the related division facts.
- Practice weekly spellings which are sent home. Check the meanings of words in a dictionary and then apply it to writing a sentence.

Many thanks,
Miss Hill.

Admin News

Vacancy - Cleaner at Kentisbury School

There is a vacancy for a Cleaner at Kentisbury School for 9.5 hours per week for 41 weeks a year at £9.75 per hour. For more details please contact Devon Norse on 01392 351162 or their Divisional Manager Jason Day on 07587 031152.

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

GOVERNING BODY UPDATE:

Welcome to what the Governing Body hopes will be a termly update about the work of the Governing Body.

The Governing Body of the West Exmoor Federation (GBWEF) act like a Board of Directors, making decisions about how the schools in the Federation are run and managed. They are responsible for making strategic decisions at a management policy level. They do not make decisions about the running of the school on a day to day basis. The GBWEF currently has a Chair appointed by the Local Authority, 2 Foundation governors 2 parent and 3 co-opted governors, supported by members of staff. There are, currently 3 sub-committees, of which a governor generally attends one, which meet termly and the full governing body which all governors attend, also meeting termly. We intend, in future newsletters to briefly describe the work undertaken by the governors in their various roles.

INTERESTED IN JOINING US??

We are always interested to hear from people who may be interested in joining the Governing Body, but are unsure what is needed, or whether they have the time/skills to contribute. So, why not TRY IT OUT. We can offer temporary posts as associate or co-opted governors where you could attend meetings, or shadow a governor to find out if this might suit you. We would particularly like to hear from people, though not exclusively, with an interest in grant applications/marketing or community links. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity please contact the Clerk to Governors, or the Chair of Governors via any school office.

More information about the Governors can be found on the Federation website www.westexmoorfederation.org.uk.

Dates for your diary

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



WANTED
MEN SIZED SOCKS PLEASE

Following our wonderful Harvest collection last term, we are hoping to make a further donation from the Federation to The Freedom Centre, Barnstaple, in time for Easter. The Centre is always short of men sized socks. So dads, granddads, uncles, big brothers etc

- if you have any unwanted socks (clean and in good condition only please!) that are currently lurking in a drawer somewhere, or if you would be happy to buy a new pair to donate, then please send them into school by the end of term and we will pass them on for those whose toes are in need of warming up!

They can be spotty, striped, patterned or plain and in any colour.

THANK YOU



Car Wash for the Fire Fighters Charity – Saturday 25th March

Come and have your car washed by your local fire fighters and help to support Lynton Fire Station on Saturday from 10am until 2pm.

Lynton Library Craft Session – Tuesday 11th April 10.30 – 12.30pm

Kelly invites you to join her at the Library to make pom pom pets in their craft session.

Easter Soccer School

Saints Southwest are running Easter Holiday Soccer Schools from JUST £7.50 for a full course 10am-3pm in Paignton, Dawlish, Okehampton, Plymouth, CREDITON, Langport, Exeter, Truro, Taunton, Kingsbridge, Ottery St Mary & Newton Abbot. Ages 7-12 can attend 10am-3pm. Ages 4-6 can attend 1.30pm-3pm.

To BOOK please visit www.saintssouthwest.co.uk or call 01803 206350. Saints Southwest Soccer Schools offer exceptional value for money, and the opportunity for young players to improve their skills through a structured and enjoyable coaching programme devised and delivered by experienced and FA qualified coaches. The Soccer Schools are action packed days which allows children to learn new skills and improve match play whilst having fun.

Additional information - THE GAME PLAN

- Warm welcome and registration
- Introduction to the days skills/learning focus
- Warm-up and reaction games
- Coaching sessions aimed to improve players four cornerstones of Football; Technical, Physical, Social and Psychological.
- Fun games, challenges and competitions
- Working through a structured Saints Southwest Holiday Course syllabus
- Small sided games/tournaments
- Educational debrief
- Presentation awarding Star Players and handing out certificates and gift

Night Walk for North Devon Hospice



The ladies-only moonlit walk takes place on Saturday 20th May and is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Those taking part will be helping to raise £100,000 for North Devon Hospice nurses who provide care during the night. Sign up at www.nightwalk.co.uk. Sign up before April 1st to get the special early bird discount, as well as being entered into a draw to win a Champagne High Tea for four at the award-winning Kentisbury Grange. 2017 is set to be the biggest and best yet, with new routes, more entertainment and plenty of surprises in store for the 1,000+ women who are expected to take part. Prosecco, light shows, live music, fire jugglers, a feast of Glow and much more! Starting points are at Barnstaple, Instow, Bideford, Torrington and Tamar Lakes (near Holsworthy), and route lengths range

from 3 to 11 miles.

We are looking to raise £100,000 for our wonderful hospice night nurses and so we are looking to sign up more Nightwalkers than ever. Last year, we were able to support 340 local patients in their home and made over 2,500 visits to patients' homes through our 24-hour end of life care.

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 caravan 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:

www.familyholidayassociation.org.uk/apply-for-a-break/