



# West Exmoor Federation

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

21.04.2017

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been lovely to welcome all of the children back to school this week. They all look so well after a couple of weeks off and, no doubt, plenty of time playing outside and enjoying the glorious Easter weather!! Historically the summer term is always a busy one, and this year is no exception! Please find attached a calendar of events for the term; this isn't an exhaustive calendar but it will hopefully help you to plan ahead for our key events such as sports day and our summer production.

## **BIG MUSIC DAY**

Next Tuesday all of our children will be taking part in a 'Big Music Day' at Lynton. A wide range of orchestral instruments have already been delivered to Lynton and, on the day, the children will have the opportunity to explore the instruments and work with a number of professional musicians during a variety of workshops. The day is being run for us by Devon Music Hub and, following on from the day, we are hoping to trial Skype music lessons in the Autumn term for some of our children. We are all extremely excited about the day and can't wait to 'play' with instruments. If you're passing during the course of the day and would like to pop in and see what we're up to, then please feel free to do so!

## **LIFE EDUCATION BUS**

The Life Education mobile classroom (Life Bus) will be making its annual visit to us on the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May. Life Education Wessex is a specialist charity provider of Health and Drug Education and all of the children from across the federation will take part in interactive, fun and age-appropriate programmes that will help them to understand the wonders of the human body and how to look after it. Children in KS1 will learn about healthy eating, being a good friend and the safe use of medicines. Children in KS2 will consider the effects and risks associated with the use of drugs, including medicines, alcohol and tobacco. The children will also learn about the skills of friendship and how to cope with bullying and peer pressure. If you would like to visit the bus yourself to find out more, it will be open to parents on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May between 2.45pm and 3.15pm. Alternatively you can visit [www.lifeeducationwessex.org.uk](http://www.lifeeducationwessex.org.uk) for further information.

## **YEAR 3&4 LONDON RESIDENTIAL**

I'm sure that I don't need to tell you how excited the children are getting about our imminent trip to London!! In light of recent events in London we have made a couple of minor changes to our itinerary; namely that we will not be going to see the Changing of the Guard. As stated before Easter, we will be holding a meeting for parents at 3.30pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May at Parracombe and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May at Lynton during which we can discuss the finer details of the trip; please feel free to attend either meeting. I have also now set up the closed Facebook Group – WEF London Trip. You can only join the group by requesting to do so, and no one other than those approved to join will be able to access the content. Whilst away, I will ensure that regular updates are posted as to where we are and what we're up to which will hopefully make you feel a little closer to your children whilst they are away.

## **KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE**

This week we have become aware of some children accidentally stumbling across inappropriate content on the internet when using phones, tablets and computers at home. In particular, there seem to have been a number of incidents involving pop-ups when children have been watching Minecraft videos on YouTube. It is possible to install apps onto your devices such as YouTube Kids and iPlayer Kids that provide a safer on-line environment for your children, free from pop-ups and, in some cases, with the ability to restrict the time that your child is able to access specific media. The internet is a wonderful resource, but it has the potential to be damaging or dangerous, especially to our children, if not used appropriately and with suitable control measures in place. There are many ways in which we can all help to keep our children safe on-line and the following websites offer some good advice. I appreciate that it is difficult as we are all dealing with an ever-changing minefield that often our children are more familiar with than we are. However, please do take some time to look at these sites; it is imperative that we all do our utmost to keep our children safe.

[www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/)

[www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers)

[www.internetmatters.org/](http://www.internetmatters.org/)

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/)

Best Wishes,

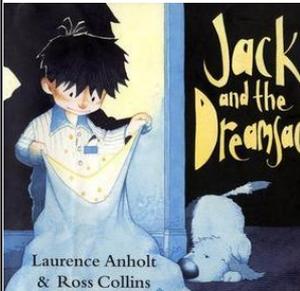
Jayne Peacock  
Executive Headteacher

*Our theme this term for Collective Worship is 'Our Planet and its People: Thinking Globally'. We have been thinking about how the strands within CARIS (Curiosity, Achievement, Respect, Inspiration and Support) link to this theme and how love has the power to unite the world. We have been thinking about those who living in war torn parts of the world and praying for a world where people show kindness and compassion to one another.*

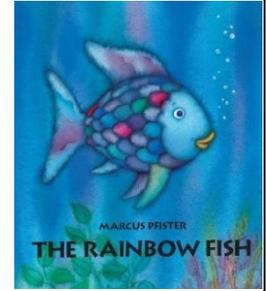
### **Class News – Streams**

Streams have had a fantastic start to our topic 'Splash'. We are all very excited about our upcoming trip to Ilfracombe Aquarium and Lifeboat centre on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have spent this week exploring what we want find out about during our next topic. An important aspect of learning within the West Exmoor Federation is that the children learn to ask questions and are inquisitive. So, using different stimuli, we have been exploring what the children would like learn more about and what questions they would like to discover the answers too.

### **English**

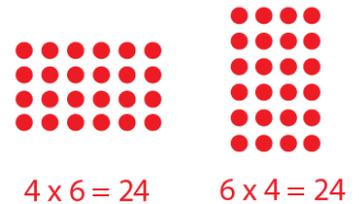


Over the next couple of weeks, we will be finishing our biography on the life of Walt Disney and starting a new text 'Jack and the Dream sack'. The children will be learning the stories narrative structure and then changing it so the protagonist goes on an underwater adventure. We will be focusing on the children's creative writing skills and really stretching the realms of their imagination. It would be really helpful if you would discuss what sort of unusual sea creatures Jack might see on his adventure and what they could be doing. The children will also be looking at the story 'The Rainbow Fish' in PSHE.



### **Maths**

Our focus in maths will be multiplication and division. Starting with the meaning of the symbol and associated language we will then be exploring multiplication through practical images and repeated addition. For example, we will learn that  $2 \times 3$  is the same as  $2 + 2 + 2$ . After this we will be learning about the images of multiplication, arrays. These are multiplications set out in rows and columns. For example:



### **Topic**

As part of our topic 'Splash', we will be learning about the journey of water from the mountain to the sea. The children will be exploring our own locality and how rivers flow to sea. In history, we will take this opportunity to develop the children's understanding of the Lynmouth flood. In science, we will be learning about materials. The children will describe and group the materials by characteristic and use this knowledge to use different materials in a variety of challenges such as design and build flood defences and boats.

### **Home learning**

Home learning tasks will be sent home this week. Spellings for the Summer term will also be sent too. Also, in the run up to the Year 2 SATS, the children may bring home short revision tasks to consolidate their learning in class.

Mr Mackenzie

### **Class News – Rivers**

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. We are also completing a project on the picture book, Journey by Aaron Becker which is encouraging the children to use their imagination.

In maths, we are learning how to tell the time. We have been building clocks and practising converting minutes into seconds and hours into minutes. We will be moving onto fractions, decimals and percentages towards the end of the term.

In art, we have been learning about Monet and the children have created some beautiful pictures with oil pastels. We will be moving onto to creating images of Lynmouth Bridge in Monet's style.

Many thanks Miss Martin.

### **Class News – Young Buds**

A huge welcome back to everyone after our Easter break. Young Buds have been telling us all about the wonderful places they have been and what they have enjoyed doing in the lovely sunshine that we had!

Thank you to those of you who managed to do some reading with your children over the break. We know how hard it can be to motivate your children during school holidays, but we can't stress enough the huge impact that reading just 2/3 times a week can have on your child's reading skills. Those children who have had a complete break from reading have come back having forgotten some of their diagraphs, high frequency words and have often lost some fluency. Conversely

those who read, even just a few times, have picked up exactly where they left off. We greatly appreciate the support you provide in helping to maintain your child's reading progress throughout the year.

Our new theme this term is called 'Splash'. We started our week with lots of craft activities to decorate our new boat/under the sea themed classroom door; please do pop in and have a look at what the children have been creating. During this topic we plan to investigate the journey of rivers, local coastal wildlife and learn all about the RNLI and, of course, squeeze in a trip to the beach amongst other places!

In Maths over the next couple of weeks Years 1 and 2 will be working on multiplication using arrays and then we will move on to division. You can help at home by practising the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables with your child. This does not have to be in a formal way, practising mentally as you are out for a walk or whilst driving along will benefit your child's recall of them greatly. Reception children will be moving on to working with numbers between 11-20 including recognition of the numbers and ordering them correctly.

In Literacy we will be doing a unit of work on Poetry, with a focus on descriptive writing – all of which will have an 'under the sea' theme to engage and inspire the children. As well as this, we will be doing lots of recapping of phonics and focussing on spelling.

We are extremely lucky to have a coach from Tarka Tennis starting to run multi-skills sessions with the class from Monday 24th April. It is vital that every child has their full PE kit in school by then to enable them all to partake in these fantastic sessions, so please remember to send them in by Monday if you haven't already done so. As well as this we also have Jenny, our music teacher who offers 1:1 music lessons across the federation, coming in to do two special sessions with the children where they will explore different instruments and have a go at composing!

So a very busy term with lots to look forward to for all our Young Buds,

Many thanks,  
Mrs Smith and Mrs Pile.

### **Class News – Oaks**

The children have come back from the Easter break eager to learn and full of enthusiasm for our new theme, 'splash'. This term we will be looking at; rivers, oceans, the water cycle, a local study plus areas of interest expressed by the children. All of key stage 2 in English will be focusing on grammar and writing creatively, this will consolidate their learning from throughout the year. In maths, we will be focusing on fractions, measure and data handling; you can support your child at home by measuring out ingredients and encouraging them to tell the time.

We will also look at how to keep safe on the beach and in the water, this will be taught through a visit from the local beach lifeguards and consolidated at the end of term when we go swimming.

As some of you may know, Mary Poppins is our summer production this year – children will be learning songs and dances very shortly followed by introducing the script over the next few weeks. As well as another whole federation recorder performance during the production!

PE this term will be on a Tuesday and Friday; however, it is important that children have their full kit in school every day of the week. Due to changeable weather it is vital that children have a sunhat, sun cream and a waterproof coat in school, which is clearly named. We are aware that children can get their uniform messy during science and art sessions, if you would like your child to wear an old shirt over their uniform, please provide one which can be kept in school.

As we actively encourage outdoor learning, there will be many opportunities this term to get and about therefore please regularly check with your child for letters.

Many thanks, Mrs Hamer and Miss Hill.

### **Little Berries News**

Firstly, Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed your Easter break and we are looking forward to hearing from the children about what they got up to over the holiday.

We welcome our new starters, Ruby Wilkinson, Betony-Rose Bourn, Teddy Bourn, Louis Baker and Eva Kift to Little Berries. We know that you'll have a fantastic time with us.

Our focus for this half term is going to be the incubation and life cycle of our chicks. Please feel free to come in and visit our project as the children will be given responsibility for caring for the eggs and chicks throughout the process. They will be able to help with turning the eggs, feeding and cleaning the chicks and generally learning about all things 'Chicks & Chickens'. Through this project you can support the children's learning as we focus on the number of days of incubation; 1-21 as well as some letter sounds such as 'Ch' for chick & 'E' for egg.

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.

## URGENT NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS, CARERS, GRANDPARENTS

The West Exmoor Federation is looking for 1 Parent Governor to join our existing board of governors. Governors perform the most important voluntary role in education and a full and diverse governing body can be a source of enormous strength to a school. Volunteering as a governor is a great way to contribute to your local community, meet new people and improve the lives of local children.

You will develop transferable skills and learn more about the education system whilst putting existing skills and experience to good use. You will become part of a team of successful governors working together to support the Federation. There are many training opportunities within the federation and beyond to help you fulfil this role.

Governing bodies are responsible for the strategic management of a school and will make decisions about a wide range of issues. The core responsibilities involved are:

Ensuring accountability; Acting as a 'critical friend' to the Head Teacher; Monitoring and evaluating the federation's progress; Budgetary allocation and control; Planning for the long term future of the federation; Setting the federation's aims and values and; Appointing senior members of staff including the Head Teacher.

For more information about this very worthwhile role and an informal chat please contact Jacqui Skelton-Norrish (Clerk) 01598 763338.

With many thanks,  
Wendy, Vikki, Jacqui and Mel

## Dates for your diary

25.04.2017	Federation 'big music day' at Lynton
26.04.2017	Meet the Lifeguard
01.05.2017	Bank Holiday
03.05.2017	KS1 Trip to Ilfracombe
04.05.2017	Yr 3 & 4 Parents Meeting re London Residential @ Parracombe
05.05.2017	Yr 3 & 4 Parents Meeting re London Residential @ Lynton
05.05.2017	Tempest Photography @ Lynton (sibling photos at 8.30am)
08.05.2017	Yr 6 SATs week
15.05.2017	Non Uniform Day for Christian Aid
16.05.2017	Young Buds Farm Visit
17.05.2017	Yr 3 & 4 London Residential

## COMMUNITY

### Christian Aid Week

Dear parents and carers,

Mrs Peacock has kindly agreed for the children to have a non-uniform day on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May, to raise money towards this year's Christian Aid Week annual appeal, which runs from May 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. The appeal this year is focused on the help needed by millions of refugees around the world, especially those remanded in centres on the Greek islands, where Christian Aid and its partners are working.

Christian Aid was born 60 years ago out of a movement by Anglican churches to assist refugees left homeless and stateless after World War Two, and it is a sad reflection that this need remains as high today. Monies raised during the Week will also go towards the Disasters Emergency Committee East Africa Famine Appeal, as Christian Aid is a member of the DEC.

With thanks for your kind contributions on the 19<sup>th</sup>,  
Lyn White  
Lyn Valley Churches Christian Aid coordinator