



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

26.07.2017

Dear Parents/Carers

My goodness me – hasn't the year passed by in a flash! I really can't believe that it is the final day of the academic year. It seems hard to believe that so much has happened in such a short space of time. It has been a great privilege to see our children flourish throughout the year and I am incredibly proud of them all. As a federation, we work extremely hard to provide our children with a wide range of experiences that go beyond that of the academic curriculum and this year has been no exception. To name but a few, the year started with an incredible Dinosaur experience day; we have enjoyed residential visits to Lulworth Cove and London; we have competed in a large number of sporting events and benefitted from the expertise of external coaches from Rugby Tots and Tarka Tennis; we have participated in Church services across our communities; we have enriched our learning through numerous trips out; our choir has performed across the county and drawn more than a tear or two from their audiences; and, as always, we have nourished ourselves with a healthy serving of Forest School activities. For me, however, some of the most memorable moments of the year have happened in the last few weeks, starting with the amazing performance of Mary Poppins during which all of the children were truly inspirational. This was quickly followed by our fantastic sports day which must have had the best backdrop of any sports day in the country! Finally, watching some of our children swim unaided for the very first time last week was a real thrill - their faces were an absolute picture as they realised their momentous achievement. With my parent hat on (and from talking to parents at other schools), I know that our children are incredibly lucky to have the wide range of opportunities that they do within the federation. With my headteacher hat on, I know how much additional work such activities require of my staff so, both as 'Mummy' and 'Head', I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my staff for their endless commitment, enthusiasm and dedication to ensuring that our children have the very best primary school experience possible.



HOME LEARNING

It has been lovely to see the children bringing in their home learning over the last few weeks. I am always amazed by how diverse their interpretations of the tasks are and how animatedly they talk about the learning that they have done. There has, however, been an element of secrecy this term as many of the children have not wished to divulge their boat designs for fear of them being copied!! Therefore, you can imagine the excitement when all of the boats were finally unveiled during our 'Boat Races' this week. The boats were incredible, from the very simple, yet highly effective, designs to those that were phenomenally complex and real works of art. The children thoroughly enjoyed racing their boats along a stretch of the River Lyn and were very appreciative of those parents, wider family members and friends (not to mention a number of tourists) who supported and cheered on from the side lines. Although the boat race was the culmination of our home learning this term I know that many of the children have also been cooking, writing stories, carrying out water experiments, researching rivers around the world, exploring the geography of rivers and making models of their favourite sea creatures. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support that you give your children with their home learning. I know from experience that it is not always easy to find the time, but our children really do benefit from learning alongside us and it helps them to see how we, as parents, value their learning. As a parent said to me yesterday,

it's the doing that really matters, spending time together and having fun. Thank you again; the support that you give your children really does make a difference to their learning.

READING

During the course of the year we have been promoting regular reading across the federation and this has been reflected in the number of children achieving a prize this term for reading in excess of 200 nights at home since September. As a result, the progress that many of our children has made in reading has been very impressive. In order to maintain this, we would all be really appreciative if you could encourage your children to read with and/or to an adult on a daily basis throughout the holiday. Research proves that children who enjoy reading do better at school in all subjects and reading with your child on a regular basis does increase their literacy skills. The Literacy Trust have provided a few helpful tips on reading at home with children:

Set aside some time

Find somewhere quiet without any distractions - turn off the TV/radio/computer.

Ask your child to choose a book

Sharing books they have chosen shows you care what they think and that their opinion matters. This means they are more likely to engage with the book.

Sit close together

Encourage your child to hold the book themselves and/or turn the pages.

Point to the pictures

If there are illustrations, relate them to something your child knows. Ask them to describe the characters or situation or what will happen next. Encourage them to tell you the story by looking at the pictures.

Encourage your child to talk about the book

Talking about the characters and their dilemmas helps children understand relationships and is an excellent way for you to get to know each other or discuss difficult issues. Give your child plenty of time to respond. Ask them what will happen next, how a character might be feeling, or how the book makes them feel. You could ask them to tell you what they would do if they were in the story or even get them to think of questions they can ask you to test if you've been listening! Asking these questions encourage your child to say more than 'yes' or 'no'.

And lastly, above all - make it fun!

It doesn't matter how you read with a child, as long as you both enjoy the time together. Don't be afraid to use funny voices: children love this!

Further good advice, including a video by Julia Donaldson and links to other useful websites, can be found at:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/welcome-back/for-home/reading-owl/top-tips--3>

PARRACOMBE BREAKFAST CLUB

Next term we will be running a Breakfast Club at Parracombe. The club will run from 8am until the start of the school day with the children being supervised and provided with cereal, toast and a drink. Each session will cost £2.50 and can either be booked and paid for in advance or used as a 'drop-in' service. For further information, or to book a place, please speak to Jacqui or Lisa at Parracombe.

GOODBYE

The end of an academic year always brings with it a sense of sadness, and this year is no exception. We wish our Year 6 children much success and happiness as they move on to the next phase in their education. Throughout the year they have proved to be excellent role models and each and every one of them will be missed a great deal across the federation. We also say goodbye to Sophie Hill as she moves on to her new position at Landkey Primary School. Sophie has been a highly valued member of staff and I know that the staff and children alike will miss her very much. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sophie for all her hard work and wish her well in her new role.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all your support throughout the year and wish you an enjoyable summer break. I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school in September.

Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

Our theme this term for Collective Worship has been 'Our Planet and its People: Thinking Globally'. Throughout the term we have thought about issues around the world relating to water, food, refugees and natural disasters. We have considered the need for peace and prayed for world leaders in the hopes that the world may one day live as one.

Class News – Streams

Well, it's the last Newsletter of the year! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. It is a privilege to work in a school with such a fantastic community to support it. Looking back at the school year, one of the lovely memories will be the smiles and greetings each morning from the children and all of you. Thank you for always being so fourth coming to talk about your children and supporting us in supporting them. It only seems like yesterday that the new Foundation stage children were having their first day at school. Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing everyone in the new school year.

Year 2 leavers

Good luck to Skye, Evie, Lexi, George, Samuel, Danny, Chloe, Amelie, Summer and Christopher who are moving onto Rivers class. They have been a huge credit to themselves and the Federation this year. We will miss having you in Streams dearly but we know that you are going to have an amazing time in Rivers.

Summer tasks: Keeping sharp

The summer holidays are a time to relax and spend time with family but it can be a long time for children not to read, write or practice their maths skills. Please make sure that your child is practicing these skills. Here are a few ideas:

1. Sign up to the Devon Library Summer reading challenge. It is a great way to encourage your child to read over the summer. It is vital that children continue to read over the summer.
2. Car journeys are an opportunity to practice mental maths activities. Counting up and down in 1, 2, 5, 10 and 100's would be a great exercise to keep those brains sharp. At school, the children love playing 'Shoot the sheriff', ask your child to teach you how to play it, it is great fun.
3. Take advantage of some of the fantastic apps and websites available when your child is having 'screen time', BBC Bitesize is a fantastic website with lots of educational games.
4. Writing for a purpose. Keep a diary, make a scrap book, send a postcard or just write for pleasure. If you are planning a trip to somewhere exciting use this as an opportunity to write lists to prepare.

Autumn Topic

In September, our topic will be '*The Bold and the Brave*'. We will start by taking part in a World War 1 and 2 experience day. The children will be taking part in workshops to experience what it was like to take on different roles during these times. The children will then be learning about the different services and personnel who help us. As part of our geography focus, the children will be exploring how these services differ around the world. We will be looking at the children's links with the wider world. This could be a holiday abroad or relative/ancestor from another country. This could be a great opportunity to share your family tree with your child.

We will send out a more comprehensive description of your child's learning in the new school year.

Last but not least, we would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who have come in and helped this year. In particular Naomi Gubb-Fradgely, Kelly Peacock, Eve Parkinson and Pat Taylor. Every week they have volunteered their precious time to support all the children's learning.

Naomi has been doing some fantastic forest school based work on Friday's with the children. The children have been creating, problem solving and developing group work skills through themed activities. Eve, Kelly and Pat have been volunteering to support the children's reading. The time spent supporting the children is so valuable and not only do we deeply appreciate it, the children love it when you all come in to spend time with them. So from all of us in Streams and the entire West Exmoor Federation "THANK YOU".

Have a great summer,
Mr Mackenzie

Class news – Oceans

I cannot believe it is the end of another year. It seems to have gone by so quickly. We seem to have lots of positive developments this year: our good Ofsted, successful sporting tournaments building from the last two years we're now qualifying for competitions outside of our learning community in Rugby, Rounders and Netball, the use of the cricket pitch for P.E., some inspiring musical opportunities and many great performances. None of this could have happened without our amazing pupils and our increasingly mature year 6. This cohort have been a real support and credit to our federation and I am sure you all, wish them every success in their future endeavours. Thank you all for your hard work, support, positivity and willingness to have a go at new experiences. It has been a pleasure to work with you all.

Thank you also to your parents / Guardians, who have been so committed to helping the Federation through your federation careers. In particular, I need to thank Emma, Evie, Ben, Steve and Christine for helping me this year. Our pupils have greatly benefited from your support, skills, knowledge and time. We've really enjoyed having you work with us and really appreciate it.

For pupils who are moving into years 5/6 next year, in autumn we will be exploring world war one and two, in spring our theme will be "Infinity and beyond" and the summer theme is "lights, camera, action!"

If anyone has anything that may help us with displays / research into any of these themes, please bring them in.

Thank you again and have a lovely summer,

Sarah Adams

Class news – Young Buds

What a hectic last few weeks it has been what with the summer performance, swimming and transition days. We are so proud of each and every child in Young Buds and what they have all achieved throughout the year. Their performance in our summer production of Mary Poppins was outstanding, as was their behaviour throughout both performances. Well done to all of you.

Young Buds have worked really hard on their swimming skills this year. It has also been wonderful to watch them all gain in confidence in the swimming pool during our intense 2 week programme. It was extremely tiring, but well worth it.

Our Year 2's have been enjoying their transition days at Parracombe School. They will most definitely be missed at Kentisbury and we wish them lots of luck as they start in KS2. Our new Reception children have had some fantastic transition days with us and we have been blown away by how well they have settled into the school routines already. Mrs Kelly and I are very much looking forward to teaching them all from September.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Colin Peacock for coming in and sharing his experiences of climbing with Young Buds. They were so excited by the pictures and equipment that you showed them and asked you some great questions. Your Buddhist prayer flags will look fantastic as part of our CARIS display in the classroom.

The team at Kentisbury would also like to wish Nicola and her family huge congratulations on the slightly early arrival of their beautiful baby, Joseph. We are all queuing up for a cuddle and I'm sure Mrs Smith will bring him into school after the summer holidays so that all of the children can meet him too.

Finally, we wish all of you a lovely summer break and look forward to seeing everyone when we come back in September.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year, it really does mean a lot to all of us.

Sally Pile.

Class news – Oaks

University of Bath Sports Trip-

Last week, I had the privilege of taking five students: Haven, Jade, Adam, Rocco and Jamie to the University of Bath to participate in a gifted and talented sports programme. Children had three training sessions in judo, badminton and agility skills, some led by current GB athletes and were able to watch athletes training throughout the day. This was an amazing experience, which allowed the children to see first-hand the facilities and training schemes on offer in the South West if they were to peruse a career in sport.



Sports Day -

Firstly, thank you so much to the Young Leaders who designed, set-up and efficiently organised the races - without your hard work and commitment, it wouldn't have run as smoothly as it did, so thank you from everyone! Congratulations to all the children who took part and demonstrated a high level of skill and ability from across the federation - you are all super stars!

Oaks -

How have we reached the end of another school year? Reflecting back on the school year, it is remarkable how much our children have grown in many aspects: through curiosity, perseverance, courage - physically, socially and emotionally. We are all extremely proud of Oaks' achievements this year and I know they will flourish further next year.

These past few weeks have been busy and exciting for the children, from the school production to PE at West Buckland School and not forgetting Sports Day. We will now start winding down for the end of term and enjoy our last few days with our current Year 6 children; through celebrating our home-learning tasks and reflecting upon on the school year.

Lastly, I would like to thank all parents for your continued support throughout the school year and I thoroughly hope you all enjoy your summer break.

Best Wishes, Miss Hill

Little Berries News

We have had a fab year at Little Berries with lots of fun trips and exciting activities to do.

We will be sorry to see our leavers go as they continue on their learning journey, but know they are all ready for this next step. We would like to wish good luck to Ava Santos Almeida, Chloe Hutchings, Parker Kift, Lara Nicholls, Mya Coles, Ocean Till and Warren Wyatt.

We are very excited for our huge intake in September and are extremely looking forward to getting to know everyone.

We have limited spaces left, so if you are interested in a place at Little Berries please contact one of the team on 01271 883263.

We wish you all a safe and fun filled summer!

Best wishes,
Your Little Berries team

Kitchen News

We are sending a copy of the new menu for next term home with this newsletter. If you have any suggestions or recipes you would like me to consider for the next menu, please don't hesitate to come and see me or speak to Vikki, Mel or Jacqui in the office.

Many thanks, Jayne Hoskins – Kitchen Manager

Admin News

School Dinner Payments

Please remember that school dinners for Key Stage 2 children are £2.30 per day. Payment should be brought in to school on the day the meal is taken in a named envelope. Alternatively you could pay an amount in advance for the term or half term for example. Cheques should be made payable to Devon County Council.

Unwanted Toys

Do you have any toys that your children have grown out of that we could put to use in our classrooms? We are particularly looking for a train set or a farm set but anything suitable would be much appreciated and if it is not what we are looking for we could donate it to a charity shop? Please see Barbara Watts or drop off in the school office.

Unwanted Games/Board Games

We are also looking for any board games or other games suitable for our breakfast club at Parracombe. If you have anything you no longer use that you would be willing to donate we would be very grateful. Please drop any off in the school office (any dropped off at Kentisbury or Lynton will get sent over) thank you.

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 the Governing Body 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 4 sub-committees, of which a governor generally attends one, which meet termly, and the full governing body which all governors attend, also meeting termly.

Since the last governors update, the governing body have been quite busy. They will have met twice as a Full Governing Body (FGB) to receive the reports of the sub-committees and deal with other business. The FGB meet once a term, usually in the second half of the term, so that the sub-committees can meet in the first half of each term to deal with their specific responsibilities. The minutes of each FGB are published in each school once they have been agreed.

We have been able to accept onto the FGB two new members, Elaine Young as parent governor, and the Rev. Samantha Stayte as ex-officio and foundation governor, and we look forward to their full involvement over the coming months.

Three sub-committees have met, being Resources, Ethos and Community, and the Federation Improvement Committee (FIC). The newly formed Early Years committee has not been able to meet, due to sad passing of the mother of the committee chair, which has taken her away from the area for some time, but it is expected that this sub-committee will convene early in the Autumn term.

The Chair of Governors regularly meets with a small group of Chairs of other small North Devon primary schools, to discuss common issues, and to visit others schools to discuss educational provision. This term small groups of governors have conducted learning walks, where they visit all the Federation schools to look more closely at aspects of teaching and learning contained in the Federation Improvement plan. This term the subjects covered were, RE provision across the Federation; Creativity in the classroom, and the impact of the PE funding monies.

The governors have produced, and agreed a governor handbook which, simply, outlines the practice and procedures adopted by our Federation governing body. They have also produced a Governing Body Action Plan, closely mirroring the Federation Plan, but which relates just to governor activities.

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, finance or community links. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity please contact the Clerk to Governors, Jacqui Skelton-Norrish on 1598 763338 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

- 05.09.17 Children return to school
- 08.09.17 Theme Learning Day @ Lynton for the whole federation
- 11.09.17 Rugby Tots begins for EYFS/KS1
- 12.09.17 Tag Rugby begins for Y3/4
- 13.09.17 Y3/4 Residential Visit to Lee Abbey, Lynton
- 25.09.17 Individual & Family Photographs for Kentisbury & Parracombe
- 02.10.17 Y5/6 Residential Visit to Lee Valley, Hertfordshire
- 16.10.17 Two Moors Festival Recital @ Lynton for the whole federation
- 17.10.17 Speak Out/Stay Safe Workshops by the NSPCC
- 18.10.17 Parracombe & Kentisbury Harvest Festival @ Christ Church, tbc
- 19.10.17 Lynton Harvest Festival @ St Mary's, tbc
- 20.10.17 End of Half Term

COMMUNITY

