



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

29.09.2017

Dear Parents/Carers

END OF THE DAY

In order to ensure that all of our children are kept safe, could I please ask that any changes to normal arrangements at the end of the day are notified to a member of our admin team. This is particularly important if your child travels between schools or travels home on school transport. We have had a number of occasions where children have told us that their normal arrangements have changed but, as I am sure you can appreciate, we are unable to accept a child's word for it in case the message relayed is inaccurate. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this matter.

PARRACOMBE BREAKFAST CLUB

Do you drop your children off at Parracombe? Would you like the opportunity to earn a few extra pounds each morning? We are looking for someone to run our breakfast club from 8am each morning. If you have children attending Parracombe or Kentisbury, they would be welcome to attend the breakfast club free of charge. Duties will include preparing cereal, toast and drinks for the children who attend and supervising these children for the duration of the club. If you would like further information, please speak with Jacqui.

PRAYER BOXES

Please remember that there are prayer boxes in each school. These are used by the children, but we would welcome contributions from parents/carers and members of our children's extended family. If you would like to contribute a prayer, the boxes can be found in the hall at Lynton and Parracombe and in the Key Stage One classroom at Kentisbury.

HARVET FESTIVALS

I do hope that you will be able to join us for one of our Harvest Festivals at the end of this half-term. This year we will be collecting items for the Freedom Centre in Barnstaple. The Freedom Centre is an Open Access Day Centre for homeless and vulnerable adults, offering a wide range of services including hot meals 5 days a week, clothing, showers and advice. The Centre has specifically requested the following items:

Chopped tinned tomatoes, baked beans, tinned meat and fish, tinned soup;
Dried herbs and spices, tinned pulses, rice and cous cous;
Sugar, custard, rice pudding, tinned fruit (not grapefruit);
Coffee, cocoa, instant chocolate drink, fruit squash (not tea);
Baking ingredients - dried fruit, baking powder, vanilla essence, chocolate;
Brown sauce, tomato sauce, mayonnaise, pepper;
Non-bio washing powder, washing up liquid, kitchen rolls;
Toilet rolls, shower gel, shampoo, kitchen roll, hand wash (not bar soap).

If you would like to contribute to our collection, please ensure that your child brings these into school during the week beginning 16th October. Many thanks.

LITTLE BERRIES

It has been wonderful to welcome so many new children to Little Berries this term. The number of new children starting at once has been unprecedented and is accolade to the very positive reputation that Little Berries has established within the local area. The arrival of so many younger children has enabled our Little Berries team to refine the way in the which the environment is used to best meet the needs of all of the children. There are opportunities for the older children to play alongside our reception children, whilst a more cosy sleeping area is being created for our younger children. I have been popping into Little Berries on a regular basis since the start of term and it is lovely to see so many happy and contented children flourishing with the setting. Should you wish to discuss any matters regarding Little Berries with either myself or Nikki Pierce, please do not hesitate to do so.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year, we will once again be participating in Operation Christmas Child. Last year many of our children supported this worthwhile initiative, filling a shoebox with wonderful goodies for a child less fortunate than themselves. Further

details will be sent out before half term and, should your child wish to donate a shoe box to the appeal, they should be brought into school by Friday 10th November.

UPDATE ON SHILANGU

As you are no doubt aware, we sponsor a child in Swaziland called Shilngu. Sihlangu has lived at Hawane Children's Home since 1 January 2006 when he was just 4 years old. His parents passed away. He has three brothers and two half-sisters. Sihlangu's name means 'protection or shield'. Sihlangu lives in a 'family-style' home with other children and is looked after by house parents. He attends Bulembu Christian Academy which offers an international-calibre education. He also has access to numerous clubs and after-school activities. Bulembu Ministries and Challenge Ministries work directly with Swaziland Social Welfare to welcome children into their care program. Their vision is to raise up the next generation of Swazi leaders to provide a bright future full of hope for orphaned and vulnerable children who will then be available to serve their nation. Please see below our most recent update on Shilangu:

Dear West Exmoor Federation

Spring has sprung! We have had our first heat wave AND our first thunder storms of the season. What a blessing it is to see the landscape change back to its usual glorious green, and to have the birds return to ready their nests for the next generation – God is so good!

We are excited to share this quarter's video update with you. We have also included latest academic results for Shilangu and a newsletter or two.

Herewith is your new link to connect to the site.

www.gowork.co.za/csp/index.php?user=LUXXag0ueWmi&count=1

Thank you for your loving and generous support of Swaziland's precious children

Blessing to you and your families,

The CSP Team

WATER BOTTLES

Could you please ensure that your child only has water in their drink bottle? As part of our healthy eating policy children should not be drinking squash or flavoured water during the day. The only exception to this is at lunchtime when children are offered milk with their school lunch. If your child has a packed lunch they may have a drink other than water within their packed lunch, so long as it is not fizzy and is deemed healthy as part of a balanced diet. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation.

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

The children have settled into school life and the term seems to be well and truly underway. The children and myself have been loving our topic of World War 2. The children have been so enthusiastic to find out more and follow their own interest into the many different aspects of the topics.

Home Learning

Thank you for all the home learning that the children have brought in so far. Just a few notices regarding the tasks.

Home learning is shared with the class on a Tuesday afternoon as part of our 'Show and Tell'. Although I would love the children to complete them all, it is not obligatory to complete all the home learning tasks. They are designed to encourage children to continue their learning at home in a fun and engaging way. At West Exmoor Federation we endeavour to help children develop their own independent learning skills.

For the children just starting school these tasks can be followed as much or as little as needed. At this stage of the year we would love to see any home learning that the children decide to do. This could be something totally unrelated to the topic.

At the end of the Autumn term, in December, Lynton School will hold a celebratory home learning assembly where we will show off all the home learning that the children have been doing. The children will receive a

certificate for their efforts and one pupil from each year group will receive a special prize for excelling in their home learning and displaying outstanding independent learning skills.

Home reading

The foundation stage children have been working hard in their phonics lessons and learnt the initial phonetic sounds. The children will now be bringing home reading books which will allow them the practice these sounds. Please try to read every night to consolidate all their hard work at school. The children will be starting to bring home red banded books. Please feel free to change your child's book when you bring them to school in the morning. These books can be found outside the two Stream's classrooms. It is great to get involved with choosing books and follow up any interests with their home reading. We would recommend that you read each book a couple of times to develop fluency also. Please feel free to speak to Mr Mackenzie, Mrs Berry or Mrs Bowden-Berry if you have any queries.

Pre teaching

Exploring a topic for just 10 – 15 minutes prior to their main learning has been proven to aid children's ability to retain information and develop their understanding. For example, this 'pre-teaching' could be a quick activity use your children's toys to help explain addition. These news letters are sent out every two weeks to give parents an idea of what we will be learning about in the coming weeks. This year, I will be focusing on one subject each newsletter. This way, I can offer a detailed explanation of the learning that is going to take place.

Maths

The foundation stage children will be learning to count up to 10 and represent numbers in different ways. This will include matching the numeral to a set of objects such as numicon.



In year 1, the children will be developing their understanding of numbers from 0 – 20. Building representations, ordering, comparing and counting backwards. The children will then move onto understanding pattern in number. We will explore counting up in sequences of 1, 2 and 10's and

how the numbers sequences change. Further on, we will explore the number system up to 100 and look at how to form patterns in the numerals. The children will also be learning to write numbers as words. Year 2 will count in steps of 2s, and 5s from 0. They will talk about the number patterns and begin to count in steps of 3s from 0. Later in the week we will count forwards and backwards in 10s from any given number. We will explore odd numbers and even numbers. Finally, we will use numicon to make mathematical patterns and begin to learn the 2x tables.

Thank you

In Streams, we are privileged to have such fantastic support from parents and members of the community who come in and help at school. Thank you Naomi, who has been coming in on Fridays and using her fantastic forest school skills to teach the children about Autumn, tying knots and first aid. Thank you to Eve Parkinson, Kelly Peacock and Pat Taylor who have been coming into school to read with the children. Your help is invaluable, thank you! If any other parents would like to come in to school to hear children read, we would be extremely grateful.

Donations

We are always grateful for donations of junk modelling materials.

Mr Mackenzie

Class News – Oceans

We're all very excited about our trip to Lee Valley: raft building, canoes, BMX courses – I can't wait. Of course there's also the prospect of bringing our theme (WW 1 / 2) alive with our visits to Bletchley Park, the Imperial War museum and the Churchill war rooms. We've also agreed on our music for the Royal Ballet project – we are taking a contemporary route! As well as this we're busy practicing for our performance at Exeter Cathedral which will be upon us soon. I will send out details of the event nearer the time but it's an opportunity for our KS2 to be singing in a choir of 200 in a brilliant venue. I look forward to letting you all know what we get up to

on residential in the next newsletter. Oh and thank you already for your help with homework, Theme related memorabilia and the odd bit of bee keeping equipment.

Faithfully,
Sarah Adams

Class News – Young Buds

Young Buds have been enjoying their Forest School sessions where they have been focusing on our topic ‘All About Me’. They have used the natural resources to create their self-portraits which then progressed to skeletons made from sticks. They have been working on their listening and attention skills during games and team work when working and supporting each other within groups.

The next few weeks will see them beginning to focus on our ‘People who help us’ theme where they will be building their own air raid shelter for their own mini me person.



In Maths, we are still working on numbers. To help your child at home you could help them to practice counting objects and writing the numbers to match. This will help them with their counting skills, understanding of numbers and number formation.

In English, we are starting a sequence using the book ‘We’re Going on a Bear Hunt’. You can help at home by continuing to listen to your child read daily or by reading stories to your child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sally Pile and Jillian Kelly.

Class News – Oaks

Years 3 & 4

Wow! What a great start to the new year we have had, especially on our residential to Lee Abbey. We all had a great time and have settled nicely back into the school routine.

I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for the warm welcome I have had since joining the federation and I am really looking forward to the next few months. I would also like to extend our warm welcomes to Makenzi, who has joined our class in year 4.

This past week in Maths we have continued to explore number and place value and will continue on this topic over the next week, but in greater depth.

In English we have been looking at grammatical skills and how we can use these when writing instructions. We will hopefully be writing instructions on how to grow and look after poppies, linking in nicely with our topic theme.

Over the next couple of weeks, the children will be designing and making their own teddy bears so we are asking if they could bring in an old t-shirt or an old pillowcase.

Miss Johnston

We are continuing to write our instructional texts linked to areas of interest during World War Two.

In maths, we are continuing to investigate numbers and the number system, including negative numbers.

The children are enjoying researching different aspects of wartime Britain, and are currently deciding how they would like to present their findings. In particular, they are enjoying taking on board the make do and mend spirit, turning old t-shirts into teddy bears!

We are also enjoying exploring the music and fashion of wartime Britain. I'm sure you will be hearing the songs at home soon!

Lisa Hamer

Admin News

Permission Slips

Can we ask all parents and carers that when a letter home is received that requires a permission, that the slip is always returned to the school to enable your child to participate. The slip is also required if you do not want your child to participate, as we are unable to assume one way or the other. Many thanks.

Absence

If your child is absent from school, it is very important to **notify the School before registration takes place for each day of absence**. If no reason is given for your child's absence we are required to mark this as an unauthorised absence. Please also remember if your child has a sickness bug, they should remain at home for 48 hours after the last episode of sickness, this helps to minimise the spread of the virus. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Old Pound Coins

With the deadline of the old pound coin looming, we are asking that parents **do not send these in to school** please, as we are not always able to bank weekly and we do not want to be left with pound coins we are unable to bank.

With many thanks

Wendy, Jacqui, Mel and Vikki

Dates for your diary

- 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

Author Event

Join best selling author
Steve Cole
for a lively, fun and out of this world session!



Barnstaple Library
Tuesday 10th October
4.15-5.15pm
Suitable for ages 8+
£2.50 Per ticket, payable at the time of booking.

 Devon Libraries Devonlibraries.org.uk 